



CITY OF HAM LAKE

15544 Central Avenue NE
Ham Lake, Minnesota 55304
(763) 434-9555
info@ci.ham-lake.mn.us

CITY OF HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

The Ham Lake City Council and Economic Development Authority met for its regular meeting on Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Ham Lake City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Brian Kirkham and Councilmembers Jim Doyle, Al Parranto, and Andrew Hallberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Mike Van Kirk

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney, Mark Berglund; City Engineer, Dave Krugler; City Administrator, Denise Webster; and Administrative Assistant, Nicole Wheeler

1.0 CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 P.M. – Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine Dahlman, 17540 Highway 65 NE, Ham Lake, MN was present and stated she just learned that there are flock cameras in Ham Lake and she has concerns. Ms. Dahlman stated that Sheriff Wise campaigned on transparency. Ms. Dahlman stated that people don't know what flock cameras are, how long the data will be stored, and what the Flock company is doing with the data. Ms. Dahlman stated that the public deserves answers and she doesn't want to be under surveillance. Ms. Dahlman stated that she is concerned with the misuse of the data – personal use vs. the Sheriff's Office using the data.

Ronald Claflin, 17340 Lexington Avenue NE, Ham Lake, MN was present and stated that most of the information is sold and there is no reason to track people.

Levi Boyer, 16319 Kenyon Street NE, Ham Lake, MN was present and stated cameras are important, but the level of transparency makes him uncomfortable on what is trying to be accomplished.

Jacob Nordby, 15959 Alamo Street NE, Ham Lake, MN was present to discuss transparency by the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and Flock Group, Inc. regarding the installation of flock cameras and what is going to be done with the information. Mr. Nordby stated that Los Angeles did an audit and 161 drivers were inadvertently stopped in a two-month period.

Kelsey Nordby, 15959 Alamo Street NE, Ham Lake, MN was present and stated that we don't have to agree on every issue, but this affects everyone and their privacy. Ms. Nordby questioned if there was evidence to warrant a flock camera in our neighborhood. Ms. Nordby questioned who this information is being shared with and if the benefits outweigh the cost.

3.0 SPECIAL APPEARANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS

3.1 Lt. Anthony Mendoza, Anoka County Sheriff's Office Monthly Report

Lt. Mendoza gave a summary of the Sheriff's Report for June 2026. Lt. Mendoza stated that there are two opportunities for people to support the SWAT Foundation with a golf scramble or UTV Ride.

Mayor Kirkham stated that Flock cameras are a big topic right now. Mayor Kirkham questioned if the City could opt out of the flock cameras like the City of Columbia Heights did. Lt. Mendoza stated that the City of Columbia Heights had their own contract with Flock and they cancelled the contract with them. The City of Ham Lake does not have a contract with Flock; the Anoka County Sheriff's Office has the contract.

Lt. Mendoza stated that none of the flock cameras are going into neighborhoods and will only be located on State and County right-of-way.

Lt. Mendoza answered questions from the City Council.

1. What does a flock camera capture – vehicle stamp time, location and vehicle characteristics.
2. Do cameras inadvertently record pedestrian's homes or private property - No, the flock cameras only face public roadways. If a person is walking down the street at the time the picture is taken, that person would be captured in the picture, but we can't search for a general or any protected class. There are no human characteristics that can be searched for.
3. How long is data kept – Per State Statute, the data can be kept for 60 days and then it is deleted, Anoka County Sheriff's Office chose to delete data after 30 days. The audit log retains search criteria forever, but you just get the information that was put into the search field boxes.
4. If the contract is cancelled with Flock, do they keep the data – No
5. Which agencies (local, state, federal) can access the data – no Federal agencies can access the data, but we do share with a healthy amount of agencies. There are strict perimeters who the data can be shared with and the justification for why we share that is standardized. We do an internal audit every 30 days and every two years we are required to have an outside third-party complete an audit. The biannual audit is public information that goes to the BCA, which is required by State Statute.
6. There are areas across the nation where officers have misused the data - Lt. Mendoza stated that there have been some officers disciplined for misuse of the data, but none in Anoka County.
7. Does the system comply with Minnesota data classification and privacy statute – Yes, it does, we have a transparency portal that can be accessed by the Sheriff's Office website and that will show the amount of reads, and amount of hits. When it comes to hits, a lot of those are ongoing criminal investigations so we can't divulge that information, but the transparency portal does provide as much as we can provide within the rules.
8. Can the flock system expand to include facial recognition and other analytics - Lt. Mendoza stated that there is no facial recognition, it's illegal. No personal information is obtained from these cameras. There is no way to search for human characteristics.
9. Are there plans to expand the system beyond what it is currently doing – No, we're not going to add facial recognition. We are adding more cameras, but they will do the exact same thing that they currently do. This will also come with a drone assistance program to allow public safety to have information prior to fire, law enforcement or medics arriving at the scene.

10. Does the system allow you to track people's movements over days or weeks without a warrant? – Without a warrant, it is possible, but it's required to have a warrant to do that.
11. When was the Flock camera installed in Ham Lake? - Lt. Mendoza stated that a Flock camera was placed in Ham Lake in the fall of 2024 on a State and County highway. Cameras will not be placed in neighborhoods; they will only be placed in high traffic areas.
12. Are there policies to prevent monitoring of constitutionally protected activities? Will drones be collecting data on vehicles visiting protests, religious institutions, or political meetings? – There's no monitoring of a First Amendment protected activity, and if there was, that person would be criminally charged because that violates the statute.
13. Do drones capture footage of backyards, windows, private spaces? - Drones fly the horizon until they are on target, or they come to the coordinates that they're supposed to be at and capture that information. There is no looking through people's backyards or anything like that. If there is non-evidentiary video that is captured, it is required to be completely deleted from the system within seven days by state statute. Most of the time when we have drones flying, it's deleted within the next day if it has no evidentiary value.
14. Are warrants required before using drones for targeted surveillance? – Yes, and the drones need to be launched and landed by a person that is licensed through the FAA Remote Pilot Certificate.
15. Lt. Mendoza stated that there are procedures in place for a license plate that comes up as stolen on the camera, a deputy needs to locate the vehicle, run the plate through the CAD system and verify the information before a traffic stop can be made.
16. Lt. Mendoza stated that drone data will be deleted after 7 days and target surveillance drones will need a warrant.
17. What is on the drone? – The drone is deployed by a deputy, and it will record video to the mission and back. We have been using drones for the last 10 years. Armed drones are federally illegal. The FAA prohibits armed drones.

Councilmember Hallberg stated that things are changing and this is new to most of us. Councilmember Hallberg stated that he is struggling because we did not know it was in our city but know it helps in some situations. Councilmember Hallberg stated that he has a moral dilemma on this. Councilmember Hallberg quoted Ben Franklin "those who would give up basic liberties for temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety".

Councilmember Doyle stated that we are already being photographed a certain number of times a day and we are already being watched.

Lt. Mendoza stated that the takeaway is that this is not new technology. We have had Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR's) in one form or another since close to 2012 and we have had drones for over 10 years. Lt. Mendoza stated that this company is providing a service that we have already used, but there is a lot of misinformation out there on the internet and you can find information to support whatever way you want to swing it. Lt. Mendoza stated that he has been to both Axon and Flock headquarters and met with their engineers, strategy teams and everyone up and down the entire chain of command for those organizations and they would not be in business if they were selling our data.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

These items are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in normal sequence. (All items listed on the Consent Agenda are recommended for approval.)

- 4.1 Approval of minutes of July 6, 2026
 - 4.2 Approval of claims in the amount of \$280,045.64
 - 4.3 Approval of scheduling a Budget Workshop meeting on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
 - 4.4 Approval of rezoning Ordinance No. 26-12 amending Ordinance No. 26-08 (South Shore Estates Second Addition)
 - 4.5 Approval of Resolution No. 26-26 appointing Election Judges for the Primary Election on August 11, 2026 and allowing the City Clerk to appoint additional judges as needed
 - 4.6 Approval of a Cannabis Retail Registration Application located at 13654 Highway 65 NE
- Motion by Doyle, seconded by Hallberg, to approve the Consent Agenda as written. All present in favor, motion carried.**

5.0 PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS – None

6.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – None

7.0 APPEARANCES – None

8.0 CITY ATTORNEY - None

9.0 CITY ENGINEER

Engineer Krugler stated that a meeting was held for the Anoka County noise wall for when the reconstruction of Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard. Engineer Krugler stated that the meeting was not well attended. Engineer Krugler stated that there were postcards mailed to residents south of 136th Avenue NE requesting their opinion on the wall and currently, only four residents have responded. Anoka County will need a certain number of responses from residents regarding the wall.

10.0 CITY ADMINISTRATOR – None

11.0 COUNCIL BUSINESS

11.1 Committee Reports

Councilmember Doyle stated there will be a Road Committee meeting on August 3, 2026.

11.2 Announcements and future agenda items

Councilmember Hallberg stated that he met with resident Kyle Claflin regarding the pond Mr. Claflin would like to create on his property and questioned the \$5,000 Excavation fee. Administrator Webster stated that any remaining money would go back to the applicant. Mr. Claflin was present and stated that he went through the process to get added to the overlay mining district. Mayor Kirkham stopped Mr. Claflin and explained that this cannot be discussed because it was not listed on the agenda and he would meet with him after the meeting.

Motion by Parranto, seconded by Hallberg, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:51 p.m. All present in favor, motion carried.



Nicole Wheeler, Administrative Assistant