

City of Cleveland
Minutes
Open House, Special Meeting, & Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
205 4th Street, Cleveland, MN 56017

Informal open house regarding proposed city projects from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for residents to review plans and ask questions.

(No formal action was taken during the open house)

The special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Don McCabe. Council Members present: Tonya Schummer, Nancy Gens, Anne Hiller, and Sarah McCabe. City Staff present: City Clerk-Treasurer Charles Hodge and Public Works Director Casey Volk. Also present was City Engineer Adam Jacobs (Bolton & Menk), County Engineer Dave Tiegs, and Jessica Green from Northland Securities.

Approval of Agenda - A Motion was made by Schummer and second by S. McCabe to approve the agenda. Voting: Yes – All.

At 6:01 p.m. A Motion was made by Gens and second by Schummer to recess the special meeting. Voting: Yes – All.

City Engineer Adam Jacobs reviewed street and utility improvement projects on Columbia Street (Tenth Street to Seventh Street), the County will replace the street surface along with sidewalks on both sides from Tenth Street to Sixth Street. Columbia Street will be narrowed a little bit going from 44 feet wide to 40 feet wide, which will allow for two drive lanes and 8 foot parking on both sides.

For Washington Street (Fifth Street to Sixth Street), the project includes widening the roadway to 30 feet and replacing the sewer line running to Cherry Creek Park.

The County will also complete mill and overlay work on Columbia, Sixth, and Broadway Streets. A bump-out will be constructed on Broadway near Jocko's and Hometown Bank to improve ADA compliance.

Adam gave a project timeline (depending on weather)

*Week of April 6th trees will be removed.

*All the work on Broadway would be completed by August 5th

*All the work on Washington, Fifth, Sixth and the Alley (behind the legion) would be completed by August 28th

*The completion date for Columbia would be October 23rd

Jessica Green went over the finance plan for the project. Currently the borrowing amount of the project is \$1.8 million 20 year term, which the amount will be adjusted once the bids are received. The current breakdown would be \$670,000 for street reconstruction, \$565,000 for sewer, and \$565,000 for water. The bonds would be tax exempt and would be bank qualified. There would be a special meeting around May 20, 2026 to sign the bond purchase agreement and adopting the awarding resolution.

Public Comment:

Residents expressed concerns about access to their homes during construction, as well as how garbage collection would be handled.

Mr. Jacobs stated that residents on Columbia Street may need to park on 6th Street or 10th Street. He noted that accommodations would be made when possible for individuals with mobility issues. He also explained that there may be times when residents would need to park on the street rather than in their driveways and move their vehicles prior to construction activities the following day.

Mr. Jacobs added that the contractor should be able to assist in relocating garbage to designated areas for collection.

Pamela Gersemehl stated that additional consideration for homeowners on Columbia Street, particularly regarding the sidewalk design, would have been appreciated. She asked why sidewalks were planned on both sides of the street.

Mayor McCabe explained that Columbia Street is a State Aid road and that the County is overseeing the reconstruction. He noted that, according to the County Engineer, sidewalks on both sides are considered ideal. He added that the Council supported this approach due to the volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area, particularly related to nearby school activities, and cited safety as a primary factor.

Mayor further noted that the project presents a rare opportunity to fully reconstruct the road and emphasized the importance of planning for long-term needs.

Scott Ziebarth expressed opposition to the proposed sidewalks and the removal of trees. He also stated that he had not received notice of the project and had not had an opportunity to provide input. Mayor McCabe responded that multiple meetings had been held and publicly posted. He also noted that letters had been sent to residents regarding a project survey.

Darrin Ely asked about the timeline for tree removal in relation to relocating his in-ground dog fence. He also inquired about how the project might affect the location of his sump pump.

Colleen Stoffel would like markers to make sure to keep cars from either blocking or causing blind spots when trying to get out of their driveway.

Betty Lloyd noted she would like to see a stop sign around Sixth Street and Columbia Street due to people speeding around the corner.

Dave Tiegs (County Engineer) noted that County municipal state aid funds are funding the construction of the sidewalks not local city tax levy.

There were no comments received by mail.

At 7:17 p.m. A Motion was made by S. McCabe and second by Gens to close the public hearing. Voting: Yes – All

Special Meeting was reopened

Resolution 10-2026 – A Motion was made by S. McCabe and second by Schummer to adopt a 5 year street reconstruction plan & approving the issuance of general obligation street reconstruction bonds. Voting: Yes - All

A Motion was made to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. by Gens and second by Schummer. Voting: Yes - All

Don McCabe, Mayor

Charles Hodge, City Clerk-Treasurer