

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2025
7:00 p.m.
ROYALTON CITY CENTER

Call to order/Attendance

On roll call members present were: Weiss-Pesta, Sowada, Lanners and Verley. Absent Cimenski.

People present: Jeff Hage, Morrison County Record; Tim Majaski, Planning and Zoning; Ted Vanhove, Fire Chief; Jason McDonald, Police Chief; Krystal Fox, Happy Dog Dispensary; Angel Richard, Happy Dog Dispensary; Rian Hofstad; Wayne LePard, Royalton School Superintendent; Nate Erlander and Leah Walberg, City Clerk/Treasurer.

Public Forum

Krystal Fox, Happy Dog Dispensary, requested that the PID 44.0486.000 have an address of 420 N Willow Street. Because of the location of the property in question, having a 420 address would not align with the rest of the 600 block area. Since 420 would not work out, Krystal requested to have 620 North Willow Street instead. The council agreed to the number.

Minutes

Sowada moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on October 7, 2025, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning

Tim Majaski, Planning and Zoning Chairperson, informed the council that Planning and Zoning had received an application for the open seat. Verley moved to approve Nathan Erlandson for Planning and zoning, 2nd by Sowada. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Majaski informed the council that the Planning and Zoning committee reviewed the information that was provided for the Gambling Ordinance #46. It was a consensus to have the percentage either drop to 0% or remove the entire ordinance. The council had discussed the ordinance. It will return to the Planning and Zoning committee, no action taken.

Philip Martin, Bolton-Menk

Engineer Philip Martin, Bolton-Menk, via email updated the council. The Public Facility Authority (PFA) had pushed back their funding announcement to mid-November.

7:15pm Public Hearing Ordinance 61.1 Cannabis

Verley moved to close the regular city council meeting at 7:15pm and open the public hearing, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Comments:

Majaski had informed the council that upon review of the Ordinance 61.1 Cannabis, there were some details that should be added/changed to the ordinance.

Police Chief McDonald would like to have a section inputted to address the procession of those under the age of 21 years old.

Weiss-Pesta moved to close the public hearing at 7:22pm, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Lanners moved to adopt the Ordinance 61.1 Cannabis with the stated corrections, 2nd by Verley. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Police Department-General report submitted.

Police Chief Jason McDonald presented the approved Royalton District School contract to the council. He stated that the hiring of an SRO (Safety Resource Officer) was budgeted into the 2026 budget. He confirmed with Superintendent LePard the number of contact hours that the SRO would be with the students. The council had questions about who would pay for other expenses such as wages and benefits. There was also the question about a third squad vehicle to be available. Councilman Lanners was concerned about the city taxpayers paying for the majority of the expenses. No action taken. Tabled to December 2, 2025 meeting.

McDonald informed the council that Officer Joshua Pesta is able to fill the part time spot on the force. Sowada moved to approve hiring Joshua Pesta at Step 4 for \$29.15, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Fire & Rescue—General Report submitted.

Fire Chief Ted Vanhove reviewed the Bellevue contract with the council. He indicated that there were some changes that needed to be made such as First Response instead of EMS. He also questioned a statement of a “quorum”. Language was added for billing purposes to township residents. The contract will be updated and sent back to the township for review.

Vanhove also indicated that Firefighter Gene Binkely would like to take a leave of absence due to medical reasons. Verley moved to approve a 1-year leave of absence starting from November 4, 2025 leave of absence, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Public Works—General report submitted.

Councilmember Verley reported on the review conducted by Public Works Supervisor Tom Kalis for Public Works Assistant Shawn Richter. Lanners moved to accept the performance review and advance Richter’s pay to \$26.35 retro to September 11, 2025, 2nd by Sowada. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

City Office-No report submitted.

Sowada moved to approve City Administrator’s job description, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Verley moved to approve hiring Rian Hofstad as City Administrator, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Sowada moved to approve the job description of the Administrator’s Assistant, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Lanners moved to approve the 2026 pay scale for the Administrator’s Assistant, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Holiday Stationstore

Verley moved to approve the 3.2 liquor license for Holiday Stationstore at 208 N Hwy 10 contingent on updated Certificate of insurance, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Holy Trinity Gambling License

Sowada moved to approve the Holy Trinity Gambling License for December 14, 2025 with no waiting period, 2nd by Verley. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Resolution 11-4-25-1 Adopting Assessment for unpaid charges

Lanners moved to adopt Resolution 11-4-25-1, Adopting Assessment for unpaid charges, 2nd by Sowada. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Fleet Management Devices

A ChatGPT sample policy was presented to the council and guests. Police Chief McDonald informed the council that the information that the devices provide is more than what is needed. He also stated that there are multiple GPS devices currently on the squads. A data request would be necessary to obtain that information if someone would like to review. No action taken. Tabled to 2026 Planning meeting.

Antique Building

City Clerk Walberg informed the council that owner Dean Dumont had done some updates to the antique building. He is now finished for the season and will return in the spring when the temperature is more in favor.

Fiber Optic Services

No action was taken. Tabled to December 2, 2025 meeting.

Splash Park Shelter Tables

No action taken. Tabled to 2026 Planning meeting.

Bills

Verley moved to pay all bills for voucher numbers' 40553-40599 in the total amount of \$113,462.69, 2nd by Lanners. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Added Agenda Items

Weiss-Pesta called for a special meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 6:00p.m.

Adjournment

Sowada moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., 2nd by Verley. Put to a vote with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Leah Walberg

City Clerk/Treasurer Leah Walberg