

CITY OF HAM LAKE

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CITY OF HAM LAKE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

The Ham Lake City Council met for a budget workshop meeting on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in the Conference Room 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, Andrew Hallberg, Al Parranto, and Mike Van Kirk (via interactive technology due to being out of state)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Finance Director, Andrea Murff; City Administrator, Denise Webster; Public Works Superintendent, John Witkowski; Fire Chief, Mike Raczkowski; and Administrative Assistant, Nicole Wheeler

1.0 Call to Order

Mayor Kirkham called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

2.0 Discussion of the Draft 2027 Proposed Budget and CIP Review

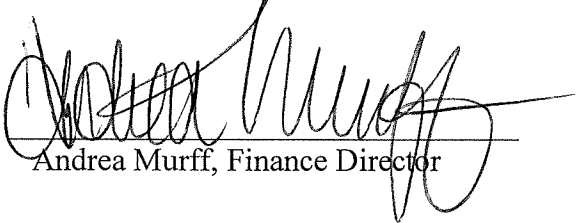
Finance Director Murff went over the proposed 2027 General Fund Budget stating expenditures without transfers were going to increase 4.72 percent or \$280,818. Finance Director Murff stated that the only significant change to expenditures since the June Budget meeting was cutting \$27,769 from the City Council for attorney and engineering fees aligning them more to actual. Finance Director Murff stated Tower Lease revenues were also cut \$30,000 due to sublessors not renewing their lease. Finance Director Murff continued the Draft 2027 Proposed budget offering 3 options of a 3 percent tax levy, which would use \$206,593 of reserves and potentially decrease the tax capacity rate 0.356 percent to 18.522 percent; a 6 percent tax levy, which would use \$84,267 of reserves and potentially increase the tax capacity rate 0.221 percent to 19.099 percent; and a balanced budget which would use no reserves and would increase the tax levy 7.224 percent or \$497,453 to the tax levy and the tax capacity rate would increase 0.456 percent to 19.334 percent. Mayor Kirkham inquired about the Ham Laker Fund and suggested publishing bi-monthly. Finance Director Murff stated we could reduce the proposed transfer of \$30,000 to \$20,000 to account for inconsistent donations and reduction of advertisement revenue. Councilmember Van Kirk inquired about how much a 15 percent increase to health insurance premiums affected the budget, what was the reserve ratio and the amount of reserves in the General Fund, and what would the budget look like if we kept the tax capacity the same as 2026, which is 18.878 percent. Finance Director Murff responded the General Fund reserves were plush due to adding approximately \$500,000 to the General Fund at the 2025 fiscal year end. Mayor Kirkham continued he would like to see the effects on the General Fund's Budget, Tax Levy, and Reserves by not increasing the General Fund Transfers to the Revolving Street Fund and the Public Works Equipment fund and keeping the transfers at the 2026 allocation of \$1,300,000 and

\$250,000, respectively; and using the General Fund Reserves to fund the increases of \$100,000 to the Revolving Street Fund and \$45,000 to the Public Works Equipment Fund. Finance Director Murff responded it would not be beneficial to cut the Public Works transfer due to significant equipment needs. Public Works Director Witkowski stated that there were currently 13 Public Work Trucks that were over 20 years old and need to be replaced due to not being able to find parts and other various equipment. Finance Director Murff stated Department Heads were going to be meeting to create a list of all assets and put in replacement costs of anything needing to be replaced within the next 20 years then meet with Council to start discussions on the plan in January or February, but that the 2027 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan would not be any further affected. Finance Director Murff continued she would email Councilmembers with answers to Councilmember Van Kirk's inquiries and reminded them that a preliminary budget needed to be passed by September 30, 2026. **It was the consensus of the City Council to continue the Preliminary 2026 Budget discussion during the September 21, 2026 City Council Meeting and move Ham Laker publishing to bi-monthly starting in 2027.**

3.0 Discussion of the 2027 Law Enforcement Contract

City Administrator Webster stated the 2027 Law Enforcement Contract has not changed since the last discussion during the June Budget Meeting and is expected to increase \$86,553 from 2026. It was the consensus of the City Council to continue discussion about the 2027 Law Enforcement Contract during the Law Enforcement Meeting on September 21, 2026

Motion by Parranto, seconded by Doyle, to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.



Andrea Murff, Finance Director