

November 13, 2025

City of Northwood
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Northwood Committee of the Whole was called to order by Council President Barton at 06:30 PM on November 13, 2025 in the Council Chambers and via Live Stream.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Clerk Popovitch and those in attendance were as follows: Louis Fahrbach, Dean Edwards, Jim Barton, Michael Melnyk, Andrew Dickey, Mark Stoner, and City Administrator Laughlin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **approve**; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Council President Barton, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Stoner, Councilor Dickey; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

TOPICS/ISSUES

Budget Considerations

2026 Payroll Discussion

The committee reviewed the proposal to move from 26 payrolls to a bi-monthly schedule (two per month) starting January 1, 2026.

Key Points Discussed:
Logistical challenges exist due to the timing of collective bargaining agreements with three unions, including the FOP.
Payroll calculation for hourly employees is complicated by the need to maintain 2,080 annual hours; pay periods may fluctuate between 80 and 88 hours.
Salaried employees could more easily adapt to a bi-monthly schedule as hours are fixed.
Any change would require union agreement and contract amendments.
Potential “savings” of \$145,000 were clarified as timing-related, not actual reduction in payroll expenditure.
The committee concluded that implementation before January 1, 2026, is not feasible. The issue will remain on the radar for future planning.

Staffing and Budget Positions

Discussion focused on adding positions for Police, Street, and Economic Development departments.

Key Points Discussed:
Police and Street positions: Openings due to retirement or employees leaving. Not immediately filled in 2026 to balance the budget.
Economic Development position: Not currently included in the 2026 budget; third reading scheduled for council consideration.
Seasonal and part-time staff may be used to address operational needs such as mowing and maintenance.
Committee emphasized that these staffing adjustments are temporary and not intended to reduce long-term department staffing levels.
Any budget amendments, including potential deficits, require coordination between the Mayor and Council.
Monitoring of income tax collections and revenue streams will inform future staffing decisions.

Clock Tower and Capital Improvements

The committee reviewed funding for capital improvement projects, including the Clock Tower, Wales Road, 75, and Dalling West projects.

Key Points Discussed:
Projects are funded from the general fund, with reimbursement expected from TIF revenues over time.
The clock tower has been part of the Enclave project’s original vision and serves as a long-term investment in the area.
Allocation for the Clock Tower is \$350,000.
The funding approach is structured as an internal loan to ensure alignment with TIF obligations while supporting capital development.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

06:59 PM

November 13, 2025

ATTEST: Emily Popovitch
 Clerk

APPROVED: Randy Kozina
 Chair