

**REGULAR MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
August 28, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Haberkorn with a salute to the flag. Roll call was recorded as follows:

Present: Gerety, Haberkorn, Owen, DePamphilis, McGuigan, Dill, Johnston

Also Present: Mayor Tapp, Administrator Frost, City Clerk Heath, City Solicitor Smith, and City Engineer Schneider

Open Public Meetings Act:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to two local newspapers. The agenda has been posted at City Hall and on the City's website, somerspointgov.org.

Communications:

None

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tapp reported on several upcoming events throughout September such as the Good Old Days Festival, 9/11 Ceremony, Art in the Park, POWMIA Ceremony, and the City-Wide Yard Sale.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Frost mentioned the bond sale that took place on August 27th.

Solicitor's Report:

None

Engineer's Report:

City Engineer Schneider reported that a new pedestrian refuge island was installed at the intersection of Bethel and Shore Road, and additional signage will be put up to help drivers navigate the changes. He also mentioned that New Jersey American Water would be installing new water mains in the fall and spring and gave more detail on the projects awarded this evening.

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Committee Reports:

Council Member Owen gave an update on some recent events for the Art Commission, as well as announcing upcoming events to take place in September and October.

Council Member Johnston reported on the Parking Committee’s meeting regarding permit parking requests on the streets around Harborview and Groveland Avenue, and turning Launch Avenue into a cul-de-sac, which they decided against. They also spoke about installing a crosswalk across Bay Avenue on Pleasant Avenue and adding no parking signs and painted lines on Broadway and Landing Lane.

Council Member Gerety reported that the Economic Development Advisory Commission has requested part of their budget to be spent on a Revolutionary War Reenactment Group. They also questioned whether the city has any plans to celebrate the semi quincennial. He also mentioned there is grant money available for an environmental expert to look at the City’s three gas station sites.

Council President Haberkorn gave a brief history on the national holiday Labor Day.

Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Council Member Dill, seconded of Council Member DePamphilis, and carried to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 8/14/2025 and Executive Session Meeting minutes of 8/14/2025, approved as to content only.

Proclamations:

Proclamation No. 6 of 2025

PULLED

Proclamation No. 6 was pulled by Mayor Tapp.

No. 6 of 2025

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day

October 6, 2025

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic has become one of the greatest public health crises of our time, claiming countless lives and causing untold suffering for families and communities across our nation and here in Somers Point; and

WHEREAS, education and awareness are powerful tools in the fight against addiction, helping residents understand the risks of opioid misuse, supporting those in recovery, and reminding us all that no one fights this battle alone; and

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WHEREAS, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey has established **Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day** to focus attention on prevention, treatment, recovery, and the importance of safe prescribing practices, while also reducing the stigma that too often prevents individuals from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has permanently recognized October 6th as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day, calling upon every community to stand together in hope, compassion, and action; and

WHEREAS, local organizations, including Join Together Atlantic County (JTAC) and the Greater Atlantic Partnership (GAP), have shown outstanding leadership and commitment in supporting prevention efforts and providing resources to those affected;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Tapp, Mayor of the City of Somers Point, do hereby proclaim **October 6, 2025, as *Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day*** in the City of Somers Point.

I call upon all residents to honor this day by learning more, speaking openly, supporting those who struggle, and working together to break the cycle of addiction.

Together, we can build a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community.

Proclamation No. 7 of 2025

No. 7 of 2025

Recognizing September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

WHEREAS, substance use disorders affect millions of Americans, impacting individuals, families, and communities across the nation, including here in Somers Point; and

WHEREAS, National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month is observed each September to celebrate those in recovery, promote evidence-based treatment, and raise awareness about substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, recovery is possible, and every person deserves access to the support, care, and resources needed to lead healthy, fulfilling lives free from addiction; and

WHEREAS, this month provides an opportunity to reduce stigma, educate the public, and honor the strength and resilience of those who are overcoming addiction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point stands with healthcare professionals, recovery advocates, families, and individuals who are working to build a stronger, healthier community through prevention, treatment, and recovery support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Tapp, Mayor of the City of Somers Point, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2025 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery

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Month in Somers Point, New Jersey, and encourage all residents to support recovery efforts, participate in local events, and help foster a community of hope and healing.

Resolutions:

Public Portion Resolutions:

Council President Haberkorn duly opened the meeting to the public.

A man identifying himself as Benjamin Franklin commented on Resolution No. 198 of 2025.

Hearing nothing further from the public, the public portion was duly closed.

Resolution No. 196 of 2025

M/S- Dill/Gerety

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

Council Members McGuigan and Owen expressed their gratitude toward all veterans.

No. 196 of 2025

**Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War and
Honoring the Memory of Arthur Edward Bader, Jr.**

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War remains a profound chapter in our nation's history, marked by the service and sacrifice of over 9 million Americans who served during the conflict from 1955 to 1975; and

WHEREAS, the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War offers a solemn opportunity to honor those who served, those who gave their lives, and those who continue to bear the burdens of war; and

WHEREAS, the combat left a lasting impact on a generation; thousands returned home bearing visible wounds, while many others struggled with the invisible scars of post-traumatic stress, Agent Orange, and memories that would never fade; and

WHEREAS, during the Vietnam War, more than 58,000 Americans gave their lives in service to our Nation; their names are now eternally engraved on two black granite walls, serving as a permanent tribute to those who paid the ultimate price in the conflict; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point recognizes and honors the memory of Sergeant First Class Arthur Edward Bader, Jr., a resident of Pierson Avenue in Somers Point, who joined the U.S. Army to serve his country in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Bader entered the U.S. Army from New Jersey and served with the 5th Special Forces Group; and on November 30, 1968, while serving as a passenger aboard a CH-34 Choctaw (tail number 144653), his aircraft was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire over Laos and crashed in Savannakhet Province, tragically taking his life; and

WHEREAS, from September 16 to 20, 2025, beginning daily at 12:00 PM, Atlantic Cape Community College will host the 82-foot Tribute Wall and the Cost of Freedom Exhibit, a powerful and

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moving display that pays tribute to all who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War, marking the final official Department of Defense commemoration ceremony of this historic anniversary; and

WHEREAS, this event serves as a moment of reflection, education, and healing for our community, and a chance to ensure that the legacy of our Vietnam veterans is preserved and honored for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Council of the City of Somers Point pause to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War on March 29, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Council do hereby designate September 16th through 20th, 2025 as Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Days in the City of Somers Point, and encourage all residents to attend the commemorative events, to honor the sacrifice and memory of Sergeant First Class Arthur Edward Bader, Jr., and to express our deepest gratitude to all Vietnam veterans and their families; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this resolution serve as a lasting tribute from the City of Somers Point, ensuring that the service and sacrifice of Sergeant First Class Arthur Edward Bader, Jr. and all Vietnam veterans are never forgotten.

Resolution No. 197 of 2025

M/S- Dill/Gerety

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 197 of 2025

**Subject: Awarding Bid for the 2025 Emergency Repairs and Miscellaneous
Maintenance Contract**

Introduced By: Council Member Dill

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2025 the City of Somers Point received bids for the 2025 Emergency Repairs and Miscellaneous Maintenance Contract; and

WHEREAS, Mathis Construction Co., of Little Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey was the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer's office has recommended that the City award the contract to Mathis Construction Co., of Little Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey in the amount of \$311,206.97.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

- 1.) The Contract for the 2025 Emergency Repairs and Miscellaneous Maintenance Contract is hereby awarded to Mathis Construction Co., of Little Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey in the amount of \$311,206.97.

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- 2.) The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a formal contract with Mathis Construction Co., of Little Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, signing on behalf of the City.

Resolution No. 198 of 2025

M/S- Dill/Gerety

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Council Member DePamphilis requested clarification of the contract requirements.

Council Member McGuigan stated that he believes a Project Labor Agreement will ensure the best product be delivered and guarantee a safe working environment.

Council Member Dill expressed his support for the unions.

Council President Haberkorn expressed his support for the Resolution.

No. 198 of 2025

Subject: Resolution Requiring the Use of Project Labor Agreements on Certain Large-Scale City Construction Projects

Introduced By: Council Members Owen and McGuigan

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point regularly undertakes public works projects that involve significant investment of taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring that such projects are completed in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner while maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety; and

WHEREAS, the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), as authorized under the laws of the State of New Jersey, has been demonstrated to provide stability, prevent labor disruptions, and guarantee a steady supply of skilled labor throughout the duration of large-scale construction projects; and

WHEREAS, PLAs help promote local workforce participation, apprenticeship opportunities, and the hiring of qualified residents, thereby ensuring that public investment in construction projects yields broader community benefits; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Somers Point to adopt a policy requiring the use of Project Labor Agreements on certain large public works projects to protect the public interest and maximize taxpayer value;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, that:

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1. The City of Somers Point shall require the use of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on all municipal construction projects where the total project cost is estimated to exceed **\$5,000,000**.
2. Such PLAs shall be consistent with applicable provisions of New Jersey law, including **N.J.S.A. 52:38-1 et seq.**, which authorizes public entities to require PLAs on public works projects under certain conditions.
3. Each PLA shall include provisions designed to:
 - o Ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations;
 - o Promote local hiring, apprenticeship, and training opportunities;
 - o Prevent strikes, lockouts, or other labor disputes that could delay completion;
 - o Guarantee a supply of skilled workers through established labor-management cooperation.
4. The City Administrator, in consultation with the City Solicitor, shall develop standard guidelines and procedures for implementing this policy.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Resolution No. 199 of 2025

M/S- Gerety/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present with Council Member McGuigan and Council Member Dill recusing.

No. 199 of 2025

Subject: Approving Sponsorship by the City of Somers Point and the Somers Point Recreation Commission of the “Good Old Days” Festival

Introduced by: Council Member Owen

Whereas, The Good Old Days Festival has for many years been a mainstay of the Somers Point celebration and entertainment calendar; and

Whereas, it is necessary for the proper permits and approvals to be obtained from the Somers Point Recreation Commission; and

Whereas, one of the Recreation Commission permit regulation requirements is to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the City and the Somers Point Recreation Commission as additional insureds under the policy; and

Whereas, the Somers Point Historical Society has joined with the Good Old Days Festival Organizing Committee in presenting the event; and

Whereas, the Organizing Committee and the Historical Society are requesting, in an effort to not duplicate coverage and minimize costs, a waiver from the insurance requirements and has requested the City of Somers Point to co-sponsor the event to be held upon City owned property; and

Whereas, this request will not eliminate the obligation of the organizing entity to utilize properly licensed purveyors of any alcoholic beverages which may be approved for consumption and will require

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that purveyor to utilize only properly trained personnel to dispense the alcoholic beverages, and will provide a certificate of insurance naming the Somers Point Historical Society, the City of Somers Point, the Somers Point Recreation Commission, their officers, officials, agents, and employees as additional insureds and which shall include General Liability and Automobile Liability, each having a minimum of in the amount of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in coverage; and

Whereas, this annual festival has for many years been enjoyed by our residents and others and has served a worthy cause; and

Whereas, such requests are considered on a case-by-case basis and with due consideration to the nexus between the event, the sponsor and this City; and

Whereas, this Governing Body desires to support this worthwhile organization and the event; and

Whereas, by approving the request the City does not intend to set a precedent or to be bound to provide any such waiver for any future event by this or any other applicant; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the request made by the Somers Point Historical Society for waiver of the required Certificate of Insurance is hereby approved subject to compliance with all other rules and regulations of the Recreation Commission, obtaining all other required permits, and production of the Insurance Certificate to be provided by the purveyor(s) of any approved alcoholic beverages in a form satisfactory to the City Administrator and the City's Risk Manager; and

It is **Further Resolved** that in recognition of the longtime presence of this event within our City, the City of Somers Point will proudly co-sponsor this year's event, which is scheduled for September 6, 2025.

Resolution No. 200 of 2025

M/S- Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 200 of 2025

Subject: Awarding Bid for the 2025 Road Program - Rebid

Introduced By: Council Member Dill

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2025, the City of Somers Point received bids for the 2025 Road Program - Rebid; and

WHEREAS, South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey was the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer's office has recommended that the City award the contract to South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$887,589.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

- 3.) The Contract for the 2025 Road Program - Rebid is hereby awarded to South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$887,589.00.

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- 4.) The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a formal contract with South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey signing on behalf of the City.

Resolution No. 201 of 2025

M/S- Dill/Owen

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 201 of 2025

Subject: Awarding Bid for the FY 2024 Municipal Aid – Reconstruction of New Jersey Avenue - Rebid

Introduced By: Council Member Dill

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2025, the City of Somers Point received bids for the FY 2024 Municipal Aid – Reconstruction of New Jersey Avenue - Rebid; and

WHEREAS, South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey was the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer’s office has recommended that the City award the contract to South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$341,086.30; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT Local Aid Office must also concur with this resolution awarding a contract to South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$341,086.30.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

- 5.) The Contract for the FY 2024 Municipal Aid – Reconstruction of New Jersey Avenue - Rebid is hereby awarded to South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$341,086.30
- 6.) The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a formal contract with South State, Inc, of Bridgeton, New Jersey signing on behalf of the City.
- 7.) The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign all necessary forms required by NJDOT.

Consent Agenda Resolutions:

On the motion of Council Member Dill, seconded of Council Member DePamphilis and carried to approve the Consent Agenda Resolutions.

No. 202 of 2025

Subject: Approving Proposals – Goods and Services 2025

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Introduced By: Council President Haberkorn

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point received proposals for various goods and services in accordance with the Fair and Open procedure of the New Jersey Pay-to-Play law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the following proposals, received on May 15th, 2025, and August 13th, 2025, approved, and that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to issue contracts to the following vendor for goods and services during the period of January 1st, 2025, to December 30th, 2025:

- a) Commercial Flooring Construction and Installation
Garden State Bomanite
Floor Skinz
- b) Heavy Truck Mechanic Services and Supplies
Gentilini Ford Inc
GranTurk Inc.
Johnson & Towers
- c) Law Enforcement Supplies and Services
Galls
- d) Roofing Construction Services
Dorothy Gale Roofing
- e) Sewer Pump Maintenance
A.C. Schultes
- f) Sewer System Coating System
Mobile Dredging & Video Pipe Inc.

No. 203 of 2025

Subject: Change Order 1 – Contract No. No. 129 – FY 2023 Safe Routes to Transit – Shore Road Pedestrian Improvements

Introduced By: Council Member Dill

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution 274 of 2024, Fred M. Schiavone Construction, Inc., of Malaga, New Jersey was awarded the contract for the FY 2023 Safe Streets to Transit – Shore Road Pedestrian Improvements for the sum of \$951,305.75; and

WHEREAS, during the course of construction unforeseen delays were encountered, including delays in obtaining a County Highway Occupancy Opening Permit, changes in the traffic control plan, and delays in obtaining project related material; and

WHEREAS, the Notice to Proceed was issued on June 9, 2025, and required the contract to be completed in 90 days, which is September 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Fred M. Schiavone Construction, Inc., has requested an additional sixty (60) days to complete the contract; and

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WHEREAS, the City Engineer has recommended approval of these changes; and
WHEREAS, those changes have resulted in a change of the contract amount as follows:

Contract Amount	\$951,305.75
Change order 1	\$0.00
Revised Contract Amount	\$951,305.75
Total Deduction: \$0	Total Additional: \$0
Net Change: 0%	

WHEREAS, the NJDOT Local Aid Office must also concur with this change order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the above listed change to the contract for the FY 2023 Safe Routes to Transit – Shore Road Pedestrian Improvements is hereby approved and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents in this regard on behalf of the City.

No. 204 of 2025

Subject: Resolution Authorizing the City of Somers Point to Enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Atlantic for the Purposes of Web Design and Hosting Services

Introduced by: Council President Haberkorn

WHEREAS, the "Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act," N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. ("Act"), allows any local unit to enter into an agreement with any other local unit or units to provide or receive any service that each local unit participating in the agreement is empowered to provide or receive within its own jurisdiction, including services incidental to the primary purposes of any of the participating local units; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-5 requires the adoption of a resolution by the local units in order to authorize the execution of a shared services agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point ("City") and the County of Atlantic ("County") have determined it to be in the mutual interest of each body to share in certain Web Design and Hosting Services pursuant to Resolution 287 of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to enter into a shared services agreement ("SSA") with the County for the purpose of setting forth the terms, conditions, and obligations of each party regarding the Web Design and Hosting Services, which will benefit both the City and the County by increasing the efficiency and decreasing the net cost of those services effective August 28th 2025; and

WHEREAS, Agreement shall commence on September 15th, 2025 (the "Effective Date") and shall terminate September 15th, 2030, unless extended or terminated by parties as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

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- I. The Mayor shall be and is hereby authorized to execute the Shared Services Agreement with the County of Atlantic for Web Design and Hosting Services, subject to such modifications as required and authorized by the City Administrator, Sewer System Operator, and City Solicitor.
2. A copy of the SSA shall be filed with the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, in accordance with the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act. N.I.S.A. 40A:65-4(b).
3. The SSA shall take effect upon the adoption of appropriate resolutions by both parties thereto, and execution of agreements authorized thereunder. N.I.S.A. 40A:65-5(c).
4. The City Council of the City of Somers Point hereby acknowledges the terms and conditions of the Shared Service Agreement in accordance with the accompanying exhibits, which are attached hereto and made a part hereof

No. 205 of 2025

Subject: Resolution Releasing the Performance Guarantee for 139 Gibbs Avenue for Road Opening Permit 22-2025

Introduced By: Council President Haberkorn

WHEREAS, Commercial Site Services, LLC, requested the City of Somers Point release its Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$1,000.00 posted for road opening permit 22-2025 to guarantee the completion of off-site improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer reviewed this request and inspected the project and determined that said off-site Performance Guarantee can be released, as set forth in their August 25, 2025, letter attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that based on the City Engineer’s letter dated August 25, 2025, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein, it hereby releases the Off-site Performance Guarantee.

Old Business:
None

New Business:
None

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Discussion of Bills:

Administrator Frost reported a Bill List dated 8/26/2025 in the amount of \$20,804.45, a Record of Payment dated 8/21/2025 in the amount of \$1,087.27.

Public Portion:

Council President Haberkorn duly opened the meeting to the public.

An unidentified man expressed his concerns on City policy regarding anonymity.

Maureen Helbig of Somers Point thanked the Police Department for their work on the bike path.

A man identifying as Freddy Krueger expressed his concerns on City policy regarding anonymity.

A man identifying as Chris Farley expressed his concerns on City policy regarding anonymity.

Patricia Pierson of Somers Point mentioned the wonderful event for Lawson's Pride at the Winding River campground. She also brought up some concerns with Public Works and commended the Acme shopping center and Mexiquila.

Nelson Dice of Ocean City stated his displeasure with the Municipal Court system.

Hearing nothing further from the public, the public hearing was duly closed.

Payment of Bills:

M/S: Johnston/Dill

The Bill List was approved by a unanimous vote of those present. A complete list of bills is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Comments from Governing Body:

Council Member Johnston thanked everyone involved with Lawson's Pride.

Council Member McGuigan expressed his gratitude to City Solicitor Smith.

Mayor Tapp recognized former Council Member Ron Meischker who was present at the meeting.

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Council President Haberkorn mentioned that Mrs. Helbig will be starting up Senior Yoga again, and Council Member McGuigan will be proposing to the Recreation Board a once-a-month game night for residents.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council Member Dill moved, Council Member Owen seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Heath, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Approved: 9/25/2025