

CITY OF GHENT
APPROVED MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL/EDA MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 2026

The regularly scheduled City Council/EDA meeting for the City of Ghent was held on Tuesday, August 18th at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Doug Anderson, Adam DeRoode, Mike Warren, Zac Boerboom & Tim VanKeulen. Administrator/Clerk, Dawn Vlaminck & Public Works Director Jesse Christianson.

OPEN MEETING: Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order @ 6:30 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by VanKeulen and seconded by DeRoode to approve the minutes of the July meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Boerboom to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: No comments were heard.

LYON COUNTY SHERRIFF'S DEPT: Sherriff Wallen was present to review our call report. He thought Belgian American Days went well.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Maertens was present. He thinks that they can work with the same budget as last year. DeRoode had requested that the chief attend at least three meetings in a year, especially around budgeting time. Maertens said that he is available whenever we need him to come. Maertens also mentioned that the warming house at the ice rink could use some paint & repairs. There are still funds in the park and rec fund for this purpose.

2026 WATERMAIN & SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS: A work session has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th @ 5:00 before the city council meeting.

BONDING BILL \$3M GRANT: We are waiting for a written response from PFA as to how we can use these funds.

SEWER EXPANSION TO THE EAST: Waiting to hear about the grant money.

DEROODE SWALE IN ALLEY: Councilman DeRoode would like to do some drainage work in the alley between McQuestion and Baldwin Street between Chapman & Collins Streets. We will continue this discussion at our work session on September 8th.

OFTEDAHL DONATION TO CITY: The family of Duane & Linda Oftedahl have donated \$1,500 to the city for a special project. Dawn had visited with the family about a couple of ideas and will bring to a future meeting.

RIGHT OF WAY: Council discussed the ROW between 210 & 300 W McQuestion Street as Ron Sussner asked for the item to be put on the agenda for council to consider splitting between the two properties. Sussner was not present. A motion was made by Boerboom and seconded by DeRoode that the city would like to keep ownership of the property so that utilities can be ran through it. All in favor, motion carried.

LEAGUE OF MN CITIES INSURANCE: A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by Boerboom that the City of Ghent "does not waive" the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by state statute. All in favor, motion carried.

MOWER HOOD INSURANCE CLAIM: A motion was made by DeRoode & seconded by VanKeulen to repair the damage to the mower and submit a claim to insurance. All in favor, motion carried.

BELGIAN AMERICAN DAYS RECAP: We received good feedback this year. The softball field is requesting additional/ better picnic tables next year and additional garbage containers. We have included the requirement that Chapman Street in front of KB's will be usable during BA Days 2027 into the bidding documents for our water/sewer project.

CITY SHOP GARAGE DOORS: Jesse had Slagel Garage Doors come and do some repairs. Additional repairs are needed in the amount of \$400. Council approved the expense.

BERM PROJECT: Jordan with Bolton & Menk was present. We reviewed the details of the DNR Grant. The new split would be \$769,220 grant/ \$312,000 match. The City would need to show where the match is coming from before accepting the grant and moving forward. To simplify the process, council will pass a resolution to use cash on hand in our water fund. We will also pass a resolution that would allow us to borrow funds to reimburse that fund if we deem it necessary in the future.

RESOLUTION #08-18-2026: RESOLUTION FOR STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF GHENT FOR BLUEBIRD ADDITION DIKE IMPROVEMENTS: A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Boerboom to adopt the resolution as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #08-18-2026-1: DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT OF THE CITY OF GHENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF BONDS TO BE ISSUED BY THE CITY: The city council has determined to use cash on hand to fund the match portion of the dike improvement project, however, Shannon Sweeney with David Drown Associates recommended that we pass this resolution in case we would decide to borrow money to reimburse these funds. A motion was made by DeRoode and seconded by VanKeulen to adopt the resolution as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

SEWER POND PARTNERSHIP WITH LYND: The feedback from landowners has not been positive. In the meantime, Dawn reached out to Scott Boerboom regarding the piece of land East of Ghent. He will get back to us, but it wasn't promising. Jordan thinks it would still be more cost effective if we bought the entire piece of land from Doug Loyson around our current ponds and still have Lynd pump to us. Jordan will look into the cost of the land appraisal process to see if we should be moving forward with that.

NUISANCE ENFORCEMENT: The nuisance list was reviewed, and follow-up letters will be sent out. Dawn will be following up with the Sheriff's department regarding the dog bite at 111 North Chapman Street. This is the third bite reported.

2027 BUDGET DRAFT: Council reviewed the draft budget. No big changes. Dawn will update and send out well before our September meeting.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Warren and seconded by DeRoode to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Vlamincx", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dawn Vlamincx,
Administrator/Clerk