

**MINUTES  
OF THE EDINA CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
COMMUNITY ROOM, CITY HALL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026  
5:30 P.M.**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hovland called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2.0 ROLL CALL**

Answering roll call were Members Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, and Mayor Hovland.

Staff in attendance: Scott Neal, City Manager; Ari Lenz, Assistant City Manager; Zoe Johnson, City Management Fellow; Jennifer Bennerotte, Communications Director; Chad Millner, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Ross Bintner, Engineering Services Manager; Perry Vetter, Parks & Recreation Director; Nate Morrison, Maintenance Supervisor; Lieutenant Ryan Schultz; David Yanagisawa, I.T. Specialist; and Sharon Allison, City Clerk.

**3.1 CITY MANAGER TRANSITION**

Manager Neal introduced the topic, noting that Assistant City Manager Lenz developed a detailed timeline for the City Manager transition. The process will require an executive search and given the limited number of firms that specialize in this work, staff recommended issuing a request for proposals (RFP) and forming a small subset of the City Council to assist. The selected firm would help develop the recruitment profile, advertising plan, and recommend the number of finalists. The goal is to retain a consultant by the end of May or June, conduct candidate tours in the summer, and selection in the fall. Under Minnesota Data Practices Act, candidate names remain confidential until finalists (typically two to five) are identified. The consultant will advise on how many finalists to advance and support the overall process.

Council discussed who would be involved in interviews; Neal stated that Council, senior staff, community representatives (such as commission and task force members, business leaders, the school superintendent, hospital representatives, and other organizations), and the consultant would participate. Council asked whether the timeline could be accelerated; staff indicated it could be compressed to begin earlier and allow additional transition time for the selected candidate. Assistant City Manager Lenz and City Management Fellow Johnson will draft the RFP using existing models, with Council Members Pierce and Jackson volunteering to assist. Council expressed a preference to hire the consultant by the end of May and aim for a finalist by the end of September to allow approximately 90 days' notice. Confidentiality will be maintained until finalists are named.

**3.2 MOTION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION AS PERMITTED BY M.S. 13D.05, TO DISCUSS SECURITY PROTOCOLS.** Member Agnew made a motion, seconded by Member Jackson. Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland. Motion carried.

### **3.3 COUNCIL CHAMBERS SECURITY REVIEW**

Lt. Ryan Schultz led a discussion regarding security procedures in the Council Chambers during City Council meetings. Council and staff relocated from the Community Room to the Council Chambers to participate in a demonstration outlining current security measures and safety considerations during meetings.

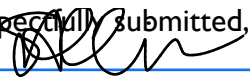
### **3.3 MOTION TO MOVE BACK INTO OPEN SESSION**

Member Agnew made a motion, seconded by Member Jackson to move back into open session while still in the Council Chambers. Ayes: Agnew, Jackson, Pierce, Risser, Hovland. Motion carried.

### **4.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Hovland adjourned the meeting while still in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,



[Sharon Allison \(Mar 5, 2026 14:52:32 CST\)](#)

Sharon Allison, City Clerk



James B. Hovland, Mayor

Minutes approved by Edina City Council, March 3, 2026.