

*This document details the votes (**in blue**), and the reasoning of such votes (**in orange**), of Ward 11 City Council Member Jamison Whiting during the Minneapolis City Council Meeting on January 5, 2026. Video recording of this meeting can be found on the [City of Minneapolis YouTube page](#).*

For further explanation on how Council Member Whiting voted or to set up a meeting with our office, please contact ward11@minneapolismn.gov.

Minneapolis City Council Agenda

Organizational Meeting

January 5, 2026 - 2:00 pm

Room 380, City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., Minneapolis, MN 55415

Members: Council Members Elliott Payne, Robin Wonsley, Michael Rainville, LaTrisha Vetaw, Pearl Warren, Jamal Osman, Elizabeth Shaffer, Soren Stevenson, Jason Chavez, Aisha Chughtai, Jamison Whiting, Aurin Chowdhury, and Linea Palmisano

Call to Order

1. Roll Call.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
 - **Council Member Whiting "Yes"** to adopting the agenda. The agenda was unanimously accepted 13 to 0.

Election

1. City Council Officers (2026-2029 Term) [\(2026-00001\)](#)

**Each term the entire Council body must decide, and elect amongst themselves, who will be the President and Vice President of the Council for the entire term.*

1. Electing the President of the City Council.
 - **Council Member Whiting voted "Yes"** for Elliot Payne for President of the Minneapolis City Council. Council Member Payne was elected with an 8 to 5 vote.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: From Election Day until 10 minutes before the leadership vote, CM Whiting was in conversations with his council colleagues to find a

path forward that would produce a balanced leadership structure. CM Whiting hoped to help bring about Council leadership that included representation from the more moderate and more progressive halves of Council because of the inherent value in a unified City Council that requires collaboration and compromise. While the overall leadership structure was not the outcome CM Whiting most preferred, instead of casting a symbolic vote against Council Member Payne (as he had already secured the 7 votes needed to assume the presidency), CM Whiting wanted to focus his energy on his support of CM Payne, and the continued build out of their positive relationship.

2. Electing the Vice-President of the City Council.

- **Council Action:** CM Chughtai nominated Jamal Osman, Council Member representing Ward 6, for Vice-President of the City Council.
- **Council Action:** CM Whiting nominated Linea Palmisano, Council Member representing Ward 13, for Vice-President of the City Council.

**Council Members are allowed to nominate other Council Members, or themselves, for the position of Vice President. Once all nominations are received, the vote is taken based on the order in which the nominations were received.*

- **Council Member Whiting voted "No"** for Jamal Osman for Vice President. Council Member Osman was elected with a 7 to 6 vote.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: CM Whiting did not vote for CM Osman because he wanted the makeup of City Council leadership to include representation from the both the more moderate and more progressive halves of Council. He nominated Linea Palmisano for Vice President because, as the longest tenured City Council Member who arguably best represents the more moderate half of the Council, he believes her to be a proven, experienced, and thoughtful voice for Minneapolis.

3. Electing the Majority Leader of the City Council.

- Council Member Palmisano motioned to postpone this action. **Council Member Whiting voted "Yes"** to postpone the election of a Majority and Minority Leader. The postponement failed 7 to 6.
- **Council Member Whiting voted "Yes"** for Aisha Chughtai for Majority Leader of the City Council. Council Member Chughtai was elected with an 8 to 5 vote.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: Given that the City Council is a nonpartisan body, Council Member Whiting asked for clarification on how the roles of Majority and Minority Leader would function and would be defined. He expressed concerns over the

creation of these roles given their overly broad definitions, and voted in favor of postponing the election of these roles until their responsibilities were better clarified. When that motion failed, CM Whiting voted for CM Chughtai for this role because he believes that, if these positions are to exist, they should accurately reflect the majority and minority opinions on Council. Under this framework, the position of Majority Leader should be held by a Council Member who best represents this “majority” group, ie, the more progressive half of the Council.

4. Electing the Minority Leader of the City Council.

- **Council Member Whiting voted “No”** for Robin Wonsley for Minority Leader of the City Council. Council Member Wonsley was elected with a 7 to 6 vote.

CM Whiting’s Thoughts on this Vote: CM Whiting did not vote for CM Wonsley for this role because he believes that the position of Minority Leader, if existing, should be held by a Council Member who best represents this “minority” group, ie, the more moderate half of Council.

New Business

1. Succession plan (2026-2029 Term) [\(2026-00003\)](#)

Passage of Resolution establishing lines of succession to the offices of Mayor and Council President for the 2026-2029 Term.

**This is a routine vote as the City Council is required to adopt a plan that establishes lines of succession to the offices of Mayor and Council President, and such plan is to be adopted at the first meeting of the City Council in January of each year following a municipal general election.*

- **Council Member Whiting voted “Yes”** to the established of lines of succession. This resolution passed unanimously 13 to 0.

2. City Council Standing Committees and membership (2026-2029 Term) [\(2026-00004\)](#)

Passage of Resolution designating Standing Committees, including committee membership and leadership, quorums, and dates and times for regular meetings for the 2026-2029 Term.

- **Council Action:** Council Member Vetaw motioned to amend the Committee structure to replace Council Member Pearl Warren with Council Member Elizabeth Shaffer as Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. Council Member Warren supported this change and **Council Member Whiting voted “Yes” on this motion.** The motion to amend passed 11 to 2.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: CM Whiting voted "yes" because CM Warren expressed her desire to be removed from this position and CM Shaffer expressed her desire to replace CM Warren in this position.

- **Council Action:** Council Member Vetaw motioned to amend the Committee structure to replace Council Member Soren Stevenson with Council Member Pearl Warren as Vice President of the Climate and Infrastructure Committee. **Council Member Whiting abstained** from this motion. This motion to amend failed 7 to 5 with 1 abstention.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: Unlike the previous vote to amend the committee structure, the impacted Council Members, Stevenson and Warren, were not in agreement on this leadership change. CM Whiting abstained because he believes contentious committee leadership decisions like this one require group discussion and thoughtful consideration of Council Member experience. CM Whiting was not included in previous conversations surrounding the leadership structure of the Climate and Infrastructure committee. He felt he did not know enough about CM Warren's and CM Stevenson's Climate and Infrastructure priorities to make a determination on whether this leadership swap was in the best interests of the body.

- **Council Member Whiting voted "Yes"** to the adoption of the Committee structure. This amended motion passed 12 to 1.

**This is a procedural vote confirming the establishment of the committees as amended and formed through discussion of the above items.*

3. City Council calendar of regular meetings (2026-2029 Term) ([2026-00005](#))
Passage of Resolution adopting a 2026 calendar of regular meetings for the City Council and its Committees, and directing the City Clerk to publish and post the calendars, in final form, in appropriate places as notice of regular meetings.
 - **Council Member Whiting voted "Yes"** to the adoption of the City Council calendar. The calendar passed unanimously 13 to 0.
3. City Council Rules of Order (2026-2029 Term) ([2026-00006](#))
Passage of Resolution adopting *The Rules of Order of the City Council*; and directing the City Clerk to update the *Rules of Order* to reflect the Council's adopted committee and organizational structure.
 - **Council Member Whiting voted "No"** on the adoption of the Rules of Order. The acceptance of the rules passed 12 to 1.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: CM Whiting voted “no” due to his disapproval of the creation of Majority and Minority Leadership Positions. CM Whiting believes these roles, without clear definitions, promote unnecessary division and confusion on Council.

5. Audit Committee: Council President appointments (2026-2029 Term) [\(2026-00007\)](#)
Receiving and filing appointments by the Council President to the Audit Committee.
 - These appointments were received and filed. No vote necessary.
6. Appointment of Council Members to various boards, commissions, and committees (2026-2029 Term) [\(2026-00008\)](#)
Passage of Resolution appointing Council Members to various boards, commissions, and committees for the 2026-2029 Term.
 - Council President Payne motioned to postpone this action to a future meeting. Council Member Whiting voted "Yes" to postponement. The calendar passed unanimously 13 to 0.

Introduction & Referral Calendar

1. Wages and salaries ordinance [\(2026-00009\)](#)
Motion to introduce the subject matter of an ordinance amending Title 2, Chapter 20 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Administration: Personnel, for first reading and referral to the appropriate committee, regarding wages and salaries of employees.
**This is a routine agenda item conducted at the beginning of each Council term to ensure these items stay open and can be deliberated throughout the course of the full Council term.*
 - Council Member Palmisano motioned to introduce and refer the subject matter to committees. Council Member Whiting voted "Yes" to approve the motion. This The motion passed 13 to 0.
2. Zoning maps ordinance [\(2026-00010\)](#)
Motion to introduce the subject matter of an ordinance amending Title 20, Chapter 530 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Zoning Code: Zoning Districts, for first reading and referral to the appropriate committee, regarding zoning maps.
**This is a routine agenda item conducted at the beginning of each Council term to ensure these items stay open and can be deliberated throughout the course of the full Council term.*
 - Council Vice-President Osman motioned to introduce and refer the subject matter to committees. Council Member Whiting voted "Yes" to approve the motion. This The motion passed 13 to 0.

Announcements

Adjournment