

Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce

The noon meeting was called to order by President Nick Pawlenty on September 2nd, 2026 at Maple Lake Legion. There were 15 voting members present, and one guest. Current paid membership is 74.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Mike Zieska and second by Linda Rassat to approve the minutes from the August 5th, 2026 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Hennen provided the treasurer's report. Balances were read as follows: Chamber checking account total was \$15,099.24 with \$11,097.11 for the general fund and \$4,002.13 for the Industrial Development Group. Gearhead checking total was \$30,437.09, with \$28,124.13 for Gearhead and \$2,312.96 for the Snow Machine event. Maker's and Grower's Checking is \$25,673.45, and Lord Abbett Investment \$8,895.47. A motion was made by Linda Rassat and second by Jayme Wickman to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Government Report: 2027 Preliminary budget has been approved. Cathy Reynolds was hired as the full time City Administrator, removing her interim title.

School Report: School started yesterday (9/1/2026), so everything is getting going now. Superintendent Mike Rowe explained a constitutional change that will be on the ballot this November to increase the percentage given to schools from an iron range fund. Currently the distribution is only 2.5%, with the constitutional change increasing the amount to 4%. **THIS DOES NOT RAISE YOUR TAXES**, and this fund has been in existence since the 1800's. It is just simply increasing the amount to give to the schools. Vote yes in November, as a blank ballot goes as a "no" vote.

Committee Reports:

Gearhead Get Together: There were record donations from sponsors this year. The attendance was down, likely due to the rain and humidity following. There was, however, a record amount of attendance with the Swap meet.

Industrial Development Group: No update.

Maker's and Grower's Market: Last event for the year is September 13th. Last event had very good attendance due to the wonderful weather.

Old Business:

Raffle Fundraiser: **TURN IN YOUR TICKETS BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER!** Drawing is at the October chamber meeting. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets at the Maker's and Grower's Market. Interested individuals should contact Caleb Haag at Lake Central. 320-963-3163 or chaag@lakecentral.bank.

50th Saint Patrick's Day Parade: The Parade committee presented many ideas to make the 50th parade special to the general membership. Ideas right now are a Plane Flyover, a Medallion Hunt contest, a Photo scavenger hunt, Passport stamps for local businesses throughout the month of March. These are events that will get people out to our local businesses to enjoy our city. There will be another parade meeting on Tuesday, September 8th at 5pm at The V by HH for anyone that wants to lend their ideas.

New Business:

Fall Craft Sale: Date is set for Saturday, November 14th. Vendors have been contacting Kathy and registration is officially open.

Christmas in Maple Lake: The Maple Lake Royalty has decided not to continue with planning the event. We are looking for someone to plan the event, with the plan to go back to just a simple 2 hour event with Reindeer and pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Please contact Caleb Haag at chaag@lakecentral.bank if you are interested in chairing the event.

Our next meeting will be held at Noon on October 7th, 2026 at The V by HH. Beth Crain will be giving a presentation on AI in Small Businesses at the next meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Jayme Wickman, and second by Marilyn Groth.

Caleb Haag, Secretary