MEETING MINUTES
City of Polk City
Work Session

5:00 p.m., May 26, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers

A City Council Work Session was held on May 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers in Polk City, Iowa. Mayor Karsjen and City Council Members, Rob Sarchet, Jeff Savage, Dave Dvorak, James Hill, and Nick Otis were present.

Minutes

Trunk Sewer Presentation

City Manager Huisman presented on trunk sewer infrastructure, emphasizing that while existing systems can support current approved developments, future growth will require additional investment. Staff reviewed the 2022 studies for the north, northeast, and southeast service areas and noted that limited available commercial and industrial land constraints for future economic development. The proposed North trunk sewer could open approximately 7,500 acres for mixed-use growth, and based on development interest and City Council goals, staff recommended prioritizing the North project, followed by the Northeast, with the Southeast project remains an ongoing developer-led effort.

Council discussed project costs, timing, and impacts, including concerns about resident financial burden, long-term debt, and sewer rates. Members also weighed proactive investment against waiting for development demand and raised concerns about impacts to existing neighborhoods, such as easements, tree removal, and floodplain issues near Wolf Creek. City Engineer Thornburgh and Wes Farrand, Snyder & Associates, provided technical explanations on construction methods, easement widths, staging, permitting requirements, and mitigation measures, noting that such projects could take multiple years due to design, land acquisition, and regulatory approvals.

City Manager Huisman recommended scheduling a follow-up work session to allow further review and questions and would revisit the topic at a later date.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Otis and seconded by Dvorak to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

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Steve Karsjen, Mayor

Attest

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Susan Lawton, City Clerk