MEETING MINUTES
City of Polk City
Work Session

4:30 p.m., July 13, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers

A City Council Work Session was held on July 13, 2026, at 4:30 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

Four Seasons Post-Review Discussion

Parks & Recreation Director Jason Thraen and Special Events Coordinator Julia Howes presented a review of the 2026 Four Seasons Festival. Staff reported strong attendance, positive feedback, successful participation from local businesses and nonprofit organizations, and significant volunteer support. The festival generated approximately $31,345 in revenue and incurred approximately $33,045 in expenses, resulting in a net cost of about $1,700. Staff highlighted strengths including the event layout, business involvement, and community engagement, while noting opportunities to improve parade staging, staffing during peak periods, and activities for teens. Council members praised staff and volunteers for delivering a successful festival and supported exploring additional volunteer and committee involvement in future years.

Police Chief Siepker presented information regarding a proposed Flock Safety Transparency Portal that would provide the public with information about the City's automated license plate reader system. Discussion focused on system policies, privacy protections, auditing procedures, data-sharing practices, and ways to improve public understanding of the technology. Council members suggested adding explanations of technical terms and examples of successful public safety uses. Council generally supported making the portal available to the public and providing additional educational information to enhance transparency.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Otis and seconded by Savage to adjourn at 5:41 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

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Steve Karsjen, Mayor

Attest

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Susan Lawton, City Clerk