

# March 2026

## City Newsletter

**\*City Council Briefs are Not Formally Approved by Council\***

Meeting Date: February 11, 2026

Council Present: Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Schneider, & Lund.

Staff Present: Radermacher, K. Kokesch

Guests: S. Traulich, P. Sullivan, G. Landgraff, M. Wagner

Regular Meeting called to order, Pledge and Roll Call.

Approved minutes of the regular meeting 1/14/26 and the annual Rural Fire and Ambulance Association meetings 2/2/26

Approved consent agenda: bills of \$59,398.51; eight past due utility accounts; no zoning permits issues.

1. A citizen addressed council with concerns on vacant properties and the lack of enforcement on dumpsters being utilized long term on personal properties. Another citizen asked for a break on sewer charges due to a running toilet.
2. Deputy M. Wagner reported to council on blighted properties and got council support on addressing four blighted properties that have been ongoing problems.
3. Traulich reported the bid opening for tree removal for the Franklin Ravine Project. One bid was received for \$83,250
4. Council approved Resolution 2026-3: Approving the tree removal bid and execute agreements with landowners.
5. Council approved Resolution 2026-4: Authorizing landowner agreements for Lead Service Line replacements. Ten properties were identified during the LSL inventory needing replacement. Funds are available to cover the costs if landowners sign the agreements; or landowners will be given a deadline to replace the line on their own if they do not sign the agreement.
6. Dept. Heads: P. Sullivan reported an issue with the new tanker; the equipment from the old tanker does not fit on the potential new one. Options are being researched and will be discussed at a later date. The old tanker is back home and in service until a decision can be made. K. Kokesch reported on his recent MN Dept of Health inspection and reported signing up to go to the MRWA conference in March. Radermacher reported on a fraudulent check and informed council on clear background checks for the three new fire department hires.
7. Changing fire calls on the fee schedule and adding a fee for data requests was discussed and tabled. Will be discussed in March
8. Dust control for 2026 was discussed and the decision was tabled until March
9. Bills were paid as follows:

Wages	Net	\$15,827.44	Scenic Byway	Dues	\$50.00	Standard-Gazette	Printing	\$182.00
PERA	Retirement	\$2,124.83	Gopher State	Dues	\$56.75	Wex Bank	Fuel	\$188.39
MN Dept. of Rev.	Withholding	\$676.09	Ren Co Sheriffs office	Police	\$17,468.66	Anderson Larson	Legal	\$730.00
IRS	Withholding	\$3,576.57	ESRI	Maps	\$1,211.00	VISA	Supplies	\$4,366.47
SWWC	Insurance	\$4,637.48	PostMaster	Box rent	\$106.00	MVTL	Lab	\$253.48
Ren-Sibley Coop.	Energy	\$59.60	Claudia Kokesch	Cleaning	\$125.00	MN Valley Telephone	Phone	\$325.94
Clobes Sanitation	Garbage	\$3,214.28	Hawkins	Chemicals	\$20.00	Xcel Energy	Energy	\$3,459.94
Madison National	Insurance	\$24.10	USA Bluebook	Supplies	\$408.68	McGowan's	Snow	\$127.50
Marco	Printing	\$178.31						

**Annual Franklin Ambulance Association & Rural Fire Association Meetings**

**Monday February 2, 2026– 7:30 PM**

**Franklin Community Center**

Ambulance Association: Call to order showed all present. 2025 minutes were approved. The 2025 MRU financials were presented along with the Ambulance Association 2025 financials. It was noted that the expenses for 2025 were less than 2024 with the help of donations covering some of the expenses. Discussion was held on moving the start time of the annual meetings up to 7:00PM, motioned and approved. Adjourned.

Rural Fire Association: Roll call. Agenda approved. 2025 minutes approved. Trotter read through the 2025 financials for the Rural and Radermacher presented the financials for the Franklin Fire Department. Fire Chief Menk reported 23 current Fire Department personnel and 2025 fire calls. Menk reported issues with the tanker and reported on working to buy a different chassis to transfer the tanker equipment onto. Discussion was held on the service agreements and the 80/20 split of ownership of fire department vehicles, no changes will be made. Assessments were voted to increase to \$300 per section and Fire Calls were voted to increase to \$1000 for the initial call, including the first hour. Approved reimbursement to the city for \$23,782.04 for shared expenses. Next regular meeting 2/1/27 following Amb. Assoc.



# Community Calendar March 2026

- March 5 Legion Meeting, 630PM
- March 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 9 Lions Club, 6 PM
- March 11 City Council Mtg, 6PM
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 19 Fire/MRU monthly meetings
- March 20 Spring begins



## March Curbside Recycling Days- 10 & 24

**RENNVILLE COUNTY**  
ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCE RECYCLING!!

The first Wednesday every other month April - October:  
**2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Located on the northeast end of the Renville County Fairgrounds  
This collection is for Renville and Redwood County Residents ONLY  
We reserve the right to refuse any load

May 6, 2026

July 1, 2026

September 2, 2026

For more information, contact S.W. Recycling at  
**1-800-366-8665 or [www.swrecycling.com](http://www.swrecycling.com)**

Electronics		Appliances	
FREE	*COST	FREE	*COST
CPUs/hard drives, computer mouse, cell phones, keyboards, speakers, iPods, cameras, GPS units, laptops, CD players, MP3 players, radios/boom boxes, etc.	<b>\$25.00:</b> TVs and computer monitors <b>\$10.00:</b> scanners, printers, copiers, fax machines, VCRs, DVD players and stereos	Washers, dryers, dehumidifiers, ovens, refrigerators, vacuums, A/C units, microwaves, water softeners, etc. <b>(Plastic water heaters NOT accepted)</b>	<b>\$75.00:</b> RV Refrigerators

Any item with a cord is considered an appliance or electronic device. If you don't see an item listed in the "cost" columns, it is probably accepted for disposal, but is most likely free of charge.

Non appliance or electronic items accepted: charcoal/gas grills, furnaces, A/C units, exercise equipment, satellite dishes, and yard maintenance equipment.

The following will **NOT** be accepted at this collection: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), standard recyclable materials, fluorescent bulbs, batteries or tires.

\*Prices may be subject to change. **Cash or check only. No credit/debit cards accepted.**

Open to Renville & Redwood County Residents ONLY.



Did you know that you can set up autopayments to your city utility account?! For more information contact City Hall 507-557-2259



### Catfish Derby Days Design Contest

Franklin Lion's Club is now accepting design ideas for this years Catfish Derby Days.

If chosen, your design will be featured on this years clothing, hats, and pins and the winner will receive \$100.

Each design must include the following to be considered:

- \* 4th weekend in July
- \* Lion's Logo
- \* A Slogan
- \* A Catfish

Send your designs, along with your name, address and phone number to [catfishdays@outlook.com](mailto:catfishdays@outlook.com)

Designs will be voted on during the regular March Lion's Club meeting on March 9th.

