



City of Lake Winnebago, MO Monthly Newsletter



Snow days are for sledding!

Who says police officers can't have a little fun?! The kids were out of school, and the snow-covered hills were calling. Lake Winnebago Police Officer Grant Bennett answered that call and despite being slightly underdressed he started his long 12-hour shift by joining several neighborhood kids out on the sledding hill.

"All of the kids were so thankful that Officer Grant went out of his way to go sledding with them! That is a sweet memory they will never forget. Pierce thought it was a super fun way to hang out with a police officer! The picture does not show Officer Grant crashing at the bottom of the hill - but the kids all had big smiles as they told me all about it. Such sweet memories made on the big hill!"

- Keely Bechtel

Michael Collar
Mayor

Nick Lombardo
Ward 1 Alderman

Steve Stephan
Ward 1 Alderman

Don Davis
Ward 2 Alderman

Craig Brandon
Ward 2 Alderman

Kathy Ray
City Clerk

Steve Besermin
Public Works Director

Michael Mrachek
Police Chief

Barbara Aaron
Court Clerk

Krista Meinders
Assistant Clerk

Mayor's Corner

Thank you to our Public Works Department for doing a nice job with our recent snow removal. Let's hope this is the last measurable snow of the year.

The City has recently lost two police officers to other cities recruitment efforts. The Chief was able to offer a full-time position to current officer Zach Koch as well as hiring a new officer, Levi Riley. We continue to struggle with other cities trying to recruit our officers. Contrary to what some may think, our city does not have the budget to match the increase in pay as other cities. Other cities have a lot of commercial business that helps them with sales tax, real estate tax, etc. so their budgets are much larger.

I will be unable to attend the HOA annual meeting due to a conflict in scheduling; however, Mayor Pro-tem Craig Brandon will give an update on the city. Please help the HOA by turning in your proxies if you cannot attend the meeting.

Welcome Officer Levi Riley!



Lake Winnebago Police Department Update

The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department has requested mutual aid assistance from area law enforcement agencies in connection with the FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 event. Depending on staffing issues, LWPD will offer measured assistance. LWPD assistance will be funded by a federal grant. I have not received any notification relative to Lake Winnebago being affected by this event, but please contact the department with any information to the contrary.

The department's three patrol cars were equipped with new AXON dash cameras this past Thursday. These new dash cameras replaced our antiquated WatchGuard system which was way past "end of life". The new dash cameras will work in unison with our Axon body cameras and Tasers and provide a more efficient and effective process. I would like to thank the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support of this project.

The department had a tearful goodbye with Officer Molly Willems, who worked her last shift at LWPD on February 1, 2026. Molly is moving on to the Raymore, Missouri Police Department in conjunction with a signing bonus, better pay, and her goal of working at a larger department. Molly served the community with distinction, and she will be sorely missed.

Molly will be replaced by Officer Levi Riley, who worked his first shift at LWPD on February 2, 2026. Levi is an experienced police officer with more than seven years of experience. We are extremely fortunate to have Levi working at LWPD.

As always, feel free to email, call, or stop down at the department with any issues or concerns. Our goal is to keep everyone safe.



Michael Mrachek
Police Chief
mgmrachek@lwpd.org
816-537-7900

Dog Licenses

Current dog licenses expired on December 31, 2025. You may pick up your 2026 dog tag at City Hall. The cost is \$3.00 per animal and you will need to bring a current vaccination shot record showing the date of the last rabies shot. All dogs over six months old are required to be licensed in the city.



City Stickers

All motor vehicles that are parked or garaged at Lake Winnebago are required to have a 2026 City Sticker. Current City Stickers expired 12-31-25. You will need to bring your 2025 paid personal property tax receipt to City Hall to pick up your City Sticker. If your sticker was not paid for on your 2025 personal property taxes, the fee is \$7.00 per vehicle.



Tickets for January 2026

Total: 58 tickets

Collected \$8,144.50 for January 2026

- Drivers' License - 5
- No Insurance - 4
- Registration - 26
- Speeding - 15
- Defective Equipment - 1
- General Driving - 1
- Accidents - 1
- Sign/Signal - 2
- C&I Driving - 0
- Code Enforcement - 3

Warnings Written for January 2026

Total: 13 warnings

- Moving Violation - 2
- Registration - 1
- Defective Equipment - 2
- Code Enforcement - 3
- Stop Sign - 2
- Speeding - 3



City Hall 816-537-6778

Police non-emergency 816-537-7900

Want to receive the monthly Cliff Notes Newsletter?

If you would like to stay up to date on current happenings at Lake Winnebago and would like to receive the monthly Cliff Notes, please send your email address to asstclerk@cityoflakewinnebago.com. We promise your email will be used for City Business only.

Note: More than one person per household is allowed to sign up!

Board of Alderman Meeting

City of Lake Winnebago

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Collar opened the meeting at 7pm.
2. ROLL CALL – City Clerk Kathy Ray took roll call. Members attending were Mayor Michael Collar, Aldermen Craig Brandon, Don Davis, Nick Lombardo and Steve Stephan, Chief Michael Mrachek, Lindsey Kolisch with Lauber Municipal Law, LLC, Mark Meinders, HOA Liaison; Steve Besermin, Director of Public Works, was absent. City Clerk Kathy Ray served as secretary.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes 12-17-25 – After discussion Nick Lombardo moved to approved minutes from December 17, 2025, seconded by Don Davis. Passed unanimously.
4. MAYOR – The mayor shared the staff is working on completing year end activities. He thanked the Public Works crew for a good job on the snow plowing. The Board of Zoning Adjustment committee is short two members; he would like to recommend Sid Douglas and Charlie Iseman to serve for a five-year term. After discussion, Alderman Nick Lombardo recommended Sid Douglas and Charlie Iseman to serve for a five-year term, seconded by Don Davis. Passed unanimously.
5. BOARD OF ALDERMEN – None.
6. NEW BUSINESS - Review Final Docket of Court, Court Fee Report and Court Bond Report for December 2025 - The Mayor confirmed the Judge had signed the docket.
7. OLD BUSINESS - None.
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS - HOA/LAND COMPANY – Mark Meinders – the staff is working on a water break in the men’s restroom at the Arrowhead Yacht club. The club is open and operational, however there will be substantial clean up and repair efforts. The developer has targeted late spring or early summer for the new amenities area. The annual HOA meeting will be held February 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Arrowhead Yacht Club. He encouraged individuals to either attend or complete a proxy to meet the 290-resident quorum. Call the HOA office if you have questions. LEGAL – Lauber Municipal Law - Lindsey Kolisch reported the annual city officials training will be scheduled for April. Look for new topics for the training. She encouraged board members to attend. FINANCIAL – Kathy Ray - Review December 31, 2025, Financial Statements; Review December 2025 Check/Deposit Register - Kathy Ray reviewed the December 2025 financials, and the cash summary balances for each fund (restricted and unrestricted). After reviewing the December 2025 check/deposit register, Craig Brandon moved to approve the check register, seconded by Nick Lombardo. Passed unanimously. The city renewed two CDs with Arvest for a twelve-month period for a rate of 3.25%, one for general of \$1,000,000 and \$700,000 for proprietary. The 2025 audit has started, and field work will be performed April 27 – 29, 2026. The firm DSWA is expected to present the audit results at the May or June 2026, Board of Alderman meeting. On December 16, 2025, an internal Audit was performed by Alderman Craig Bandon. Completed the annual W-2’s and 1099’s. POLICE, FIRE, CIVIL DEFENSE – Chief Michael Mrachek – he shared the department is working with the vendor Axon to have new dash cams installed. Corporal Untrauer last day was 1/3/26 and he has gone to work for the City of North

Board of Alderman Meeting

City of Lake Winnebago

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

- 8.(CONTINUED): Kansas City, Officer Willems' last day with the city will be 2/1/26 and will go to work for the City of Raymore. He thanked each Officer for their commitment to the city. He attended Cass County Chiefs meeting. He discussed the Police staffing issues are a problem everywhere; compensation is typically a key element in retaining Officers. He met with the Mayor and the HOA President to discuss the option to allow the Flock vendor (surveillance devices to track vehicles in real time) to present the subject at the annual HOA meeting. Flock cameras are specifically designed to read and capture license plates, along with vehicle details like make, model and color, using Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology for crime-solving, not for traffic enforcement or facial recognition. These cameras create a database of captured plates and vehicle data that law enforcement can search to find stolen cars or vehicles linked to crimes, alerting officers when a match is found on hotlists or national databases. The cost is \$3,000 per camera and annual maintenance of \$15,000. PLANNING AND ZONING – Don Davis – no report. WATER, STREETS, SEWERS – Mayor Collar reported the following updates: i. Informed the Board Owen Walker has started as a part-time employee and is doing a great job. ii. He also wanted to add an issue the team is working on is the generator at city hall.
9. OTHER BUSINESS - A. The city clerk shared the ballot information for the April 7, 2026, Election: i. Mayor - John Hawkins & Douglas R. Lennie. ii. Alderman Ward 1 – Steve Stephan iii. Alderman Ward 2 – Don Davis B. The mayor shared the 2026 November and December Board of Aldermen meeting dates will conflict with holidays. After discussion, Craig Brandon made a motion to change November date to November 18 and December date to December 16, seconded by Don Davis, Passed unanimously.
10. ADJOURN BOARD - With no further business, Craig Brandon moved to adjourn, seconded by Don Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM. Next Board of Alderman meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.