



Lime Springs City Council

Mayor Rick Kirkpatrick called the Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Lime Springs to order in the Lime Springs Community Center on February 11, 2026, 5 pm.

Member(s) present: Billi Johnson, Jennifer Kalstabakken, Mike Levenson, Jeff Burnikel arrived at 5:04 pm.

Member(s) absent: John Heisler
City Employees: Jeff Siegenthaler (Public Works), Jane Tibbals (City Clerk)
Visitors: Pam Siegenthaler

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE recited.

Agenda: Levenson motioned to approve the Agenda, with Kalstabakken 2nd. Levenson, Kalstabakken & Johnson Voted Yes with Burnikel absent from Vote. Agenda Approved.

Public Works Dept: Levenson motioned to move City Employee Jeff Siegenthaler as Public Works Director in response to recent job opening. Siegenthaler doesn't have his certifications for wastewater & water that is needed for the City, but he has the experience of directing and supervising that is also needed for this position. Burnikel amended that motion to increase his hourly rate from \$ 16.50 to \$ 20/hour effective February 9, 2026. Levenson 2nd the amended motion. All 4 Present Voted Yes. Motion approved for Jeff Siegenthaler as Public Works Director with an increased pay rate of \$ 20/hour effective February 9, 2026. Dave Felner is still employed by the City of LS, and he has the City's required certifications for Water & Waste-

water, so he can be listed as the City's Certified Signer. Kalstabakken motioned to place Ad for Full-Time Water/Wastewater employee with Burnikel 2nd. All 4 Present Voted Yes. Motion Approved for Ad. Siegenthaler asked to be part of the interviewing process. Jane asked about mowing and if there is a need for additional help. City Employee Pam Siegenthaler said yes that she is willing and able to mow with similar hours as last season. Levenson & Burnikel both said they would be available to mow and trim if needed. Jeff reported that Iowa Pump is saying the parts are still a couple of weeks to a month away for parts to fix the Lift Station. Quality Flow from New Prague reported they have the necessary parts on hand and can fabricate the length to make them work. The prices look similar. Discussion followed and it appears that there was nothing signed with Iowa Pump and Iowa Pump previously quoted 10-14 days over a month ago. Kalstabakken motioned for Jeff to use his discretion whether to contact Quality Flow and have them fix it or to wait for Iowa Pump with Burnikel 2nd. All 4 Voted Yes. Motion Approved for Jeff to make the decision of using Quality Flow or to wait for Iowa Pump. The Lift Station will need to be emptied when the parts are put in and H & M or Loewen will be contacted for availability. Jeff reported Johnson installed the upgraded kit at the boiler at the Library/Shop. As part of the kit, they also installed a CO2 monitor. As part of the kit

install, Johnson's also scraped. Then the CO2 monitor reflected CO2. Johnson double checked the monitor to see that it was functioning properly and discovered that the burn spot that the inspection pointed out last year has now a small hole that is leaking CO2. The boiler is now turned off. There is an exhaust fan that carried the CO2 out of the basement, but now it will need the boiler replaced. Previously Johnson had quoted \$11,071.40 for boiler and piping updates. Jeff said that he would be able to do some of the piping updates later and this will take the price down to \$6030, but Johnson will also have to bill for the work they have already done. Previously Johnson had quoted \$1482 to install the kit. Burnikel motioned for Johnson to order and install a boiler with Levenson 2nd. All 4 Present Voted Yes. Motion Approved for Johnson to order and install boiler for Library/Shop.

Kalstabakken motioned to adjourn with Burnikel 2nd. All 4 Present Voted Yes. Meeting adjourned 5:44 pm.

Rick Kirkpatrick, Mayor
Jane Tibbals, City Clerk

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Elma City Council

**Elma City Council Meeting
2/9/2026**

The Elma City Council meeting was opened at 7:00 by Mayor Thoren in the Elma Community Complex meeting room. The meeting was opened with roll call. Judy Acker, present, Laura Schroeder-Smith, present, Emily Placek, present, Tony Helffer, present, Myron Head, present.

Laura moved the agenda be approved, seconded by Tony, carried unanimously.

Laura moved the minutes of the January 12th meeting be approved, seconded by Myron, carried unanimously.

Tony moved the liquor license for Maple Heights Golf and Country Club be approved, seconded by Laura, carried unanimously.

Laura moved the claims be approved, seconded by Myron, carried unanimously.

Brady Malone from Howard County Emergency Management was unable to attend this meeting and will come another time.

Jason Passmore of Howard County Business and Tourism was present to give a yearly update from the HCBT and to talk about a new program that NICCC would like to partner with cities for. The college would like to write a grant to be able to have students build houses on empty lots in 2 or 3 different towns. The program would be new and details are still being worked out, but there is a possibility that Elma could partner with the college for this project.

Mayor Thoren discussed with Council pay raises for Brian, Nick and Shannon. Mayor Thoren thought would like to see a \$.50 per hour raise for Brian and Nick and \$.425 per hour for Shannon. The reasoning behind Shannon's rate was to catch her up with what others in her position are making, increased duties and the City does not pay health insurance for her as they do for Brian. Brian does pay 10%, but the City pays the rest. Tony moved to approve Resolution 20260209, seconded by Myron. Mayor Thoren read aloud Resolution 20260209, to approve a wage increase of \$.50 per hour from \$25.70 per hour to \$26.20 per hour for Brian Sigler, a wage increase of \$.50 per hour from \$17.50 per hour to \$18.00 per hour for Nick Dockendorf and a wage increase of \$4.25 per hour from \$17.75 per hour to \$22.00 per hour for Shannon Gebel. All wage increases will be effective July 1, 2026. Mayor Thoren requested a roll call vote. Vote is as follows: Judy, aye, Laura, aye, Emily, aye, Tony, aye, Myron, aye. Vote passes.

Laura moved to have K&W Coatings inspect and clean the water tower. Quoted

cost is \$2,200. Seconded by Emily, carried unanimously.

Mayor Thoren asked the council to review the copies of the personnel policy handbook they have been given in order to make updates to it. It has not been updated since 2016. Mayor Thoren had no further comments. Laura moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Emily, meeting adjourned.

Income

Property Taxes	\$217.26
Local Option Tax	\$9,272.98
Interest/rent	\$1,927.41
Road Use Tax	\$5,814.86
County Contrib.	\$1,084.95
Charges for Services	\$37,837.00
Miscellaneous	\$29,327.03
Total Income	\$85,264.23

Expense

Public Safety	\$18,343.75
Public Works	\$16,554.01
General Gov.	\$27,454.01
Debt Service	\$2,960.10
Water	\$2,406.19
Sewer	\$17,189.37
Enterprise Debt	\$3,814.00
Total Expense	\$99,917.75

Net Income **-\$14,653.52**

Claims Paid & Summary of Receipts
January 14 through February 10, 2026

Office of Auditor of State, audit fee	.....	-17,906.70
Howard County Treasurer, Property Tax Deposit	.....	217.26
Deposit	.....	697.27
Deposit	.....	3,331.59
Deposit	.....	5,639.21
Deposit	.....	1,255.92
Deposit	.....	5,472.71
Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	.....	-2,467.07
Deposit	.....	6,590.92
Deposit	.....	150.00
VOID: Deposit	.....	0.00
Deposit	.....	1,440.43
Deposit	.....	512.98
Deposit	.....	3,273.00
Wellmark BC/BS	.....	1,648.45
Treasurer - State of Iowa, Road Use Tax	.....	5,814.86
Deposit	.....	-421.76
Dockendorf, Nickolaus J	.....	-1,481.69
Sigler, Brian D	.....	-43.02
Dundee, Linda M	.....	-1,091.09
Gebel, Shannon	.....	360.24
Deposit	.....	387.35
Weber, Marlene F	.....	-135.98
Zweibohmer, Paula M	.....	-222.37

Burke, Renee	.....	-608.74
Crawford, Alyssa	.....	-115.41
Deposit	.....	1,563.63
Deposit	.....	9,224.51
Deposit	.....	406.25
Treasurer - State of Iowa, Local Option	.....	9,055.72
Sales Tax Deposit	.....	769.12
Post Office, po box	.....	-200.00
Mediacom, internet	.....	-156.95
Interest	.....	252.41
FiveStar Coop, diesel tank	.....	-4,703.68
IPERS	.....	-1,531.69
Visa, library supplies	.....	-1,992.96
Deposit	.....	1,421.83
Deposit	.....	558.12
Sigler, Brian D	.....	-1,460.52
Dockendorf, Nickolaus J	.....	-478.75
Gebel, Shannon	.....	-1,091.09
Dundee, Linda M	.....	-43.02
Deposit	.....	281.60
Deposit	.....	1,552.85
Deposit	.....	5.25
Burke, Renee	.....	-592.38
Crawford, Alyssa	.....	-147.23
Zweibohmer, Paula M	.....	-267.45
Weber, Marlene F	.....	-103.21
JCJDW Investments LLC, solar nov	.....	-631.01
Mead Creek IA, LLC, solar	.....	-1,089.15
Microbac Laboratories, Inc, testing	.....	-982.75
Elma Express (v), fuel	.....	-60.11
Fairland Hardware, supplies	.....	-201.36
Iowa One Call, one call	.....	-36.00
Bodensteiner Implement Company, supplies	.....	-126.00
EO Johnson, print services	.....	-80.22
Jendro, garbage	.....	-3,775.60
Howard County Secondary Roads, sand/salt	.....	-2,189.55
Times Plain Dealer, publishing	.....	161.78
USA Blue Book, sewer supplies	.....	-359.42
Mehmert Tiling, Inc, hauling	.....	-125.00
Center Point LP, books	.....	-49.14
Garden Gate, magazine	.....	-41.00
Enterprise Media Group LLC, library subscription	.....	-80.00
Renee Burke (v), supplies	.....	-152.93
US Cellular, phone	.....	-94.23
Innovative Ag Services (v), LP	.....	-3,375.71
E And E Welding, repairs	.....	-2,100.67
VOID: Deposit	.....	1,607.53
VOID: Deposit	0.00
Deposit	5,589.73
Total Operating Checking	12,809.43
Total	12,809.43

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Crossword Fun

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17				18						19		
20						21						22
23						24				25		26
						27				28	29	30
31	32	33				34				35		36
38						39				40		41
42						43				44		45
						46				47		48
49	50									51		52
55						56				57	58	59
61						62				63		
64						65				66		
67						68				69		

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over

- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounge
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
- 3. Heroes
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. Some don't want to share theirs
- 6. Free-swimming invertebrate
- 7. Litigates
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uneasy feelings
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove
- 13. Pages can be dog-__
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt

- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They __
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein
- 54. "Gunga Din" script writer
- 57. Art __, around 1920
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

Elma City Council

**Elma City Council Special Meeting
1/28/2026**

The Elma City Council special meeting was opened at 5:30 PM by Mayor Thoren in the Elma Community Complex meeting room. The meeting was opened with roll call. Laura Schroeder-Smith, present, Emily Placek, present, Tony Helffer, present, Myron Head, present, Judy Acker, present.

Mayor Thoren discussed with the Council that Don Holdeman had been able to find 4 different trucks on auction that he could bid on for the City to replace the City's white truck. He had previously discussed with the council that the City's truck has rusted through the floor and the seat was shot too. All vehicles were estimated below \$12,000, have clean titles and no rust. A 2017 Chevy was the favorite with a 2015 Dodge Ram being the second choice. Tony moved to purchase the Chevy truck with the Ram being second choice for no more than \$12,000, Laura seconded the motion, carried unanimously.

Mayor Thoren had no further comments. Laura moved the meeting be adjourned, Emily seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.

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PRESS RELEASE

The 2026 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization recognizes excellence in integrating international education across all facets of Luther College

DECORAH — For its longstanding commitment to making global learning opportunities accessible and impactful to students, Luther College was awarded the 2026 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Named after the late Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, the award recognizes excellence in integrating international education throughout all facets of university and college campuses.

"From our beginnings in 1861 as the oldest U.S. college founded by Norwegian immigrants, Luther has nurtured and sustained its commitment to global education. Our programs, partnerships and curriculum exemplify comprehensive international engagement and we are proud to be recognized with this award," Luther College President Brad Chamberlain said. "Our internationalization isn't just reflected in our student body with students from over 70 countries, but also in the robust global opportunities we provide for all students. Luther consis-

Luther College earns prestigious award for global learning initiatives

tently ranks among the top baccalaureate institutions in the U.S. for the percentage of students who study away. At Luther, intercultural learning is central to our mission of preparing students to lead with curiosity, compassion and cross-cultural understanding."

Only five U.S. universities and colleges were selected to receive the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization this year. Another three institutions received the 2026 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award recognizing specific programs or initiatives that contribute to internationalization on campus.

"We are pleased to honor the achievements of eight institutions that have distinguished themselves as standard-bearers in the practice of internationalization," said Fanta Aw, NAFSA executive director and CEO. "Amid a rapidly changing higher education landscape, their demonstrated excellence and innovation in preparing students for a globalized society and workplace provide the field with welcome inspiration."

Luther College is the first private college in the state of Iowa to receive this national honor.

"It is an enormous honor for Luther College to receive the Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization," said Luther College's Center for Global Learning Director Victoria Christman. "The honor is even more striking because it almost always goes to large universities rather than small liberal arts colleges. But the award rightly recognizes decades of in-

tentional international engagement on the part of Luther College, and the success of Luther in embedding that internationalization throughout the curriculum and the student experience."

The Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization affirms Luther's longstanding commitment to making global education accessible, innovative and impactful for a diverse cross-section of students and faculty. Nearly 80% of Luther students study abroad before graduation. Between 30 and 40 faculty and staff lead study away programs each year, representing an average of 25 to 30 academic departments. To encourage participation and access for domestic and international students, Luther provides \$250,000 annually in need-based scholarship support for study abroad educational opportunities.

"Luther has worked hard to make those experiences accessible and impactful for our students and the communities abroad with whom they interact," Christman said.

Many of Luther's study abroad programs are built on long-term, sustained partnerships with university partners and community organizations. For example, Luther has partnered with the University of Nottingham in England for more than 50 years and the University of Malta for more than 40 years. Since 2017, Luther has partnered with local schools, a clinic and an environmental non-governmental organization in Roatan, Honduras. In Nepal, students work with a Luther alumnus, who runs a bio-

medical research center in Kathmandu. They engage in language teaching and learning with local school children, and visit families of current Nepali Luther students.

"When students return to campus, they find a community enriched not only by their own travel, but by the international students among us here. Exchanges such as these, in both directions, help prepare all of our students for lives of global awareness, engagement and impact," Christman said.

To support international students, Luther promotes a positive campus experience through a spectrum of programming. This award affirms these efforts, said Stacy Soderstrom, director of international and transfer admissions at Luther College.

"Founded by immigrants, Luther has long been shaped by global perspectives, and that legacy continues today through our commitment to international student recruitment and support. Luther is proud to be home to more than 200 international students from 70 countries, helping to foster a vibrant and globally engaged campus community," Soderstrom said. "It is an honor for Luther to be selected for the 2026 Simon Award, and I am so proud to have contributed to this initiative. This award affirms the dedication of our faculty and staff in cultivating intellectual curiosity, valuing diverse perspectives and leaning into the spirit of cultural exchange that enriches both Luther and the wider Decorah community."

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
You have the cosmic green light to start that major project you've been planning or to take a leap in your career, Aries. Trust your intuition - it's sharper than ever.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Abundance is knocking, Taurus. Your hard work is translating into tangible rewards, and you may receive unexpected good news

regarding finances or resources.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Your mind is sparkling, Gemini, making you the most magnetic person in the room. Use this vibrant energy to connect, share ideas and lead discussions.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, a feeling of emotional security empowers you to tackle any professional challenge with grace and confidence. You are totally centered right now, so go for it.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are radiating charisma this week and attracting positive attention wherever you go. Use this incredible visibility to network or showcase your talents.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
You'll find great satisfaction in

clean, organized work that earns sincere praise this week, Virgo. Your dedication is about to unlock a significant reward. Surprises are in store.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Relationships are the key to your happiness this week, Libra. Expect delightful interactions, smooth negotiations and the forging of beneficial alliances.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
This week is all about your own transformation, Scorpio. You feel a surge of internal power and clarity that allows you to confidently pursue deep, personal goals.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Your sense of optimism and love for exploration is fully charged, Sagittarius. Even if you can't take

a trip, your mind is open to exciting new philosophies or ideas.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Your professional reputation is soaring, Capricorn. Key figures at your job are recognizing your dedication and leadership. Expect exciting opportunities for advancement.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Your network is buzzing with opportunities, Aquarius. Collaborative efforts are highly favored, and you'll find incredible support for your most innovative ideas.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, your intuition is a superpower that guides you toward fulfillment and emotional satisfaction this week. Embrace your artistic side and allow your imagination to lead the way.

LIBRARY VISIT

WORD SEARCH

B	A	S	M	I	D	S	F	M	S	K	I	H	E	K	K	T	Y	U	R
L	O	R	M	F	S	L	N	L	L	P	I	E	K	V	V	L	D	G	F
H	D	K	Q	M	R	K	Q	O	V	L	C	V	U	V	R	F	U	C	C
I	P	S	S	T	C	L	O	I	I	N	U	G	R	U	I	E	T	K	N
Y	A	E	U	Y	Y	Q	B	O	E	T	B	M	N	Y	N	Y	S	I	L
B	H	D	M	E	S	C	E	R	B	K	C	S	D	T	L	P	I	E	Y
T																			