CITY OF SHOREVIEW
AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Monday August 17, 2026
5:00 PM

Under MN Statutes 13D.02 and city policy, council members may participate remotely.

1. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
   - 1.a Review of the draft preliminary tax levy
   - 1.b Continued discussion on open appointment policy for advisory boards
   - 1.c Planning discussion items
   - 1.d Proposal for reducing fire risk from single-use vaping pens

2. **OTHER ISSUES & LIAISON UPDATES**

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop

FROM: Kevin Knopik , Finance Director

DATE: August 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Review of the draft preliminary tax levy

ITEM NUMBER: 1.a

SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

The City meets every year in August to review the preliminary tax levy for the following year. In order to meet statutory requirements for the preparation of preliminary tax statements, the city and EDA must adopt and certify a preliminary tax levy by September 30. The levy approved in September is then used by the county to prepare the preliminary tax notices that are sent out in late November.

DISCUSSION

Below is a overview of the draft 2027 preliminary tax levy for consideration;

- The 2027 preliminary levy is a 10.71% increase from 2026.
- Increases in police and fire costs account for 65% ($1,264,062) of the total general fund expenditure increase.
- The median home value in Shoreview decreased from $438,800 to $433,400.
- The city's preliminary tax rate is 37.777, which is an increase from 34.036 in 2026.
- The city's preliminary tax amount of $1,608.92 on the median home value is an increase of $140.95 from 2026.

The attached memo reviews in greater detail the proposed property tax levy, residential property values, and general fund operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking council direction on the proposed preliminary tax levy prior to adoption at a council meeting in September.

ATTACHMENTS

2027 Preliminary Tax Levy Memo.pdf

Preliminary Tax Levy

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Brad Martens, City Manager

Kevin Knopik, Finance Director

Date: August 17, 2026

Introduction

This memo will review the proposed revisions to the adopted 2027 property tax levy (the second year of the biennial budget). Additionally, it will review residential property values and the general fund operating budget. Details on the tax supported capital funds will be presented to city council at a later date. In order to meet statutory requirements for preparation of preliminary tax statements, the city and EDA must adopt and certify a preliminary tax levy by September 30.

Preliminary tax levy

The table below provides a comparison of the 2027 proposed tax levy to the 2026 adopted levy. The adopted biennial budget estimated a 11.34% increase in the city's and HRA 2027 property tax levy. Department requests and updates have resulted in a total proposed city and HRA levy increase of 10.71%, which is a $118,579 or .63% decrease from the originally adopted biennial budget and property tax levy.

The 2027 taxable values, fiscal disparities and city tax rates shown in the table are estimates. We expect Ramsey County will release preliminary values in Late August (before the preliminary levy is adopted).

Residential home values

According to information provided by Ramsey County the median home value in Shoreview will decrease from $438,800 for 2026 taxes, to $433,400 for 2027 taxes (a 1.23% decrease in value).

Operating budget

Description	2026 Adopted Levy	2027 Original Levy	2027 Preliminary Levy	Change from 2026 Adopted to 2027 Preliminary Levy		Impact on Total Levy *
				Dollars	Percent	
General Fund	$ 13,808,257	$ 15,898,474	$ 15,779,895	$ 1,971,638	14.28%	10.62%
EDA	265,000	265,000	265,000	-	0.00%	0.00%
Debt (including Cent Garage)	1,300,000	1,486,000	1,486,000	186,000	14.31%	1.00%
Street Renewal Fund	1,170,000	1,120,000	1,120,000	(50,000)	-4.27%	-0.27%
Capital Asset Replacement Fund	1,890,000	1,795,000	1,795,000	(95,000)	-5.03%	-0.51%
Capital Acquisition Fund (IT)	50,000	60,000	60,000	10,000	20.00%	0.05%
Edison Tax Abatement	82,000	82,000	82,000	-	0.00%	0.00%
Total City Levy	$ 18,565,257	$ 20,706,474	$ 20,587,895	$ 2,022,638	10.89%	10.89%
HRA tax levy	$ 325,000	$ 325,000	$ 325,000	$ -	0.00%	
Total Levy (City and HRA)	$ 18,890,257	$ 21,031,474	$ 20,912,895	2,022,638	10.71%	
Taxable value (estim for 2027)	$ 50,163,507		$ 50,465,624	$ 302,117	0.60%	
City tax rate (estim for 2027)	34.036%		37.777%		10.99%	
HRA tax rate (estim for 2027)	0.591%		0.592%		0.17%	
Fiscal disparity City (estim for 2027)	$ 1,374,115		$ 882,258	$ (491,857)	-35.79%	
Net tax paid by property owners	$ 17,191,142		$ 19,705,637	$ 2,514,495	14.63%	
Change in Tax Paid by Prop Owners	10.02%		14.63%			
* Percent change in this column is computed as the impact on the "Total City Levy"						
City median value home	$ 438,800		$ 433,400	$ (5,400)	-1.23%	
City median value home tax	$ 1,467.97		$ 1,608.92	$ 140.95	9.60%	
HRA median value home tax	$ 25.49		$ 25.21	$ (0.28)	-1.10%	

General Fund revenue and expense for 2026 and 2027 are shown in the table below. A listing of specific items that impact the tax levy is provided on the next page, along with the estimated percent impact on the total levy.

	2026 Original Budget	2026 Revised Estimate	2027 Original Budget	2027 Proposed Budget	Change from 2026 Budget		Change from 2027 Original Budget	
					Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Revenue								
Property Taxes	$ 13,808,257	$ 13,739,216	$ 15,898,474	$ 15,779,895	$ 1,971,638	14.3%	$ (118,579)	-0.7%
Licenses & Permits	796,850	1,137,285	732,725	682,160	(114,690)	-14.4%	(50,565)	-6.9%
Intergovernmental	812,317	827,084	812,317	834,255	21,938	2.7%	21,938	2.7%
Charges for Services	1,880,010	2,080,010	1,907,100	1,925,640	45,630	2.4%	18,540	1.0%
Fines & Forfeits	33,500	33,500	33,500	33,500	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Interest Earnings	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Other Revenues	36,420	48,420	36,420	36,420	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Total revenue	17,447,354	17,945,515	19,500,536	19,371,870	1,924,516	11.0%	(128,666)	-0.7%
Expenses								
General Government	3,867,577	3,846,476	4,261,066	4,173,656	306,079	7.9%	(87,410)	-2.1%
Public Safety	7,326,204	7,326,415	8,692,619	8,590,266	1,264,062	17.3%	(102,353)	-1.2%
Public Works	2,490,514	2,482,273	2,595,037	2,596,952	106,438	4.3%	1,915	0.1%
Parks and Recreation	3,342,158	3,388,473	3,511,647	3,565,640	223,482	6.7%	53,993	1.5%
Community Development	992,901	1,015,909	1,037,167	1,042,356	49,455	5.0%	5,189	0.5%
Total expenditures	18,019,354	18,059,546	20,097,536	19,968,870	1,949,516	10.8%	(128,666)	-0.6%
Other Sources (Uses)								
Transfers In	1,202,000	1,202,000	1,227,000	1,227,000	25,000	2.1%	-	0.0%
Transfers Out	(630,000)	(630,000)	(630,000)	(630,000)	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Net change	$ -	$ 457,969	$ -	$ -				

The first section of the box shows changes resulting from an evaluation of all general fund revenues to reflect current development activity, preliminary capital projects, and transfers from utility funds. All revenue changes combined account for a .12% increase in the total tax levy.

The second section of the box shows changes in general fund expenditures. These items account for an 10.32% increase in the total proposed tax levy. The net impact of general fund changes is an 10.44% increase in the total tax levy.

The EDA, HRA, debt funds, capital funds and Edison tax abatement levy account for a .27% increase in the tax levy for a combined change in the total levy of 10.71% (10.44% + .27%).

Note: (brackets) indicate a decrease in the tax levy	2027 Increase (Decrease)	2027 % Impact on Total Levy
General Fund Revenue Changes		
Administrative charges to other funds	$ (28,630)	
Transfer from utility funds (PILOT)	(25,000)	
Right-away permit fees	(45,000)	
Tree removals	30,000	
MSA maintenance	(21,938)	
Business licenses	4,690	
Charges for services	(2,000)	
Building, heating, electrical, & plumbing permits	110,000	
General Fund Revenue Changes	22,122	0.12%
General Fund Expenditure Changes		
Personal services:		
Wages full time/part time employees, including taxes	356,700	
Group insurance	92,965	
Police	428,012	
Fire	836,050	
Supplies all departments	(5,243)	
Contractual:		
Community Development	22,800	
Parks & Recreation	36,740	
Public Works	42,307	
General Government	139,185	
General Fund Expenditure Changes	1,949,516	10.32%
Total General Fund changes	1,971,638	10.44%
Levy Changes in All Other Funds		
EDA Levy	-	
Debt (Debt & Central Garage funds)	186,000	
Street Renewal fund	(50,000)	
Capital Asset replacement fund	(95,000)	
Information Technology fund	10,000	
Edison tax abatement levy	-	
Levy Changes in All Other Funds	51,000	0.27%
Total Change in City Levy	2,022,638	10.89%
HRA Levy	-	0.00%
Total Levy	2,022,638	10.71%

Below is a brief listing of specific items having an impact on the 2027 tax levy:

- Revenues in the General fund, other than the tax levy, are decreasing $22,122. City staff reviewed all revenue sources to determine the proposed 2027 amounts.
- Wage and benefit costs include a 3.0% wage adjustment and step increases for employees not yet at the regular rate of pay for the position in accordance with the compensation and class study done in 2024. This accounts for 18.30% of the total general fund expenditure increase.
- A 15% increase in the city contribution for health insurance and 5% increase in dental insurance.
- Police costs are increasing $428,012 or 10.15%. This accounts for 21.95% of the total general fund expenditure increase. Included in this amount is revenue sharing from Ramsey County of $187,539.
- Increases related to fire services include the items below and contribute a total of $995,617.
    - Fire service costs excluding the state fire aid are increasing $835,617 or 31.19%. This accounts for 42.89% of the total general fund expenditure increase. Part of this is related to the SAFER Grant funding expiring in 2026. A significant portion of this increase is related to the ending of the three-year SAFER grant.
    - A $160,000 increase debt service tax levy is required in 2027 for the new fire station related debt service payments.
- The remaining combined debt levies increased $26,000.
- Contractual costs increased across all departments;
    - General government increased $139,185 mostly due to information technology contract costs.
    - Public works increased $42,307 due to costs for right-away permits, which is offset with revenue received and costs associated with central garage charges.
    - Parks and recreation department increased $36,740 due to costs associated with central garage charges.
    - Community development increased $22,800 due to costs associated contracted permit review.
- The street renewal levy decreases $50,000.
- The capital asset replacement levy decreases $95,000.
- The information technology capital fund increases $10,000.

Major tax supported capital funds

The City has dedicated tax levies to support capital purchases in the Street Renewal Fund, Capital Asset Replacement Fund and the Information Technology Fund. It is the City's goal to limit the increase of capital levies to around 1% of the total levy. The 2027 capital levy is a decrease is 0.74% from the 2026 levy. More discussion regarding the capital improvement program will be held at a workshop meeting in October.

Summary

Staff is seeking council input on the proposed preliminary tax levy prior to adoption at a council meeting in September. These levies are then used by the county to prepare the preliminary tax notices that are sent out in late November.

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop

FROM: Renee Eisenbeisz , Assistant City Manager

DATE: August 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Continued discussion on open appointment policy for advisory boards

ITEM NUMBER: 1.b

SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

The city is fortunate to have residents who are actively engaged in the community, whether that is through a community organization or one of our advisory boards. The city's advisory boards include four commissions (economic development, human rights, parks and recreation, and planning) and three committees (bikeways and trails, environmental quality, and public safety). Commissions are created by ordinance to provide ongoing input in major policy areas. Whereas, committees are created through resolution to provide input in specific areas. We also have the economic development authority and Snail Lake Improvement District Board.

Recognizing the importance of an engaged community, the city's strategic goals or priorities have included an effort to cultivate future leaders from our advisory boards for a number of years. Part of this goal is to ensure our boards have a membership that balances the experience and institutional knowledge of active, long-term members while still providing opportunities for new perspectives. In 2021, the city sent a letter to all advisory board members notifying them of this goal and asking them to keep it in mind when considering reappointment.

The city council reviewed our current structure and open appointment policy at the April workshop and directed staff to bring forward recommendations for continued discussion at a future meeting. The city council is now being asked to review the recommended changes to the open appointment policy and discuss a communication plan for implementing.

Please note that this information does not include the Snail Lake Improvement District Board since membership requirements for that board are different and require members to live within the Snail Lake improvement district.

DISCUSSION

In 2015, the city council approved the city's current open appointment policy. Per the attached policy, members may be reappointed to an advisory board an indefinite amount of times. The only exceptions are for the economic development authority and planning commission. Any member who has served one full term (six years) on the EDA or two full terms (six years) on the planning commission needs to reapply in order to be considered for reappointment. Their applications are then considered along with any new applicants and interviewed by the city

council. Please note that State Statute 469.095, subdivision 2(b) requires the city to have six-year terms on the economic development authority board.

The policy also outlines general guidelines such as where and how long to advertise and the appointment process. The typical schedule is below:

- Early September: staff will reach out to any members whose terms are expiring to see if they are interested in being reappointed.
- October - November: the city will advertise any openings.
- December - January: advisory boards will review the received applications and possibly interview applicants.
- January - February: the city council will consider reappointments, as well as any recommended appointments.

Options

Staff presented the following options to the city council during the April workshop.

1. Implement a term limit of three terms
2. Implement a term limit of three terms with an option to reapply after a few years
3. Require all members to reapply after two terms
4. Implement option 2 for committee members and option 3 for commission members
5. Continue our current practice

Based on the discussion with the city council, staff are recommending moving forward with option 2, implementing a term limit of three full terms with an option to reapply after a two-year absence. Please note that staff recommend that the current practice for EDA and planning commission members remain as is.

Based on this recommended option, staff is proposing the attached updates to the city's open appointment policy for council review. The majority of the changes are to reflect plain language practices to make the policy easier to scan and understand. The language for term limits is being added to the former reappointment section. As noted above, the city will follow two processes for term limits and reappointment. Members on the economic development authority and planning commission will continue their current practice of reapplying after two full terms. Members on all other boards will now have a term limit of three full terms with an option to reapply after a two-year absence. By saying members need to serve three full terms, that may mean that some serve longer than nine years if they were appointed to fill a seat mid-term.

Membership information

The city currently has 59 volunteers serving on the six advisory boards that would be impacted. Of these members:

- 39 have served two terms or less
- 12 have served three to four terms
- 1 have served five to six terms
- 7 have served seven terms or more

Over the next three years, 20 of our current 59 members will be impacted by implementing term limits:

- January 31, 2027 - 8 members will not be able to seek reappointment, 7 have served 10 or more years
- January 31, 2028 - 3 members will not be able to seek reappointment, 2 have served 10

or more years
- January 31, 2029 - 9 members will not be able to seek reappointment, 5 have served 10 or more years

Communication plan
Staff are recommending a phased communications plan. It will begin with personal outreach by the mayor, city council, city manager, and assistant city manager to the 14 members with 10 or more years of service. Following those conversations, three separate letters will go out by the end of September:

- One for the six individuals impacted by the policy update who were not part of the initial outreach
- One for the 14 long-term members following the initial outreach
- One for all remaining members as a general update

Advertising for the newly opened seats will begin in early October with applications due in mid-November.

Staff are also recommending that the city start to recognize outgoing members at the November volunteer appreciation dinner.

RECOMMENDATION
It is recommended that the city council provide direction on the proposed recommendations and communications plan. If the council is comfortable with this direction, a resolution to update the open appointment policy will be placed on the September 8 agenda.

ATTACHMENTS
Current open appointment policy
Draft open appointment policy
July 2026 member list

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE

CITY COUNCIL OF SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA

HELD JANUARY 20, 2015

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota was duly called and held at the Shoreview City Hall in said City on January 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present:

Council Members Quigley, Springhorn, Wickstrom and Acting Mayor Johnson,

and the following members were absent: Mayor Martin

Member Quigley introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-05

OPEN APPOINTMENT POLICY FOR CITY COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, the purpose of this policy is to provide an open, accessible and fair appointment process which provides opportunity for interested citizens to become involved in city government through services on various Committees and Commission; and,

WHEREAS, it is the City Council's goal to have active citizen participation in the development and implementation of the policies of the City of Shoreview; and,

WHEREAS, it is the City's policy that membership on various committees and commission are open to all residents of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shoreview that the following policies be adopted regarding appointments for City Commissions and Committees:

General Guidelines to Committee/Commission Appointment

1. Announcement of vacancies on Committees and Commissions will be advertised in the city's local newspapers, on the city website and other usual sources at least once per year, typically during the fall, unless a Committee/Commission membership falls below quorum requirements.
2. A minimum application period of four weeks will be provided and a deadline date will be specified. The City Council may consider applications received after the deadline date as long as they are received prior to review by the City Council.

3. The City will maintain a central file of Committee/Commission applicants.
4. Applications from all candidates will be provided to the City Council prior to the consideration of appointments. Except in unusual circumstances, appointments will be made only from individuals who have submitted an application for a specific Committee/Commission.
5. Individuals may only serve on one Committee/Commission at a time. The exception is the Economic Development Authority that has three Council members and at least one member of the Economic Development Commission.

Appointment Process

1. All appointments are made by the City Council. However, applications will be forwarded to the respective Committee/Commission for a review and recommendation following the close of the application period. Prior to making a recommendation to the Council, Committees/Commissions may either interview applicants or review the applications. The exception to this is the Planning Commission and the Economic Development Authority where the City Council will review, interview and appoint applicants directly.
2. Applications will be considered in a timely manner and scheduled for appointment by the City Council after the following:
    a. Scheduled interviews with the applicants, or a review of the applicants by the Committee/Commission; and
    b. Committee/Commission provides a recommendation to the City Council.

Reappointment

Any person who has served two full terms on the Planning Commission or has served at least 1 full term on the Economic Development Authority and reaches the end of their term must reapply and will be considered along with any new applicants. If the member has not yet served the time frame noted above, the staff will check to see if they wish to be reappointed and convey their interest in being reappointed to the City Council.

Resignation

In the event a member is unable to continue serving because of change in residence, health, business requirements or personal reasons, a formal letter or e-mail of resignation shall be submitted to the staff liaison and City Manager. Upon completion of service to the community, members are required to return any City-owned equipment acquired during the term. Examples include: computers, copies of Shoreview's city code and key cards.

Removal

The City Council may consider the attendance records, behaviors and actions of Committee/Commission members and may take action to remove any member in violation

of the code of conduct or attendance requirements at any time. The City Council is responsible for appointment to all City Committees/Commissions and reserves the right to appoint, reappoint or remove any individual from a Committee/Commission at any time.

Adopted by the City of Shoreview this 20th day of January, 2015.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)
CITY OF SHOREVIEW)

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified City Manager of the City of Shoreview of Ramsey County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the attached and foregoing extract of minutes of a meeting of said City Council on the 20th day of January, 2015 with the original thereof on file in my office and the same is full, true and complete transcript therefrom insofar as the same relates to the Open Appointment Policy.

WITNESS MY HAND officially as such City Manager and the corporate seal of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota this 20th day of January, 2015.

Terry Schwerm
City Manager

SEAL

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE

CITY COUNCIL OF SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA

HELD _____

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the city council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota was duly called and held at the Shoreview City Hall in said city on _____, 2026 at 7 pm. The following members were present:

And the following members were absent:

Councilmember _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

RESOLUTION NO. 26-XX

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 15-05, OPEN APPOINTMENT POLICY FOR CITY COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Shoreview City Council approved resolution 15-05, creating an open appointment policy for city committees and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the city's committees and commissions play a valuable role in our city; and

WHEREAS, the city council reserves the right to appoint, reappoint, or remove any individual from a city committee or commission; and

WHEREAS, it is the city council's goal to have our committee and commission membership balance the need for both institutional knowledge and fresh perspectives, while also reflecting the city's demographics; and

WHEREAS, it is the city's policy that membership on our committees and commissions are open to all residents of the city.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the city council of the City of Shoreview that the following policies be adopted regarding appointments for city committees and commissions:

<u>General guidelines to committee and commission appointment</u>

1. The city will advertise vacancies on committees and commissions in the fall. However, if a vacancy occurs January – June, the city may advertise it earlier than the fall.
2. The city will accept applications for at least four weeks. Staff will also ensure deadlines are provided. The city council may consider applications after the deadline as long as they are received before their review.
3. Staff will keep all applications according to the records retention schedule.

4. Staff will include all applications that are being considered in their report to the city council. Except in unusual circumstances, appointments will be made only from individuals who have applied to the city.
5. Individuals may only serve on one committee or commission at a time. The exception is the economic development authority, which has three council members and at least one member of the economic development commission.

Appointment process

1. The city council approves all appointments.
2. The city council will review applications and/or interview applicants for the economic development authority and planning commission.
3. All other committees and commissions are responsible for reviewing applications and making a recommendation to the city council. They can also interview applicants before making a recommendation.

Term limits and reappointment

1. Planning commission and economic development authority:
   a. Members who have served two full terms on the planning commission or one full term on the economic development authority must reapply for their seat. They will be considered along with any new applicants.
   b. Members who have not met the term limit may seek reappointment by the city council.
2. Remaining committees and commissions
   a. Remaining committees and commissions have a term limit of three full terms.
   b. Members who have not met the term limit may seek reappointment by the city council.
   c. Members who have met the term limit may reapply for the same committee or commission after a two-year absence.

Resignation

1. Members no longer able to serve on a committee or commission during the middle of their term must submit a resignation letter or email to their staff liaison.
2. Members who have met the term limit, are not seeking reappointment, or have resigned must return any city-owned equipment within 30 days of their term ending.

Removal

1. The city council may remove any member in violation of the code of conduct or attendance requirements at any time.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The motion of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember _____ and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

And the following voted against the same:

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted the ___ day of _____, 2026.

_____
Sue Denkinger, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

CITY OF SHOREVIEW)

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified city manager of the City of Shoreview of Ramsey County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the attached and foregoing extract of minutes of a meeting of said city council on the ___ day of _____, 2026, with the original thereof on file in my office and the same is full, true and complete transcript therefrom insofar as the same relates to open appointment policy for commission/committee members.

WITNESS MY HAND officially as such city manager and the corporate seal of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota this ___ day of _____, 2026.

_____
Brad Martens, City Manager

SEAL

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE

CITY COUNCIL OF SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA

HELD _____

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the city council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota was duly called and held at the Shoreview City Hall in said city on _____, 2026 at 7 pm. The following members were present:

And the following members were absent:

Councilmember _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

RESOLUTION NO. 26-XX

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 15-05, OPEN APPOINTMENT POLICY FOR CITY COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Shoreview City Council approved resolution 15-05, creating an open appointment policy for city committees and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the city's committees and commissions play a valuable role in our city; and

WHEREAS, the city council reserves the right to appoint, reappoint, or remove any individual from a city committee or commission; and

WHEREAS, it is the city council's goal to have our committee and commission membership balance the need for both institutional knowledge and fresh perspectives, while also reflecting the city's demographics; and

WHEREAS, it is the city's policy that membership on our committees and commissions are open to all residents of the city.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the city council of the City of Shoreview that the following policies be adopted regarding appointments for city committees and commissions:

General guidelines to committee and commission appointment

1. ~~Announcement of vacancies on Committees and Commissions will be advertised in the city's local newspapers, on the city website and other usual sources at least once per year, typically during the fall, unless a Committee/Commission membership falls below quorum requirements.~~The city will advertise vacancies on committees and commissions in the fall. However, if a vacancy occurs January – June, the city may advertise it earlier than the fall.
2. The city will accept applications for at least ~~A minimum application period of~~four weeks. Staff will also ensure ~~will be provided and a~~ deadlines are provided. ~~date will be specified.~~ The city council may consider applications ~~received~~ after the

deadline ~~date~~ as long as they are received ~~prior to~~before their review ~~by the City Council~~.

3. ~~The City will maintain a central file of Committee/Commission applicants.~~Staff will keep all applications according to the records retention schedule.
4. Staff will include all applications that are being considered in their report to the city council. ~~Applications from all candidates will be provided to the City Council prior to the consideration of appointments.~~Except in unusual circumstances, appointments will be made only from individuals who have ~~submitted an application~~applied ~~for a specific Committee/Commission~~to the city.
5. Individuals may only serve on one committee or commission at a time. The exception is the economic development authority, which has three council members and at least one member of the economic development commission.

Appointment process

1. The city council approves all appointments.
2. The city council will review applications and/or interview applicants for the economic development authority and planning commission.

~~3.~~ All other committees and commissions are responsible for reviewing applications and making a recommendation to the city council. They can also interview applicants before making a recommendation.~~All appointments are made by the City Council. However, applications will be forwarded to the respective Committee/Commission for a review and recommendation following the close of the application period. Prior to making a recommendation to the Council, Committees/Commissions may either interview applicants or review the applications. The exception to this is the Planning Commission and the Economic Development Authority where the City Council will review, interview and appoint applicants directly.~~

~~4. Applications will be considered in a timely manner and scheduled for appointment by the City Council after the following:~~

~~5. Scheduled interviews with the applicants, or a review of the applicants by the Committee/Commission; and~~

~~6.~~3. ~~Committee/Commission provides a recommendation to the City Council.~~

Term limits and reappointment

1. Planning commission and economic development authority:
   a. ~~Any person who has~~Members who have served two full terms on the planning commission or one ~~served at least 1~~ full term on the economic development authority must reapply for their seat. They will be considered along with any new applicants.
   b. Members who have not met the term limit may seek reappointment by the city council. ~~and reaches the end of their term must reapply and will be considered along with any new applicants. If the member has not yet served~~

~~the time frame noted above, the staff will check to see if they wish to be reappointed and convey their interest in being reappointed to the City Council.~~

~~1.~~2. Remaining committees and commissions

a. Remaining committees and commissions have a term limit of three full terms.

b. Members who have not met the term limit may seek reappointment by the city council.

~~a.~~c. Members who have met the term limit may reapply for the same committee or commission after a two-year absence.

Resignation

1. Members no longer able to serve on a committee or commission during the middle of their term must submit a resignation letter or email to their staff liaison.

~~1.~~2. Members who have met the term limit, are not seeking reappointment, or have resigned must ~~In the event a member is unable to continue serving because of change in residence, health, business requirements or personal reasons, a formal letter or e-mail of resignation shall be submitted to the staff liaison and City Manager. Upon completion of service to the community, members are required to~~ return any city-owned equipment within 30 days of their term ending ~~acquired during the term. Examples include: computers, copies of Shoreview's city code and key cards~~.

Removal

1. The city council may remove any member in violation of the ~~consider the attendance records, behaviors and actions of Committee/Commission members and may take action to remove any member in violation of the~~ code of conduct or attendance requirements at any time. ~~The City Council is responsible for appointment to all City Committees/Commissions and reserves the right to appoint, reappoint or remove any individual from a Committee/Commission at any time.~~

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The motion of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember _____ and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

And the following voted against the same:

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted the ___ day of _____, 2026.

_____

Sue Denkinger, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

CITY OF SHOREVIEW)

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified city manager of the City of Shoreview of Ramsey County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the attached and foregoing extract of minutes of a meeting of said city council on the ___ day of _____, 2026, with the original thereof on file in my office and the same is full, true and complete transcript therefrom insofar as the same relates to open appointment policy for commission/committee members.

WITNESS MY HAND officially as such city manager and the corporate seal of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota this ___ day of _____, 2026.

_____

Brad Martens, City Manager

SEAL

Bikes and trails committee	Term expires	Appointed	Years on committee
Rodolfo Batres	1/31/2028	1/6/2025	1
Nick Lardinois	1/31/2027	5/20/2024	2
Gina Lloyd	1/31/2027	1/2/2024	2
Kelli Damlo	1/31/2027	1/2/2024	2
Emma Garcia	1/31/2028	5/1/2023	3
Amar Subramanian	1/31/2029	1/17/2023	3
Briana Murphy	1/31/2029	1/17/2023	3
Neil Cavanaugh	1/31/2029	1/17/2023	3
Bob Johnson	1/31/2027	1/19/2016	10
Mark Stange	1/31/2029	1/31/1996	30
Economic development authority	**Term expires**	**Appointed**	**Years on committee**
Rachel Japuntich	12/31/2026	10/21/2024	2
Josh Wing	12/31/2026	10/21/2024	2
John Doan	12/31/2026	1/3/2023	3
Cory Springhorn	12/31/2030	1/18/2022	4
Sue Denkinger	12/31/2030	3/4/2013	13
Economic development commission	**Term expires**	**Appointed**	**Years on committee**
Jim Diffley	1/31/2028	3/3/2025	1
Denise Firkus	1/31/2029	3/3/2025	1
Jessica Daniels		3/3/2025	1
Doug McCulloch	1/31/2029	4/17/2023	3
Elizabeth Lovin	1/31/2028	3/6/2023	3
Megan Larson	1/31/2029	3/6/2023	3
Tony Rammer	1/31/2027	2/7/2022	4
Rachel Resnick	1/31/2028	2/7/2022	4
Exhilda Siame	1/31/2027	11/1/2021	5
Rachel Japuntich	1/31/2029	11/1/2021	5
Ritesh Patel	1/31/2029	3/2/2020	6
Carly Gatzlaff	1/31/2028	5/20/2019	7
Dean Howard	1/31/2027	1/7/2019	7
Mike Schoonover	1/31/2027	11/5/2018	8

Environmental quality committee	Term expires	Appointed	Years on committee
Shivam Vashishtha	1/31/2029	2/27/2026	< 1 year
Mike Vant	1/31/2027	3/17/2025	1
Elliott Stefanik	1/31/2028	2/1/2021	5
Jennifer Olson	1/31/2029	2/3/2020	6
Hong Wang	1/31/2027	2/5/2018	8
Jeff Bartlett	1/31/2029	2/6/2017	9
Kathy Radosevich	1/31/2028	1/19/2016	10
Susan Rengstorf	1/31/2027	8/6/2007	19
Tim Pratt	1/31/2027	3/1/2004	22
Human rights commission	**Term expires**	**Appointed**	**Years on committee**
Matthew Arries	1/31/2028	6/1/2026	< 1 year
Ericka Cermak	1/31/2029	1/5/2026	< 1 year
Emily Salava Batres	1/31/2029	1/6/2025	1
Alicia Dietsche	1/31/2028	7/15/2024	2
Gene Nichols	1/31/2027	3/2/2015	11
Mary Johnson	1/31/2029	1/6/2014	12
Richard Bokovoy	1/31/2027	1/19/1993	33
Julie B. Williams	1/31/2029	1/19/1993	33
Parks and recreation commission	**Term expires**	**Appointed**	**Years on committee**
Faye Murphy	1/31/2027	3/20/2023	3
Kevin Holly	1/31/2029	3/20/2023	3
Brent Swisher	1/31/2028	7/18/2022	4
Jane Ullmann-Bester	1/31/2028	7/18/2022	4
Chris Droske	1/31/2027	3/1/2021	5
Jean Kiehnbaum	1/31/2028	4/4/2016	10
Tom Lemke	1/31/2029	5/6/2013	13
Carol Jauch	1/31/2027	3/6/2006	20
Charlie Oltman	1/31/2029	5/2/2005	21
Planning commission	**Term expires**	**Appointed**	**Years on committee**
Nic Ahmadvand	1/31/2029	1/20/2026	< 1 year
Evan Cordes	1/31/2027	1/16/2024	2
Lee Helgen	1/31/2029	2/6/2023	3
Craig John	1/31/2027	4/4/2022	4
Nicole Westadt	1/31/2028	1/18/2022	4
Christopher Anderson	1/31/2027	1/2/2018	8
Steve Solomonson	1/31/2028	2/2/2004	22

Public safety committee	Term expires	Appointed	Years on committee
David Hemming	1/31/2029	2/2/2026	< 1 year
Gracia Elrick Cooper	1/31/2028	5/19/2025	< 1 year
Cheryl Hiner	1/31/2027	10/7/2024	2
Ethan Peterson	1/31/2029	10/7/2024	2
Kiel Walker	1/31/2027	2/5/2024	2
Curtis Corum	1/31/2028	8/3/2020	6
Andrew Mills	1/31/2029	3/20/2017	9
Colleen Norell	1/31/2027	5/18/2015	11

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop

FROM: Niki Hill, AICP , Assistant Community Development Director

DATE: August 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Planning discussion items

ITEM NUMBER: 1.c

SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

The city is currently working on the update to the development code. As staff and the consultant have continued reviewing the code and receiving feedback, some additional topics have been identified that were not part of the original scope of the update. Staff is seeking direction from the city council on whether these topics should be incorporated into the current development code update or explored separately.

DISCUSSION

Development code update

As the development code update continues, staff has identified two additional topics that could be incorporated into the current update.

Tree replacement requirements

The city's current tree replacement requirements can result in a 6:1 replacement ratio when right-of-way projects are included. Staff has received comments regarding the current replacement requirements and whether the level of replacement is appropriate.

As part of the workshop materials, staff has provided a staff-prepared comparison of replacement requirements for council's consideration. It shows that our 6:1 replacement requirements are generally higher than comparison cities.

Staff is seeking council direction on whether the city's tree replacement requirements should be reviewed as part of the current development code update. If included, staff would use the information provided and further research to develop potential options for council consideration.

Shoreland regulations

Staff is proposing to include updates to the city's shoreland regulations as part of the development code update. Staff has been working with our consultant HKGI and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on these changes.

The proposed modifications are generally intended to clean up and clarify existing language

and improve consistency with applicable shoreland regulations, rather than represent a major policy change. The review would also include consideration of section 10 of the DNR model shoreland ordinance – shoreland PUD, and whether it should be incorporated into the city's regulations.

Staff is seeking council direction on whether these shoreland updates should be included in the current development code update.

Separate policy discussion – data centers

Data centers are an emerging use that can have unique land use, infrastructure, environmental, and community considerations. Staff is seeking general council direction to begin exploring potential regulations or policies related to data centers. At this time, the city does not have land that would be suitable for development as a data center without requiring a rezoning. As a result, staff is not recommending a moratorium on data centers at this time.

While staff believes this is a growing concern of the public and local regulations should be considered, we are seeking direction to further investigate data center regulations or policy considerations. If so, staff believes this topic is outside the scope of the current development code update, and would best be addressed separately through a future development code amendment or other policy process.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking general direction from the city council. No formal action is requested.

ATTACHMENTS

Tree Preservation- Replacement Market Comparison

Market City	Tree Mitigation Threshold Size (Deciduous)	Tree Mitigation Threshold Size (Coniferous)	Standard Replacement Requirement	Priority Preservation Tree Name	Priority Preservation Tree Size (Deciduous)	Priority Preservation Tree Size (Coniferous)	Priority Preservation Tree Replacement Requirement
Arden Hills	10" DBH or greater	15' height or greater	1:2 Tree	Significant Tree	10" DBH or greater	15' height or greater	Na
Blaine	8" DBH or greater	8" DBH or greater	1:1 Tree	Significant Tree	8" DBH or greater	8" DBH or greater	Residential lots: 1:1 tree replacement for first 7 trees removed. Max 8 per acre.
Edina	5" DBH or greater	15' height or greater	.75:1 Deciduous Caliper Inch or .75:1 Coniferous Height	Heritage Tree	30" DBH or greater	30' height or greater	1:1 Deciduous Caliper Inch or 1:1 Coniferous Height
Lino Lakes	6"-12" DBH	12'-20' height	1:1 Tree	N/a	12" DBH or greater	20' height or greater	2: 1 Tree
Mahtomedi	8" DBH or greater	6" DBH or greater; 12' or greater height	.5:1 Caliper Inch	Heritage Tree	27" DBH	50' or greater	1:1 Caliper Inch
New Brighton	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Plymouth	8" DBH or greater	4" DBH or greater	1.25: 1 Caliper Inch	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Roseville	12"- 27" DBH	25'-50' height	1.5:1 Caliper Inch	Heritage Tree	27" DBH or greater	50' Height or greater	2.5:1 Caliper Inch
Vadnais Heights	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
White Bear Lake	All poplar, silver maple, Russian olive	All softwood coniferous	0.266: 1 Caliper Inch	Premium Tree	8" DBH or greater	6" DBH or greater	1.33:1 Caliper Inch
Shoreview	4”-14.99" DBH	4”-14.99" DBH	1:1 tree up to 15 per acre	Landmark Tree	15" DBH or greater	15" DBH or greater	Lot less than 20,000 sf = 1:1 Lot 20,000-40,000 = 2:1 Lot 40,001 sf or more = 3:1 New Nonresidential development or including Public/Private road = 6:1

**DBH= Diameter at Breast Height (4’ off ground)*

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop

FROM: Brad Martens , City Manager

DATE: August 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposal for reducing fire risk from single-use vaping pens

ITEM NUMBER: 1.d

SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

Councilmember Gardner has requested an opportunity to present a proposal for reducing fire risk from single-use vaping pens.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Gardner proposes the city council consider one or both of the options presented regarding the topic. It is requested that the city council provide staff direction on any action to be taken. Several attachments are included to this report as prepared by Councilmember Gardner.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

Vape Pens Proposal August 2026.pdf
Ramsey County Environmental Health Letter of Support for City of Shoreview on vapes.pdf
Ramsey Washington R&E Center 07-08-2026 Support for Reducing Risks from Disposable Vape Batteries.pdf
Lake Johanna FD letter on vapes.pdf
Walters Recycling and Refuse Letter on Lithium Ion Batteries - Shoreview.pdf
Waste Connections support e-mail.pdf
Exerpts from Washington County cannabis ordinance re vape disposal.pdf
Apple Valley garbage truck ditches fiery load - KSTP.com 5 Eyewitness News.pdf

To: Shoreview City Council

From: Council Member Gardner

Date: August 17, 2026

Re: Proposal for reducing fire risk from single-use vaping pens

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REQUESTED ACTION Receive feedback from the Council, which could include directing staff to evaluate the two options for an ordinance change by the end of 2026.

INTRODUCTION

The Association for Nonsmokers Minnesota (ANSM) approached me about the issue of vape pens that have unremovable lithium batteries. Based on my work in the recycling field, I know that lithium battery fires on recycling and garbage trucks, transfer stations, and landfills have been on the rise.

Used vapes should be taken to the Ramsey Environmental Center along with other household hazardous waste (HHW). However, according to the ANSM, most vapers throw their used pens in the garbage and sometimes in a recycling container. The Executive Director of the Ramsey & Washington County Recycling & Energy Center in Newport informed me that they experience fires regularly and would like to prevent them.

I would like to suggest that the City of Shoreview explore two options for reducing this fire risk.

1. **Requirement to collect used vapes at retail**: Washington County has passed a disposal provision in their cannabis regulation (attached). This requires cannabis businesses in the county to accept used vapes, which then are taken to the county HHW site. I would like to suggest we do the same as part of our city's licensure for tobacco and cannabis retailers that sell vapes.
2. **Ban on sale of vape pens at that do not have an easily removeable battery**. This is the preferred approach of the ANSM. This would be required at both tobacco and cannabis retailers.

ATTACHMENTS

- Letters of support from Ramsey County Environmental Health, Ramsey and Washington County Recycling and Energy Center, Lake Johanna Fire Department, Walter's Recycling & Refuse, and Ace Solid Waste/Waste Connections
- Copy of Washington County's ordinance
- News story of a garbage truck fire in Apple Valley in July

July 1, 2026

The Hon. Sue Denkinger, Mayor
City of Shoreview
4600 North Victoria Street
Shoreview, MN 55126

RE: Letter of support for requiring vape pens to have removable batteries

Mayor Denkinger:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a proposal to require vape pens to be designed with removable batteries. Hazardous batteries in vape pens pose a fire risk if they end up where they should not—in a trash hauler or recycling collector truck and ultimately at a trash facility like the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E) Center, where all trash from the two counites goes, or at a recycling facility.

Keeping battery-containing vape pens out of trash and recycling is critically important. Even when caught early and small, fires are dangerous, disruptive and drive up insurance, operations and maintenance costs. That is also assuming a fire does not significantly damage or destroy a facility.

Absent requirements in state law or local ordinances that vape pen producers or retailers take back and properly manage vape pens, the best option currently is for residents to bring nicotine-containing vape pens to Ramsey County's Environmental Center in Roseville to be properly managed. The Environmental Center is designed to manage such fire risks from the moment a resident hands over a vape pen to our staff, who safely handle the hazards presented by batteries, toxic nicotine and other contents.

In 2025, the Environmental Center received an average of over 1,000 vape pens per month, with annual management costs of over $37,000 and rising each year. Program costs could be reduced if hazardous batteries were easily removable and managed separately from the pen, and even more so if vape device retailers were required to accept them from the public and manage them. Cannabis vape pens are not currently accepted at the Environmental Center due to federal restrictions, complicating options for safe management of those devices.

Restricting the sale of vape pens to those with easily removable batteries and requiring retailers to accept them from the public would help reduce harm to the environment and public health, improve safety in waste management and reduce costs at our Environmental Center. Thank you for taking an interest in this topic.

Sincerely,

Amy Caron

Amy Caron,
Director

cc: Ramsey County Commissioner Tara Jebens-Singh
Deputy County Manager Nadir Abdi, Health & Wellness Service Team
Government Relations Director Jolie Wood

90 Plato Blvd. West, Suite 200
Saint Paul, MN 55107
Phone: (651) 266-2400
Fax: (651) 266-2593
TTY: (651) 266-2594
www.co.ramsey.mn.us

RAMSEY/WASHINGTON
RECYCLING & ENERGY
CONNECTING VALUE TO WASTE

July 08, 2026

Paul Gardner
Shoreview City Council
4600 Victoria St. N.
Shoreview, Minnesota 55126

RE: Support for Reducing Fire Risks from Disposable Vape Batteries

Dear Councilmember Gardner,

On behalf of Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E), I am writing in support of the City of Shoreview's efforts to reduce the growing public safety risks associated with disposable vape devices containing embedded lithium-ion batteries.

R&E processes approximately 450,000 tons of municipal solid waste each year on behalf of Ramsey and Washington Counties. One of the fastest-growing safety hazards facing our facility—and waste and recycling facilities across the country—is the improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries. Batteries hidden inside disposable vape devices are frequently placed in household trash and recycling carts where they can become damaged during collection and processing, causing fires that endanger employees, first responders, equipment, and critical public infrastructure.

Our facility manages this risk every day through extensive fire detection, suppression, and employee safety protocols. However, prevention remains the most effective solution. Keeping embedded batteries out of the waste stream protects workers, reduces operational disruptions, and helps prevent costly fires.

R&E supports policies that encourage safer product design and responsible end-of-life management. Requiring disposable vape devices to have easily removable batteries—or requiring retailers to provide convenient take-back programs—offers consumers a safe disposal option while reducing the number of lithium-ion batteries entering the municipal waste stream.

We also recognize Washington County's ordinance requiring retailers that sell battery-powered disposable electronic delivery devices with embedded or inseparable batteries to maintain a take-back program for products they sell. This approach reflects a practical, shared-responsibility model that promotes safe battery management and helps reduce fire risks for waste facilities and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your leadership on this important public safety issue. We appreciate the City of Shoreview's consideration of policies that help protect residents, workers, and essential public infrastructure. R&E would be pleased to provide additional information or answer any questions as you consider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Trista Martinson
Executive Director

LAKE JOHANNA FIRE DEPARTMENT
3535 PINE TREE DRIVE, ARDEN HILLS, MN 55112
OFFICE (651) 415-2100

August 3,2026

Councilmember Paul Gardner
City of Shoreview
4600 North Victoria Street
Shoreview, MN 55126

RE: Letter of support for reducing fire risks from disposable vape batteries

Dear Councilmember Gardner,

On behalf of the Lake Johanna Fire Department, I am writing in support of the City of Shoreview's efforts to reduce the fire risks associated with disposable vape devices containing embedded lithium-ion batteries.

This proposal would require vape pens to be designed with removeable batteries. The batteries in vape pens are hazardous, the disposable pens end up in the trash, and when damaged can pose a serious threat to people, waste disposal trucks and buildings.

With the proliferation of batteries in so many items, we have had many fire incidents involving lithium-ion batteries. We think it is smart to provide proper disposal for safety reasons and protecting the environment.

I am recommending that the City of Shoreview adopt a local ordinance that restricts the sale of vape pens to only those with easily removeable batteries. This ordinance would also require vape pen producers or retailers to take back and properly dispose of the vape pens by bringing them to the Ramsey County Environmental Center in Roseville.

Adopting this ordinance will help protect the public and the environment.

Sincerely,

Tim Boehlke
Fire Chief

7/31/2026

Paul Gardner
Shoreview City Council
4600 Victoria Street North
Shoreview, MN 55126

RE: Support for Reducing Fire Risks from Disposable Vape Devices and Lithium-Ion Batteries

Dear Councilmember Gardner and Members of the Shoreview City Council:

On behalf of Walters Recycling & Refuse, I am writing in support of the City of Shoreview's efforts to reduce the fire and public-safety risks created by disposable vape devices containing embedded lithium-ion batteries.

As a local waste and recycling collection company, Walters is on the front line of this growing problem. Disposable vape devices and other products containing lithium-ion batteries are frequently placed in residential trash and recycling carts. Once collected, these items can be compacted, crushed, or punctured, causing the battery to overheat and ignite within the surrounding material.

Since January 2025, Walters has experienced five collection load fires caused by confirmed or suspected batteries. Fortunately, these incidents have not resulted in catastrophic equipment damage or serious injuries. However, each incident required an extensive response and created meaningful operational and financial impacts.

Based on our experience, the estimated direct cost of responding to each load fire is $4,875. This includes cleanup personnel, deployment of additional trucks and equipment, incident investigation and reporting, collection truck and driver downtime, required maintenance and safety inspections, and third-party street cleaning. Across the five incidents Walters has experienced since January 2025, the estimated direct costs total $24,375.

These figures do not include the potential costs associated with injuries, environmental remediation, major vehicle damage, property damage, interrupted collection service, insurance claims, or the loss of critical equipment.

The risk continues after material reaches our transfer station. Batteries may arrive concealed within mixed loads and can be damaged as material is unloaded, moved, and consolidated on the tipping floor. If a battery enters thermal runaway, the resulting heat and flames can quickly spread through other material that has been collected. Ignition may also be delayed, creating the potential for a fire to develop after the original load has been unloaded and increasing the threat to employees, equipment, buildings, and surrounding infrastructure.

These incidents also increase insurance exposure for waste and recycling operations. Insurers must account for the possibility of vehicle or facility loss, employee and public injury, business interruption, and repeated incidents. This can contribute to increased premiums, deductibles, loss-control requirements, and operating costs that are ultimately borne by waste companies, their customers, and the communities they serve.

While disposable vape devices are only one source of lithium-ion batteries entering the waste stream, their small size and embedded batteries make them especially difficult to identify and safely remove once discarded. Public education is important, but education alone cannot eliminate the risk without convenient and clearly identified disposal options.

Walters supports practical policies requiring disposable vape devices to contain batteries that can be safely and easily removed, requiring retailers to accept used devices for proper management, or combining both approaches. A retailer take-back program would create a convenient disposal option where the products are sold and establish a reasonable shared-responsibility model among manufacturers, retailers, consumers, and the waste-management system.

We encourage the Shoreview City Council to continue evaluating an ordinance that reduces the number of embedded lithium-ion batteries entering trash and recycling systems. Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the importance of protecting collection employees, facility workers, first responders, residents, equipment, and essential public infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Mike Person
Director of Sales, Marketing and Customer Experience
Walters Recycling & Refuse
2830 101st Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449

WALTERS RECYCLING & REFUSE
Best GOLD WINNER 2020
Voted Minnesota's Best 6 years in a row

SHOREVIEW

Paul Gardner <pgardner@shoreviewmn.gov>

reducing lithium battery fire risk

Dave Wiggins <David.Wiggins@wasteconnections.com> Tue, Aug 4, 2026 at 9:21 AM
To: Paul Gardner <pgardner@shoreviewmn.gov>
Cc: Dave Wiggins <David.Wiggins@wasteconnections.com>

Paul

The waste industry deals with fires from Lithium batteries on a regular basis.

Costing Haulers and Waste Disposal facilities a lot of money which in the end

costs our customers as well as creates an unsafe work environment for our employees.

ACE Solid Waste supports any effort your city may take to remove Lithium Batteries from the waste stream.

Best Regards

Dave Wiggins

Special Projects/ Government Affairs Manager

ACE Solid Waste, Inc.

Great River Division

612-875-8446

Washington County Cannabis Ordinance #219

Washington County

Adopted
December 17, 2024
by the
Washington County Board

6.10 Child-Resistant packaging. All Sales of any Approved Products and Medical Cannabinoid Products must be packaged in Child-Resistant packaging. Upon request by the Department, a Registered Retail Establishment must provide a copy of the certificate of compliance or full laboratory testing report for the packaging used.

6.11 Advertising restrictions. Registered Retail Establishments must follow all Advertisement restrictions pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 342.64, as amended from time to time.

6.12 Products that are Attractive to Underage Persons. No person shall sell or offer for Sale any Approved Products and Medical Cannabinoid Products that are Attractive to Underage Persons.

6.13 Battery powered Electronic Delivery Devices.

1. Registered Retail Establishments that sell battery powered single-use or disposable Electronic Delivery Devices with embedded or inseparable batteries must accept those devices which have been sold by the Retail Establishment to its customers, and properly manage those returned devices for recycling according to Minnesota Administrative Rule 7045.0125 Subpart 4.B., unless the Retail Establishment sells only Electronic Delivery Devices which have removable cartridges so that the battery can be recycled separately from the vaporizer fluid cartridge.

2. Electronic Delivery Devices sold by a Registered Retail Establishment with embedded batteries without a return program may be embargoed by the Department until a return program in compliance with part 6.13, item 1 has been established.

6.14 Potency and amount per Sale transaction.

1. Registered Cannabis Retail Businesses may sell or offer for Sale Approved Products that comply with potency limits in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 342.27, subd. 2,c,d, and e, as amended from time to time.
2. Registered Retail Establishment may sell or offer for Sale Lower-Potency Hemp Edible products that comply with potency limits in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 342.46, subd. 6, as amended from time to time.

Section 7. Responsibility

All Registered Retail Establishments are responsible for the actions of their employees regarding the Sale, offer to sell, and furnishing of Approved Products or Medical Cannabinoid Products on the licensed and registered premises. The Sale, offer to sell, or furnishing of any Approved Products or Medical Cannabinoid Product by an employee will be considered an act of the Registered Retail Establishment.

Too hot to haul: Apple Valley garbage truck ditches fiery load

Sabrina Salguero Del Cid KSTP
July 28, 2026 - 3:34 PM



Courtesy: Apple Valley Police Department

Apple Valley police said on Tuesday a garbage truck driver dumped a burning load into the street after it became “too hot to handle.”

On a **Facebook post**, Apple Valley police said the fire happened under extreme heat conditions. Police said the truck driver followed standard safety procedures by dumping the load in the street.



Courtesy: Apple Valley Police Department

Then, the Apple Valley Fire Department arrived and put out the fire. Police said officers set up a safety perimeter and that no one was injured.

Police also reminded people not to throw away charcoal, ashes, or anything else that may still be hot. The department said people should make sure those items are completely cool before putting them in the trash.