

motion for approval, Council Member Boeke seconded the motion, with five ayes and nay votes from Council Members Svenby and Dotson, the motion carried.

Resolution 88-25: Resolution of Support - East Side Corridor

Council President Raney acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the Owatonna East Side Corridor Residents dated today, December 16, 2025 regarding this resolution which will be considered public data. Their message was that they consider the language in this resolution commits the City to support and advance the East Side Corridor project, including continued development and support for right-of-way acquisition prior to completion of environmental review and that the public is not able to access key impact information.

Public Works Director Murphy then requested City Council approve Resolution 88-25 offering Steele County support in the East Side Corridor Project. Steele County and the City have been exploring, via the East Side Corridor Study, ways to develop a north-south roadway closer to the currently developed and developing areas of Owatonna since 2021. This came on the footsteps of a need for the route identified in simultaneous, but separate transportation studies by the County and City. Steele County has taken the lead on the project and further studied alternative routes through an exhaustive Environmental Study. The County and City have engaged in multiple public engagement opportunities and considered public input. Ultimately, Alternative 3 was selected.

A Resolution of Support for the East Side Corridor memorializes the City's partnership of the project, which aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and follows the Orderly Annexation Agreement in place with Owatonna Township. The City's partnership is critical for this project. The next steps will include support in project development and ultimately a cooperative agreement with Steele County. There is no cost related to the approval of the resolution of support but understand there will be future costs associated with the project if or when it moves forward.

Council Member Dotson asked if the Letter of Support is needed now or would it be better to wait to express the city's support and/or reservations?

Director Murphy commented an EAW (Environmental Assessment Worksheet) was published on November 18th and open for public comments until December 31st. The city has a voice as do residents throughout Steele County; if the city staff or council members disagree with the project, now would be the time to have these documented in the EAW process.

Council Member Dotson commented he supports the project, there needs to be a roadway along the east side of town. He is very sensitive to the concerns of the citizens living on that side of town and supportive of mitigation for noise and speed, there have been some roadway designs included to reduce these. If we sign a Letter of Support, it does not mean we support all aspects of the project. We will continue to push for aesthetics, noise reduction and no aggressive use of domain to acquire the property needed.

Council Member Boeke commented that he has always told East Side Corridor Representatives that there will be a road there, he believes it is the right thing to do at this location. If he lived in this neighborhood, he wouldn't like it but he represents 27,000 residents and not just those living near this proposed project area. The EAW is non-binding; it has to be, we will mitigate issues as we can. There are a few things he would change in the current plan; he would move the location of

the entrance into Fox Hollow and prefer to be as minimal abrasive as we can and not take as much land from the property owner along the southern part of the project. We need a road but not certain curb and gutter and the walking path are needed at this time.

Council Member McCann commented he agrees with comments from Council Members Dotson and Boeke. This area is within my ward; I have met with constituents and looked at their properties. I want to look at what is the greater good for the whole community, which won't be the best thing for everybody. During the open house, I was approached by residents with comments that they hope the road will be built, they have seen increased traffic activity within their neighborhood which will be less when the corridor route is finished. We need to look at what the greater good will be for the City. I will try to assist with mitigation to be as minimally abrasive as possible during the process.

Council Member Raney the corridor is an important piece for north/south traffic on the east side. We hope to work with the County to mitigate with the residents as this project develops. Council Member Burbank made a motion to approve Resolution 88-25, Council Member Voss seconded the motion and all members voted aye in approval.

Resolution 89-25 Resolution Amending the Budget for 2025

Assistant City Administrator Thamert commented that the 2025 budget of \$45,824,551 was approved with Resolution 123-24 in December 2024. A clerical error was noted in the amount shown for expenditures and a correction is required to maintain a balanced budget in alignment with the approved 2025 levy. The levy filed with the county was correct, this was an error in the expenditure amount stated. The amended budget is \$45,937,809 in expenditure for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025. This budget has been reviewed and potential funding sources identified as well as priorities and programs for 2025. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve Resolution 89-25 correcting this budget amount. Council Member seconded Svenby seconded the motion, all members voted aye in approval.

Agreement for Professional Services — Interim Finance Director & General Ledger Review - Abdo Financial Services

Assistant City Administrator Thamert requested approval for services of an interim Finance Director and General Ledger Review through Abdo Financial Solutions. The city's Finance Director position is currently vacant and there is a need to fill this role temporarily. Jodi Bursheim from Abdo Financial Solutions would serve as the interim Director. This arrangement will be both efficient and effective in maintaining the necessary leadership in the finance department.

In her role as interim Director, Jodi will oversee day-to-day financial processes and ensure compliance with key deadlines and checkpoints. She will also ensure that all required financial submissions are made within deadlines and adhere to relevant legal requirements. Jodi will provide support and expert advice to on-site staff, which will include holding regular staff meetings. Additionally, she will oversee and support the General Leader's review. Jodi has over 25 years of experience working in governmental accounting for Minnesota municipalities and 10+ years' experience in finance, Jodi has a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of