



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Friday, May 1, 2026

*Mayor Rafferty, Councilmembers Lyden, Nelson, Ruhland and Rennaker  
City Administrator: Karen Anderson*

## **SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING, 9:00 AM, COMMUNITY ROOM, NOT TELEVISED**

- Call to Order and Roll Call
  
- Pledge of Allegiance
  
- Setting the Agenda: Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Sign-in prior to the start of the meeting per Rules of Decorum. If you are here to speak to Item 7A, please use the sign-in sheet for that discussion item and hold your comments until that time.**

#### **1. Consent Agenda**

#### **2. Finance Department Report**

#### **3. Administration Department Report**

#### **4. Police Department Report**

#### **5. Fire Department Report**

#### **6. Public Services Department Report**

#### **7. Community Development Report**

A. Great River Energy Easement Maintenance, Tom Hoffman

- Open Forum Public Input

#### **8. Unfinished Business**

#### **9. New Business**

**10. Notices and Communications**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**CITY COUNCIL  
STAFF REPORT  
AGENDA ITEM 7.A.**

**STAFF ORIGINATOR:** Tom Hoffman, Environmental Coordinator

**MEETING DATE** May 1, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM:** Great River Energy Easement Maintenance

**VOTE REQUIRED:** Simple Majority

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**INTRODUCTION**

City Council has requested a meeting to discuss the ongoing maintenance and tree removal along the Great River Energy (GRE) transmission line corridor.

**BACKGROUND**

Great River Energy owns easements and operates power lines throughout the City of Lino Lakes. They are currently undertaking maintenance operations that include an area west of Lake Drive. The easement agreement for this location was executed on October 3rd, 1968. The easement is granted to Rural Cooperative Power Association and its successors; Great River Energy (GRE) and runs in perpetuity.

The easement documentation allows GRE the right to cut down, trim, and remove trees within the easement. In this location, the easement is 45' on either side of the transmission line. The language of the easement document grants the utility the right to cut down, trim, or in any manner eliminate all trees, shrubbery or brush within the easement and to cut down from time to time all other dead, weak, leaning, or dangerous trees that are tall enough to strike the wires in falling. The easement width varies along the corridor between a distance of 45' to 50' on either side of the electric transmission line.

GRE has completed routine maintenance, trimming, and removals throughout the city over the course of many years along the transmission lines.

The City was notified in early March by Carr Tree Service of the work that was proposed as part of normal maintenance operations within the city, which included land owned or managed by the city within the transmission easement. The City met with Carr and GRE in mid-March to go over proposed removals of trees and shrubs within the city owned and managed areas. City staff walked the corridor with GRE and spoke with several residents onsite during the site visit.

Lino Lakes was notified by GRE that they would be completing additional removals throughout the corridor to bring the area into compliance with federal regulations. The corridor was to be staked to show easement locations and GRE would inventory and list trees that were proposed for removals. It is our understanding the GRE door knocked and communicated with residents prior to the staking as feasible.

The City received a letter dated April 13th from GRE further outlining the work that was proposed within the city-managed parcels. The letter was specific to the area managed by the city and outlined the removal and work to be completed. It is our understanding that each impacted resident received a similar letter from GRE.

The City was concerned about erosion and sedimentation along the city stormwater pond and natural areas and reached out to GRE for a restoration plan. GRE and the city worked to complete a restoration plan for the city-maintained areas that would establish native vegetation where soil disturbance occurred and limit soil erosion and sedimentation.

City Council members and residents have raised concerns over the current and proposed maintenance of the easement location.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff will gather questions from council and provide to GRE.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None