

**Minutes**  
**Woodbury City Council**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

Pursuant to the due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting was duly held virtually and at the Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Anne Burt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and she welcomed those attending the meeting both in person and virtually.

Mayor Burt explained that members of the public may attend the meeting in person and may also join the meeting using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. She stated public comments will be accepted during the meeting both in person and virtually. Virtual questions should be submitted via the online Q&A feature within the virtual meeting link. Questions regarding the meeting will also be taken between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. via email at [council@woodburymn.gov](mailto:council@woodburymn.gov) or at 651-714-3524. Questions received after 4:30 p.m. will be responded to in the next three to seven business days.

Mayor Burt stated that meetings are recorded through True Lens Community Media and are broadcast live and replayed on cable channel 799. Meetings are also available on the City of Woodbury's YouTube channel. Members of the public are welcome to join and have an opportunity to speak in person, or can watch virtually. Virtual questions can be submitted online, and the City Clerk will monitor them throughout the meeting.

**Pledge to Flag**

Audience, staff, and Council pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**Roll Call**

Upon roll call the following were present: Mayor Anne Burt, Councilmembers: Kim Wilson (virtual), Donna Stafford, Steve Morris, and Jennifer Santini. Absent: None

Others Present: Ashleigh Sullivan, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk; Kevin Sandstrom, City Attorney; Jeffrey Dahl, City Administrator; Eric Searles, Assistant Community Development Director/City Planner; Jason Posel, Public Safety Director

Mayor Burt explained that the Council is honored to serve the community as Councilmembers. She noted that the Council takes the role seriously and is there to hear the public. She pointed out that there were many people in attendance for the meeting and assumed that the majority of people were there to speak about ICE in the community. It was reported in the news that Woodbury was considered for an ICE detention facility. She expressed her appreciation for community members attending the meeting and added that she counted on them to be respectful. She asked those who had signs to be considerate of those around them by not blocking views. A recent news report indicated that Woodbury may be included among potential locations for a future US Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility. Since that report, residents have contacted the City with concerns, and many have expressed strong opposition to the facility of this nature. City staff have verbally confirmed that the property located at 11435 Hudson Road is not being sold or leased to the federal government or agents acting on their behalf. Representatives from the property also confirmed to City staff that the future use of the building will not be an ICE detention facility. She explained that private property owners hold the initial decision-making authority regarding the future use of a building. She confirmed that the rumored location in Woodbury will not be an ICE facility. City staff worked every angle to identify the various parties involved in the plan, and through communication and collaboration, staff put an end to the possibility of having an ICE facility in the City. The federal government was looking at the potential location at 11435 Hudson Road due to the warehouse size. Woodbury does not have any other large warehouse space to meet the purpose, nor does the idea of a detention center fit into the community or meet zoning codes and ordinances.

Mayor Burt explained that the Council would still allow for the public to speak during the meeting. She recommended making some modifications to the Open Forum portion of the meeting by moving the Open Forum portion of the meeting toward the end of the meeting to allow the Council conduct the swearing in of a new police officer. She added that she would like to remove the limit on the number of speakers who can address the Council and allow enough time for speakers to speak for one hour. She asked if there were people who came as a group, to have one speaker speak on behalf of the group. She encouraged community members who do not get a chance to speak to email the Council questions or comments at [council@woodburymn.gov](mailto:council@woodburymn.gov).

Mayor Burt moved, seconded by Council member Morris to amend the agenda to move item 5, "Open Forum," to after item 6, "Consent Agenda".

**Voting via voice:**

Kim Wilson – aye  
Donna Stafford – aye

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Steve Morris – aye  
Jennifer Santini – aye  
Anne Burt – aye

**Special Order of Business**

**A. Swearing in of New Police Officer(s) Hannah Melander**

1. Introduction – Public Safety Director Jason Posel

Public Safety Director Jason Posel shared that the mission at Woodbury Public Safety is to serve all people with compassion and courage. It is possible to achieve the mission by hiring people who serve the same values of integrity, trust, respect, and excellence. The Public Safety Department looks for people who have a servant's heart, who understand that the profession exists to serve others, and will often encourage people on their worst day and work to make it better.

2. Meaning of Police Officer Badge – Deputy Chief of Police Omar Maklad

Public Safety Director Posel shared the meaning of the badge and called Hannah Melander forward.

3. Oath (Police) – Mayor and New Officer Hannah Melander

Mayor Burt presided over the swearing of Police Officer Hannah Melander.

**Open Forum**

The Agenda was reordered to consider the Open Forum after the Consent Agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

- Item A Approval of Council Minutes – December 10, 2025. **This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Discussion portion of the meeting.**
- Item B To adopt the following resolution **Resolution 26-01**  
**Resolution of the City of Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota, City awarding the construction contract to A-1 Excavating, LLC for the Valley Creek Road Trail Improvement Project, authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign said contract and execute an intergovernmental agreement with Washington County and a professional engineering services agreement with SEH, Inc.**
- Item C To adopt the following resolution **Resolution 26-02**  
**Resolution of the City of Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota, awarding the Ojibway Park Vegetation Restoration Project construction contract to Stantec Consulting Services and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to sign said contract.**
- Item D To adopt the following resolution **Resolution 26-03**  
**Resolution of the City of Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota authorizing the acceptance of the Woodbury Community Foundation Grant of \$300.**
- Item E To adopt the following resolution **Resolution 26-04**  
**Resolution of the City of Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota, authorizing the acceptance of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Foundation Community Partnership Grant and approving the associated budget amendment.**
- Item F To adopt the following resolution **Resolution 26-05**  
**Resolution of the City of Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota authorizing the acceptance of the Woodbury Community Foundation Grant of \$3,380.**
- Item G To adopt the following resolution **Resolution 26-06**

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**Resolution of the City of Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota, appointing election judges for the January 27, 2026, House District 47A Special Election.**

- Item H To adopt the following ordinance **Ordinance 2072**
- Ordinance of the City of Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota, amending City Code Chapter 11, Article VII Taxicabs and Chapter 11, Article XIII Small Vehicle Passenger Services, and authorize staff to publish the Summary Ordinance in the City's designated official newspaper.**
- Item I To adopt a motion designating CorTrust Bank as the City's depository of public funds for the year 2026.
- Item J The abstract of bills includes payments made from the operating or project budgets for expenses of the city. The expenditures are from all funds of the city. Any purchased contracts requiring signature of the mayor and City Administrator is hereby approved. Staff recommends approval of the abstract of bills for December 5, 2025 in the amount of \$5,619,556.44; December 12, 2025 in the amount of \$7,092,202.54; December 19, 2025 in the amount of \$668,744.22; and December 26, 2025, in the amount of \$3,533,144.90.

Councilmember Santini moved, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to approve the Consent Agenda items with the exception of item 6A.

**Voting via voice:**

Kim Wilson – aye  
Donna Stafford – aye  
Steve Morris – aye  
Jennifer Santini – aye  
Anne Burt – aye

**Open Forum**

Mayor Burt shared a statement. She recognized that the increased federal immigration enforcement efforts in the City are creating fear and anxiety. It is troubling and not reflective of who we are as a community. The City has taken pride in being an inclusive and welcoming community where everyone feels safe. The City has received hundreds of emails, phone calls, and letters. She appreciated the time that people took to share their thoughts. She explained that she grieves for the loss of life, the anxiety that so many people are experiencing, and the growing divide in the Country. She added that she grieves for the inhumanity toward each other as fellow human beings. She challenged the community to speak and act respectfully, to listen, and to seek to understand. She added that the people should individually and collectively call for transparency from the State and federal governments, and for Congress to set aside its partisan rhetoric and to create systemic change to the citizenship process. She explained that the City continues to work with the County, State, and federal officials to advocate for the rights of the valued immigrant communities during the challenging times. She reiterated that the property located at 11435 Hudson Road is not being sold or leased to the federal government or agents working on their behalf. It will not be an ICE detention facility. She highlighted what Woodbury is all about and explained that throughout history, the City has worked to make the City a welcoming and inclusive City. The City has been recognized many times for being one of the best cities to live in in the State and the Country. She opened an opportunity for the Council to make comments.

Mayor Burt explained how the Open Forum would be conducted.

Senator Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger thanked the Council and the City's Public Safety for their statements supporting and listening to the community. She thanked the community members for attending the meeting. The community is experiencing challenges that could not be fathomed. The presence of ICE has shaken the community to the core. People are afraid to leave their homes to go grocery shopping, to go to health care appointments, or to go to school. There have been stories of neighbors being forcibly removed from their cars, shoved to the ground, abducted to a detention facility, and held there unlawfully for over 10 hours. She added that there is a story of a constituent who is being held in custody in a hospital because he is an asylum seeker and needs to get the care he needs. She noted that there is a married couple that is separated by an ocean because he is too afraid to be here with his spouse. She recognized the murder of Renee Good. The rumored detention facility caused a lot of fear in the community. She expressed her gratitude to the Washington County Board for their strong stance and for listening to the public. She noted that there are school and work absences because of the fear in the community, and there is economic decline. She asked the Council to recognize that ICE is bad for public safety, business, and the neighbors. She added that they want them out of Woodbury.

State Representative Ethan Cha stated that in 1961, his father served the CIA in the secret war in Laos. He noted that in 1980, he came to America as a refugee from Laos. He became a naturalized citizen in the 1990s, and he is now a State Representative for Woodbury. He expressed his pride in the City and the State because he was raised in St. Paul, and he later moved his family to Woodbury in 1996. The impact of ICE activities is an infringement on the American dream. He explained that his mother came to America as a refugee and studied for two years to get her citizenship and be able to vote. Today, she lives in fear of going to the grocery store or leaving her house because she is afraid that she will be deported. The ICE activity is an infringement on the American Constitution and the rights of every citizen in the United States. The community does not know where to turn and is looking to the leaders. He applauded the City for investigating the property on

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Hudson Road. The fight does not stop there. He noted that they are fighting every day within the communities and schools. He mentioned that the impact of mental health on the community is enormous. He explained that we cannot afford to have ICE in the community. He stated that he wants to work with the City locally and at the federal level to ensure that the citizens are being heard, and their safety is the number one priority. The American dream lives in the City and it will be protected.

John Phillips, City resident, stated he strongly opposes an ICE facility. He expressed his gratitude to hear the update about the facility on Hudson Road, but the threat is still there. The Trump administration has shown that they do not like to lose, they do not back down, and they double down. The City's response to the threat has been inadequate. ICE did not choose Woodbury because it is close to a freeway and there is a big warehouse. ICE chose Woodbury because they see the City as weak. ICE sees the strengths of Woodbury, such as the nonpartisan governance, the pro-business stance, and welcoming values, as weaknesses to exploit. He noted that the City is not dealing with a developer but with ICE, which is a militarized, combat-ready, occupying force. The only discussions they will have are the terms of the City's surrender. He explained that the full weight of the Trump administration and MAGA will be deployed upon the City. He explained that the administration will threaten to cut programs and funding, initiate investigations, and squeeze businesses. He asked that the Council speak out and voice strong opposition, and signal to everyone that the processes to stand up a detention facility will be so cost-prohibitive that it is not worth the effort. He stated that the Council needs to pick a side.

Brenda Kittilson, City resident, stated she has lived in the City for over 20 years and has never felt the need to attend a Council meeting until tonight. The City has been advertised as a wonderful place to live. She recently heard that Woodbury was considered for an ICE detention facility. She asked if that was who the City was. She wondered how an ICE detention facility would change the advertising of the City. She expressed her gratitude that the City would not have an ICE detention facility.

Jodell Miller, City resident, stated, "Get ICE out of Woodbury immediately". She added that the people elected the Council, and it was time for the Council to show courage and protect all of the neighbors. February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. is caucus night, and if the Council does not do what they need to for change, the people will vote them out. She thanked the Council for doing their job and for showing courage.

Kay Hendrickson, City resident, stated she was on the Planning Commission for five years and loves the City. She noted that she is the chair of a Statewide volunteer advocacy organization for senior citizens with the DFL senior caucus. ICE involvement in the City is not safe for senior citizens and their grandsons. She explained that while her three-year-old grandson was at daycare, legal citizens were dragged out of the daycare in front of preschool children. She noted that it would be helpful if the ICE training at the Hero Center were more transparent. She stated she believed that the City should support the Minnesota State lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security, and should support what the Washington County Board of Commissioners is doing to oppose ICE in the County. She stated she does not want ICE in Woodbury.

Ellie Anderson, City resident, stated that there are many things in the City that say "Welcome to Woodbury". She explained that she is happy to hear the update about the Hudson Road facility. She asked the Council to keep ICE out of Woodbury.

Ross Chavez, City resident, stated that his family chose to move to Woodbury because of the schools, the community, the sense of belonging, and the opportunity to be involved. He added that he serves the community as a paramedic firefighter. He explained that the community needs to understand that it is up against an adversary who is playing by different rules. He explained that his family is in particular danger. There have been neighbors and community members who have been snatched up by ICE and deported, and they were not criminals but were loving family members who were working towards the American dream. He added that he has to explain to his kids why their friend's dad is no longer here. His children are afraid of the police. He added that he and his wife have to carry around their passports due to fear that they may be ripped out of their cars and taken away from their children. He asked the Council to hold up their end of the bargain so that he could protect his family.

Emma Kasky, City resident, stated she is 17 years old and ICE is present at her school. She added that elementary school buses are being followed by ICE. She added that her friends are scared to go outside. She added that she wanted to use her voice because there are so many who cannot use their voice. She explained that her generation is scared because they are too young to voice what they believe. She hoped that there would be a day when there would be peace.

Kevin Dohler, City resident, explained that he joined community members to form the Woodbury Defense Coalition. The community is concerned about their safety, and their biggest concern is that it is not inclusive to protest in Woodbury because they do not want to disturb residents and hotel owners. He added that people are saying the use of the term "Gestapo" is inappropriate to use for what is being seen today. The Woodbury Defense Coalition was formed because the community does not feel backed by Public Safety. He explained that what is happening currently is ethnic cleansing. He encouraged people to go to local ethnic restaurants if they did not believe him. He noted that many of the restaurants are closed. He explained that ICE agents are staying in Woodbury hotels and restaurants because of compliance, and the City's willingness to be quiet and not allow the City to voice its concerns. He proposed that the City protest and be loud. He noted that people are not allowed to use whistles in the City.

Ryan Ecklund, City resident, stated that he wanted to share his experience with ICE. He took his 7<sup>th</sup> grader to school, and as he was heading home, he encountered an ICE vehicle in the Cub parking lot in Tamarack Village. He noted that he wanted to do something and decided to do something that was constitutionally correct by recording the ICE vehicle. An additional ICE vehicle came eight minutes after he was following the ICE vehicle. He was warned by the ICE agents that what he was doing was wrong and illegal. He stated he was boxed in by the ICE vehicles, and five ICE agents opened his door, and one agent got into the back seat and put him in a choke hold, took off his seatbelt, removed him

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from his vehicle, and put him to the ground. He explained that he was handcuffed and put into an unmarked white van and taken to the Whipple Detention Center. He was released later that evening without any charges. He noted that he made it clear that he was a US citizen and was being detained unlawfully. By the end of the evening, there were eight other US citizens in the cell that he was in. He noted that he is seeing anxiety and fear. He mentioned that it is the leader's responsibility to protect the community. He encouraged the Council to do what they could and to listen to the other community members. Children are scared to go to school, and scared that their friends in the neighborhood will be removed from their homes. Those who are in authority have a lot of responsibility because of the authority. Authority also comes with accountability. The only ones who are afraid of accountability wear masks in the community.

Tim Wegener, City resident, recognized the people who have the courage to be willing to be observers of what is happening in the community. He noted that there is a room downstairs from the Council chambers, and it is full of people. He mentioned that the limit is 110 people and the room is overflowing. In addition, there are 40 people in a conference room, and the hallway is completely full. He stated that it is great news that there will not be an ICE detention center in the City. He encouraged the Council to plan ahead and be proactive because not having an ICE facility in the City is not enough. He asked the Council to get ICE out of Woodbury. He explained that it is an atrocity that a US citizen is being dragged from their car by an occupying force that does not have authority in this place. He added that he is hearing reports of people calling local police about ICE activity, and the police have been ignoring it. He asked the Council to remind Public Safety that they are there to protect the residents. There are reports tonight that there is another ICE-involved shooting in Minneapolis. If the City allows ICE activity in the City, shootings are going to happen in the City, too. He wondered how many dead people it would take for the representatives at the local and the State level to do something. Enough is enough.

Cheryl Fong, City resident, explained that she has been nauseous all day thinking about the Council meeting. She added that she is relieved to hear that there will not be an ICE detention center in the City. She agreed with the previous comments about the Council being proactive because it is not the end. In 1933, there were hundreds of detention centers in the chaotic early years of the new regime. They evolved and grew as the camp system matured. Woodbury cannot add this distinction to the record. An ICE detention center would impact the City economically, psychologically, and destroy the investment that everyone has made. She encouraged the Council to educate themselves on what detention centers turned into.

Andrea Hable, City resident, stated she was speaking as the president of the League of Women Voters of the Woodbury/Cottage Grove area. She read a letter that was sent to the Council. The league is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening democracy through informed civic participation, transparency, and the protection of fundamental democratic principles. She expressed her understanding that the Council has not been directly working with ICE; however, the decisions at the federal level can move rapidly without local initiation or involvement. It is important that the City clearly states its concerns and values now. She thanked Mayor Burt for her statement and for the Council's valuing transparency. She added that they oppose ICE deployment in the community. She read a statement from the State and National leagues. The statement highlighted that Minnesota's immigrant communities are integral to the economic strength, social fabric, and cultural vibrancy of the State. Federal actions that create fear, fractured families, and erode trust in local institutions are unacceptable. The League stands with immigrants, refugees, and all members of the community who deserve safety, dignity, and equal treatment under the law. Safety, dignity, the rule of law, due process, and fair administration of justice are all significantly at risk in the community if an ICE facility becomes a reality. Reports have shown physical and sexual abuse, medical neglect, intimidation, unsanitary conditions, and other violations of law in immigration detention facilities. The League strongly supports the City's commitment to transparency and to keep the community informed.

Chris Holbrook, City resident, explained that he lived in St. Paul after all of the events in 2020. He added that he moved to Woodbury five years ago and has loved it. He thanked the Council and community for standing strong. He vehemently opposed an ICE detention facility in the City. He agreed with the comments of the City needing to be proactive. He encouraged the community to be vocal. He thanked the police and EMTs in the City and mentioned that they should not be aligned with the unconstitutional, unlawful agents.

Tim Horton, City resident, stated he was a psychiatric nurse practitioner in the City and created People First Clinic in the City. He explained that he is shaken by what he is seeing today. He added that he is treating adults who witnessed the recent shooting in Minneapolis, and children who are deeply traumatized because they have witnessed loved ones getting pulled from cars. He noted that there are children who know that their friends, families, and grandparents are gone. He added that they are all US citizens. When children do not feel safe, their brains stay in survival mode, and learning and healing stop. He mentioned that Woodbury needs to be doing more. Neutrality tells frightened children that no one is standing between them and harm. Woodbury needs to draw a line that makes people pause because hate is not welcome here.

Krista Stocker, City resident, explained that it was great news to hear that the property on Hudson Road would not become an ICE facility. Woodbury must continue to oppose any ICE facility within the City. ICE agents are using unlawful and abusive tactics, and the community members want ICE out of Woodbury; they do not belong in the City.

William Tice, City resident, stated that the City needs to take immediate action to stop ICE operations in the State and in the City. Citizens are being snatched off the streets, beaten, and whisked away. It is a federal invasion of Minnesota by Donald Trump, JD Vance, and Kristi Noem. It is unacceptable, and it must stop because they are breaching the constitutional rights of citizens and non-citizens alike. The invasion is fueled by lies of extensive fraud, racism against Somali neighbors, and a president who has claimed that he has won Minnesota three times. He stated convicted felon Donald Trump hates Governor Walz, Representative Omar, immigrants, and Minnesotans. It is a hostile attack on Minnesota and is designed to sow fear and chaos and to punish Minnesota for its diversity, progress, innovation, and for being better. He encouraged the community pursue every possibility to push back. If there is a mechanism of non-compliance or resistance that can be deployed against Trump and ICE, it must be explored, activated, and employed. He explained that one of his friends is hosting a Mexican

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friend because they are too afraid to be alone right now. He added that he has neighbors who are too afraid to go anywhere right now and carry their passports wherever they go, including in a child's backpack. He noted that what is happening in Minnesota is a prototype for federal invasions elsewhere. He asked that Minnesota set an example for other states to follow.

Marty Borchardt, City resident, explained that he was glad to hear the news about the Hudson Road property. He noted that warehouses are designed to store supplies and products, not people. He stated, "Let ICE melt away".

Rocio Foncea, City resident stated she is an immigrant and is scared. She explained that people are living in fear. She added that she came to the meeting in fear because she did not know what she was going to see, or if there would be people from ICE in front of City Hall. She stated that the community is strong. She explained that she came to the Country in 2007 with the strong belief that she would build her family in the US. She added that immigrants work hard and believe in the humanity and values of the Country which is why they are here. She mentioned that as she sees what is happening in the US, she is reminded of what she left in her previous country, where there was a dictator. Silence is against all that is happening today. She added that she is here because she will not continue to accept what is happening. She added that she believes in the Council because they represent her and she voted for them. She asked the Council to use its voice and to represent her community.

Barbara Whittington, City resident, expressed her understanding that there is verbal confirmation that an ICE detention facility will not go into the City, but she would like to see a written confirmation. She explained that she is tired of words and lawsuits because she wants there to be action. Anyone in leadership needs to take action. She stated that ICE's desire for a detention facility in Woodbury will happen again. She added that she needs the City government to be transparent and immediate about communication. She noted that there will be many more constitutional violations and ICE raids in the City. Through racial profiling, neighbors and family have been terrorized, slammed around, yanked out of cars, and tear-gassed. ICE has dismissed all human rights and human dignity by rounding up masses of people and throwing them into detention centers. She noted that she has listened to eyewitness testimonies of survivors who are citizens from detention centers. She added that only citizens are the ones who come out of detention centers and are able to talk about it. The testimonies shared highlight dozens of people penned up in tiny spaces without drinking water, and the use of toilet facilities. She asked to think about what immigrant neighbors were going through right now. She stated that they are concentration camps and are holding people and then moving them from place to place until they are kicked out of the Country. She stated that we cannot allow this. The community wants to know what the City's action plan is. She wondered how many people had been abducted from Woodbury streets. She asked what the City was going to do.

Barb Prokop, City resident, expressed her concern about eminent domain. She asked that the City educate the community while they communicate. She asked how community members could stay updated.

Ava Leigh, Stillwater resident, explained that she is the executive director of the Frederick Douglas Project and is helping folks who are being detained. She thanked the Representatives and Councilmember Wilson for hearing her. She explained that someone who was detained was Hmong-Vietnamese and was sent to El Paso. She expressed her understanding of why the City does not have an ICE detention center here, but if there is nothing here, then people get sent away. She added that it is difficult to tell family members that their loved one has been taken to another state. She asked that the community think about the people who are being ripped from their families and to have families together as much as possible.

Aidan Danbury, St. Paul resident, mentioned that he graduated from Woodbury High School. He explained that Woodbury has become a safe haven for ICE agents. The agents are untrained and unvetted. Renee Good was unjustly shot by federal agents. He added that he has seen footage of ICE agents infringing upon the majority of people's First Amendment rights, including footage of an ICE agent walking into a portapotty with a detainee. Federal agents are hiding behind masks, which could give criminal opportunists a way to kidnap anyone they want. He stated he had witnessed masked men kidnap his neighbor, who is the mother of a young girl, and was on their way to the bus stop. It is clear that Woodbury is no longer a safe place. Local businesses are closing their doors, and many residents are living in a state of terror. He expressed his understanding that the City does not have the authority or ability to fully amend the chaos that is happening, but he would like to see documentation showing the rejection of the possibility of an ICE detention facility in the City. He asked how the community could ensure that the federal government would stop infringing on the rights and safety of the people.

Patti Blair, City resident, stated she is a US citizen, a Native Hawaiian, a Korean-American, and Chinese American. She added that she is the mother of two grown sons, and one who serves proudly as the captain in the US Space Force. She added that she is there to stand up for those who live in fear and cannot be here to voice their concerns. She added that she adamantly opposes any detention facility in the City, County, and State run by ICE. She explained that she cannot stand the human violations that are happening in facilities. Allowing an ICE facility in the City would make the City complicit in the abuses and sanctions that would happen. She recommended that the City begin to determine what kind of zoning requirements would be required for a facility to exist like this in the City. She recommended that the City and County commit to holding a public hearing prior to giving any permission or approvals for an ICE facility to be built or leased. She added that she would like to see the City's Police Department's stance on protecting the citizens against ICE, and constitutional violations regardless of immigration status. She implored the help of the City and thanked the police for their service. She asked that the police protect the human rights of the community from ICE agents. She added that people are living in fear.

Sharon Parker, City resident, stated she opposed having an ICE detention center in the City. She added that she was a real estate attorney and looked at the business aspects of it. She asked if ICE needed to notify the City if they were thinking of putting in a detention facility. She asked if the City would need to accept a lease or a sale of the property. The property is zoned as a commercial warehouse and is not zoned for a place to store people. She wondered how the community could know that the City is not talking to parties that are not covered by confidential,

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non-disclosure agreements. She pointed out that there would be financial ramifications to the City if an ICE detention facility were put in. According to KARE 11, the building is tax-exempt, which would mean the City would lose out on tax money. She wondered if there would be an escrow or trust set up to cover the extra police costs moving forward if a detention center still went in. The federal government has lied to people. She stated she wants the Council to fight for the City because the people do not want a detention center in the City.

Nathan Boening, City resident, explained that his friends and family are feeling afraid to go out in public. He added that he has friends and family who have immigrated to the City and are now afraid to leave their homes because of how other people have been treated by this administration. He explained that he is trying to navigate how to talk about what is happening in Minnesota with his children.

Erin Schoen, City resident, explained that she is a social worker in the City. The current administration is practicing in an unlawful and unconstitutional manner. They are taking people off the street without cause and without care. ICE is not allowed legally to perform traffic stops without reasonable cause, yet they are doing that and using violence against anyone whom they deem unworthy. Their actions are inhumane and intolerant, and the people do not want a detention center that would symbolize the intolerance in the City. She added that she has friends, family, and co-workers who are naturalized citizens and are afraid of being deported illegally or placed in a detention center. She explained that it feels like a literal war zone, and adding a detention center in the City is unacceptable. ICE needs to leave the City and the State.

Leslie LeBow, City resident, explained that when she watched World War II movies, she never understood how the Germans could allow the Holocaust to happen, and she vowed never be one of those people. She explained that she can see that it starts with compliance and requests to be silent and be a good citizen. She asked if the City could elect a safety czar to protect the people from ICE. A safety czar would show solidarity and make a statement. She added that businesses in the City need to be involved.

Mayor Burt mentioned that she was glad the Council was able to hear from community members. She encouraged community members to stay up to date through the City's website and social media channels. She shared that the City has been in communication with the County and State legislators. She added that she had a phone conversation with Senator Amy Klobuchar and Representative Angie Craig and was pleased by their involvement. She noted that Congresswoman Betty McCollum's office has been involved and has sent a letter to Kristi Noem and others. She opened an opportunity for the Council to share comments.

Councilmember Santini acknowledged the courage it took for each community member to attend the meeting and speak. She explained that she is struggling to figure out how to navigate out of the current status quo since things are happening outside of the legal norms. She encouraged community members to know their rights. She wondered what would happen if people were not recording the events that were happening, and was concerned about the events that could happen if there were no recordings. She explained that she believes change is driven by people and urged the community to continue to raise its voice.

Councilmember Morris mentioned that the City has been trying to chase down the rumors, and staff have done a diligent job. He expressed his appreciation to City staff for gathering the information and communicating with the public. He pointed out that there are many people who attended the meeting and are supporting each other, which gives him hope. He expressed his understanding that there are many people who are scared and noted that the community takes care of each other, and no one is alone. He thanked the community for showing up to the meeting and using their voice. He encouraged people to continue to use their voice and show up because that is how change happens. He added that the City will work with people and do its best to be transparent and honest about what its limitations are.

Councilmember Stafford explained that she was almost brought to tears by the outpouring of community support. She added that the Council is about hearing people. She stated that the Council hears everyone and cares. She mentioned that everyone needs to stay active through kind community gatherings. She explained that she grieves with everything going on in the Country but everyone is going to get through it because the community is full of good, caring, and loving people. She thanked the City staff for the hours they have spent trying to stay on top of the situation and for communicating.

Councilmember Wilson thanked all of the community members for attending the meeting and voicing their opinions. She mentioned that it is a difficult situation to be in. She explained that she often feels like the "odd man" out on the Council and can agree with some of the aspects of what each Councilmember said. She appreciated the elected representatives for attending the meeting. She noted that she has been a long supporter of public safety on a local, County, State, and federal level. ICE is not new and has been operating in the communities for decades. ICE has a job that they need to do. The federal laws need to be upheld. She hoped that the community could come together. She added that protesting businesses, restaurants, and hotels will cause them to suffer. She noted that she hoped the community would come together and show support for local businesses before they suffer under the planned boycotts. If the City can do anything, it will be open and transparent. She stated there needs to be an understanding that the federal government is above the City.

Mayor Burt asked Assistant Community Development Director/City Planner Eric Searles if he had anything to add regarding the update about the ICE detention facility. Mr. Searles encouraged community members to reach out to him regarding zoning questions. He thanked the community for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Burt asked City Administrator Dahl if he had any comments. Mr. Dahl acknowledged the comments and concerns from the community and noted that there have been hundreds of calls and emails, and they are trying to get back to them. Mayor Burt added that many people have provided comments, and staff may not be able to respond to each one since there is no question. She noted that everything is recorded and the City hears the people. Mr. Dahl stated that staff and the Council take their roles very seriously and remain apolitical. He added that

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they do not care about national politics but care about all the people who represent the community. He encouraged community members to go to [woodburymn.gov/ice](http://woodburymn.gov/ice) for FAQs and to learn about people's rights. He added that staff are working on internal information on how to educate all employees who are wondering what their role is. The Public Safety team continues to balance what is happening in the City and State, while keeping everyone safe. He stated that the City does not have a desire to have a detention center in the City because it is not appropriate for the community. He added that staff are working hard to serve all of the residents.

**Public Hearings**

No Items Scheduled

**Discussion**

**Consent Agenda Item 6A. Approval of Council Minutes – December 10, 2025**

Councilmember Wilson pulled this item for discussion and asked to table the item so she could get more details to include what was missing in the minutes.

Councilmember Wilson moved to table the December 10, 2025, minutes until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Burt asked what the issue was with the minutes. Councilmember Wilson noted that she made a statement at the end of the item regarding the Commission appointments. There are some missed statements in the minutes, such as the person in question received three positive votes, which was not true since the person received two positive votes, two negative votes, and one indifferent vote. In addition, she was urged by Councilmember Morris to file a lawsuit if she felt that there was slander or defamation.

Mr. Dahl pointed out that Councilmember Wilson was referring to page 9 of the minutes.

Mayor Burt declared the motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Wilson moved to amend the minutes to include verbatim her statements regarding the Commission appointments.

Councilmember Morris stated that the City has never done verbatim minutes since the videos are online. Councilmember Wilson pointed out that the videos are only online for three months, so the minutes are the only record in the future. She mentioned it would be an option to keep the videos up longer.

Councilmember Santini explained that asking to do a portion of the meeting verbatim can open the door, and she wondered if it was worth changing the policy for. She wondered if the proposed changes from Councilmember Wilson would really change the record. Councilmember Morris stated that it did not change the record. He added that he remembers saying that Councilmember Wilson should file a lawsuit, but it is a truncated statement, and he would want the context of his challenge in it.

Mayor Burt declared the motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Santini moved, seconded by Councilmember Stafford, to approve the Council Minutes for December 10, 2025.

**Voting via voice:**

Kim Wilson – no  
Donna Stafford – aye  
Steve Morris – aye  
Jennifer Santini – aye  
Anne Burt – aye

**Staff Reports**

**A. City Administrator's Report**

Mr. Dahl noted that the City newsletter was delivered to all of the homes in the City and has received great reviews from the community. He thanked the staff for leading the newsletter. He noted that 2026 building permits have significantly increased and thanked the Community Development Department for their hard work. He thanked the Public Works department for their work plowing the streets. He gave a shout-out to the Public Safety teams for holding engagement events and for giving back in the community.

**Adjournment**

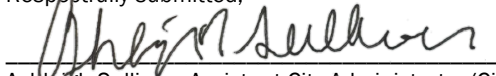
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Mayor Burt moved, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

**Voting via voice:**

Kim Wilson – aye  
Donna Stafford – aye  
Steve Morris – aye  
Jennifer Santini – aye  
Anne Burt – aye

Respectfully submitted,



Ashleigh Sullivan, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk

Approved by the Woodbury City Council on January 28, 2026.