

CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS

June 8, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Crystal Falls was held in the City Council Chambers on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

Roll Call: Mayor Bean; Councilors Maki, Cudnohufsky, and Smith

Absent: Councilor Fabbri

Also Present: City Manager Gerard Valesano, Clerk/Treasurer Tara Peltoma, and City Attorney Daryl Waters.

Mayor Bean led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Cudnohufsky, moved to approve the proposed revised agenda with the excuse of Councilor Fabbri's absence.

Ayes: Mayor Bean; Councilors Cudnohufsky, Smith, and Maki

Nays: None

Absent: Councilor Fabbri

Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

City Manager Gerard Valesano announced an invitation to the Northern Interstate Bank 125-year celebration on June 11th at 10:30 a.m.

City Manager Gerard Valesano also spoke on an anonymous letter was received regarding the jake-brakes. He read regulation of state highways confirming that commercial truck traffic drivers are permitted to utilize the jake-brakes for a safety feature. Because the City of Crystal Falls is on a hill, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) encourages the use and the City does not have the authority to police it.

City Manager Gerard Valesano presented the City Manager's Report.

Presentations

The first reading of City Ordinance No. 2.05, an ordinance regulating trapping within the city limits.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the trapping of animals within the City limits to protect public health, safety, and welfare, prevent injury to persons and domestic animals, ensure humane treatment of wildlife, and comply with applicable Michigan state laws and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulations.

Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Maki, moved to schedule a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2.05 at the regular meeting on July 13, 2026.

Ayes: Mayor Bean; Councilors Smith, Cudnohufsky, and Maki

Nays: None

Absent: Councilor Fabbri

Motion carried.

City manager Valesano presented a request from the Chippewa Sno-Kats for an easement.

Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Cudnohufsky, moved to draft an easement to the Chippewa Sno-Kats through parcel #36-052-180-009-00. A fee of \$130 will be charged (\$100 for easement preparation and \$30 for recording).

Ayes: Mayor Bean; Councilors Smith, Cudnohufsky, and Maki

Nays: None

Absent: Councilor Fabbri

Motion carried.

Bid Openings

None

Public Hearing – A Change to Ordinance #2.21: An Ordinance to Regulate the use and operation of off-road vehicles (ORVs) within the City of Crystal Falls

Suggested change: A. ORVs shall not be operated on streets, alleys, sidewalks, parks, cemeteries, golf courses or pedestrian trails unless otherwise provided in the Ordinance.

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act of 1976 PA 267, Mayor Bean recessed the regular meeting at 5:11 p.m. to conduct a public hearing regarding the change to Ordinance 2.21 – Regulating the use and operation of off-road vehicles (ORVs) within the City of Crystal Falls.

Public Comment:

John Priewe stated that it could easily descend into a taxation by citation situation.

Councilor Smith disagrees with the change.

Rob Damske agreed with Councilor Smith. The wording seems to indicate that it is illegal to drive on streets and alleys

Mayor Bean continuedly made mention that you need to read the whole ordinance and that the amendment will not change the way the ordinance is enforced.

Barbara Priewe questioned the wording. Police officers could stop motorists over and ask where they are going.

John Priewe stated the purpose is to stop kids from doing wheelies on the sidewalk, that seems to be already fallen under the scope of reckless driving. The golf course is privately owned so it would be trespassing.

Ken Anderson said that the two words are changing could lead to abuse from law enforcement. They can stop you for anything.

John Olson stated that he worked for the Department of Natural Resources for 27 ½ years. The last 7 years he was a property trail analyst through the department. After he got a copy of the ordinance, he said it is making it more secure. He then thanked the city of crystal Falls for being a great partner/supporter of the recreation program for years and years.

Jim Nocerini spoke on the disrespect they receive from young motorists in his neighborhood. He mentioned the problem is with the parents that don't set guidelines.

Larry Gerasch complained that he is new to town and when he was raising his kids, if they harassed people, their bikes were taken away. People want to live here and have a decent life.

Mike Brown said it is an enforcement issue for the police department.

Dennis Klingman commented that the noise level has been cut in half in the last couple of years. But complained about a couple of younger teenagers that currently are doing unsafe stunts with ORVs.

Chief Brian Zelakiewicz spoke that the police department does not have any ulterior motives with changing the wording of the ordinance. This is mostly about kids on dirt bikes in town. If

anyone can mention a time a side by side was pulled over by the police department, please speak up, because it doesn't happen. People on side-by-sides are usually going from point A to point B. He said the Ordinance was looked at because some parents started defending their children asking where does it say they can't be doing this. If motorists are operating normally and just doing what they're supposed to be doing, they won't be harassed by the police. It's mostly these kids terrorizing certain neighborhoods, and we've been cracking down. The ordinance change is only to clean up the language.

Ken Anderson asked why the language was so confusing

Councilor Smith did not agree with the confusing language change.

Mayor Bean once again explained that the police department needs to enforce the ordinance. They work with the magistrate, and if the magistrate is good with all of this, then it should be good.

Mayor Bean closed the public hearing at 5:33 p.m.

New Business

Councilor Cudnohufsky, seconded by Councilor Maki, moved to approve Resolution No. 26-18, approving an amendment to City Ordinance No. 2.21 Regulating the use and operation of off-road vehicles (ORVs) within the City of Crystal Falls.

Ayes: Mayor Bean; Councilors Cudnohufsky, Smith, and Maki

Nays: None

Absent: Councilor Fabbri

Motion carried.

Councilor Cudnohufsky, seconded by Councilor Maki, moved to approve Resolution No. 26-19, approving the extension of the water service agreement between the City of Crystal Falls and Crystal Falls Township for the Wagner-Fairbanks Water Project.

Ayes: Mayor Bean; Councilors Cudnohufsky, Smith, and Maki

Nays: None

Absent: Councilor Fabbri

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Maki, seconded by Councilor Smith, moved to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Reports for the month of May 2026:
 - o Regular Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2026
 - o Treasurer's Activity Report submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Tara Peltoma
 - o Police Department Report submitted by Chief Brian Zelakiewicz
 - o Electric Department Activity Report submitted by Electrical Supervisor David Graff
 - o Public Works Department Activity Report submitted by Foreman Robert Fabbri
 - o Assessor's Report submitted by Assessor Tammy Hendrickson
 - o Payroll and Disbursements submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Tara Peltoma

Ayes: Mayor Bean; Councilors Cudnohufsky, Smith, and Maki

Nays: None

Absent: Councilor Fabbri

Motion carried.

Mayor Bean adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

PRESIDING OFFICER _____

PRESIDING CLERK _____