

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 15, 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

Regular Meeting

January 15, 2026 - 2:00 pm

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

Members: Council Members Elliot Payne (President), Jamal Osman (Vice-President), Aisha Chughtai (Majority Leader), Robin Wonsley (Minority Leader), Michael Rainville, LaTrisha Vetaw, Pearll Warren, Elizabeth Shaffer, Soren Stevenson, Jason Chavez, 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 accepted 10 to 2, with 1 absence.
3. Acceptance of minutes
 - Adjourned Meeting of December 9, 2025
 - Regular Meeting of December 11, 2025
 - Adjourned Meeting of December 16, 2025
 - Organizational Meeting of January 5, 2026
 - **Council Member Whiting** "Yes" to accepting the minutes. The minutes were accepted 12 to 0, with 1 absence.
4. Referral of petitions, communications, and reports to the proper Committees.

Notice of Ordinance Introductions

1. Eviction moratorium ordinance (2026-00019)

Wonsley gives notice of intent to introduce at the next regular meeting of the City Council the subject matter of an ordinance amending Title 12, Chapter 244 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Housing: Maintenance Code, authorizing eviction moratoria during states of emergency.

- No discussion or action was required at this time.

**A “notice of ordinance introduction” is a procedural process that ensures the public is aware of the named ordinance proposal that will come before Council at a later date.*

Unfinished Business

1. Humane encampment response ordinance (2024-00113)

Considering Mayor Frey's veto of Ordinance 2025-061 amending Title 11 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Health and Sanitation, adding a new Chapter 237 establishing provisions of a humane encampment response policy.

- **Council Member Whiting “No”** to override Mayor Frey's veto of the humane encampment ordinance. This motion failed 7 to 6, because it required a 2/3 supermajority (9 votes) to override this veto.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: The procedural nature of this vote meant that no discussion could be had, nor any amendments accepted, on the proposed ordinance. The vote was only to sustain or override the Mayor's veto. Given that CM Whiting shares some of his colleague's concerns, both for and against this ordinance, he voted “no,” as no amendments to this ordinance were possible at this stage of the process. CM Whiting agrees that there is an immediate need for necessities – sanitation options, restrooms, storage space, etc. – for our unhoused neighbors and that this ordinance did suggest valuable additions to our public health response. CM Whiting also agrees that encampments are unsafe for both their occupants and the surrounding community. The current closure process seems to serve no one, perpetuating harm against unhoused residents while constantly shifting their impact to new neighborhoods when those encampments inevitably reappear.

Below are some of CM Whiting's larger reservations with this ordinance:

- CM Whiting's first concern is that the ordinance lacks specific language addressing encampment closures for groups of fewer than twenty residents. He worries that, without an amendment, this ordinance could incentivize a policy of rapid and chaotic closures of encampments to ensure the required threshold of twenty residents is not reached.
- Second, this ordinance fails to address concerns raised by the City Attorney's Office about what the City should or could do when a twenty person encampment is created on private, no-trespassing City property, or near sensitive locations like schools and heavily trafficked parks. Without an amendment, CM Whiting is unsure how this ordinance would affect the City's obligation to provide the requisite services on certain property.
- Finally, this ordinance has the potential to incentivize the creation of larger encampments. Understanding that the City would be required to provide services when an encampment reaches twenty residents, CM Whiting questions whether larger encampments could become more common.

Given the reasons above, CM Whiting believes this ordinance should return to the drawing board so that the new Council can address these concerns and ensure we are best supporting our unhoused neighbors. CM Whiting is committed to finding the next steps forward on this issue and is encouraged by previous council discussions around "Safe Outdoor Spaces." He hopes to continue those conversations this term.

New Business

1. Public Health Infrastructure Grant for supporting foundational capabilities of public health (2026-00011)

**The following votes regarding agenda items #1-#7 concern the routine acceptance of grants for certain City departments and the approval of salary schedules for two representations of employees.*

- Accepting the Public Health Infrastructure grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the amount of \$673,769, for the period December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2026, to support foundational capabilities of public health. (9 votes required)

- Authorizing an agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the grant, to be executed in accordance with Resolution 2025R-112 related to federally-funded grants.
- Passage of Resolution approving appropriation of funds to the Health Department.

Early signature by Mayor requested

- **Council Member Whiting** “Yes” to this motion. This motion passed unanimously 13 to 0.

2. Strong Foundations grant for implementation of evidence-based Family Home Visiting services (2026-00012)

- Accepting a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health, in the amount of \$2,627,302 for the project period from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, to support evidence-based Family Home Visiting services. (9 votes required)
- Passage of Resolution approving appropriation of funds to the Health Department.

Early signature by Mayor requested

- **Council Member Whiting** “Yes” to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

3. Grant application to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for Municipal Infiltration/Inflow reduction (2026-00013)

Authorizing the submittal of a grant application to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Municipal Infiltration/Inflow Grant Program, for an amount of \$50,000 plus an additional sum to be determined upon program conclusion, for reimbursement of expenses for cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining, repairs of existing sewers and improvements to eliminate inflow and infiltration that have taken place between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2027.

Early signature by Mayor requested

- **Council Member Whiting** “Yes” to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

4. Grant application to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for Municipal Infiltration/Inflow River Grant Program (2026-00015)

Authorizing the submittal of a grant application to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Municipal Infiltration/Inflow River Grant Program for an amount of \$1,000,000 for reimbursement of expenses for cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, repairs of existing sewers, and improvements to eliminate inflow and infiltration that have taken place between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2027.

Early signature by Mayor requested

- **Council Member Whiting** "Yes" to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

5. Federal grant extension through the State of Minnesota, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management for bomb detection equipment and training (2026-00014)
 - Accepting a federal grant extension through the State of Minnesota, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management, for December 31, 2025, to April 30, 2026, for purchasing bomb detection equipment and training. (9 votes required)
 - Authorizing an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management for the grant, to be executed in accordance with Resolution 2025R-112 related to federally-funded grants.

Early signature by Mayor requested

- **Council Member Whiting** "Yes" to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

6. 2026 Non-Represented employee salary schedule (2026-00016)

Approving an increase to the salary and wage schedules, including longevity, by 4% for all classified jobs in the Non-Represented employee group, effective with the payroll period beginning January 4, 2026; and authorizing step progression, subject to satisfactory or better performance.

Early signature by Mayor requested

- **Council Member Whiting** "Yes" to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

7. 2026 Politically Appointed employee salary schedule (2026-00017)

Approving an increase to the salary and wage schedules, including longevity, by 2.5% for all unclassified jobs in the Politically Appointed employee group, effective with the payroll period beginning Jan 4, 2026; and authorizing step progression, subject to satisfactory or better performance.

Early signature by Mayor requested

- **Council Member Whiting** “Yes” to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

8. Statewide eviction moratorium (2026-00018)

- Receiving and filing public comment related to the eviction moratorium to prohibit the removal of residents from their homes.
- Passage of Resolution calling on the State of Minnesota and Governor Walz to enact an eviction moratorium.
 - **Council Member Whiting** “Yes” to the reconsideration of the agenda to remove public comment. This motion failed 7 to 6.
 - **Council Member Whiting** put forward an amendment to this resolution that was accepted without vote by its author, CM Robin Wonsley.
 - **Council Member Whiting** “Yes” to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

CM Whiting's Thoughts on this Vote: Considering Minneapolis is living through terrifying and unprecedented times, and our City is experiencing a massive federal occupation targeting our most vulnerable residents, CM Whiting believes we must do everything we can to protect our residents – to include asking Governor Walz to consider an eviction moratorium. The City of Minneapolis cannot unilaterally declare an eviction moratorium, only the Governor has the authority to do that. While CM Whiting does not believe an eviction moratorium is a perfect remedy, nor the best remedy, he does believe it is a tool that has the potential to quickly alleviate some of the harm our immigrant neighbors are feeling.

Given the valid concerns regarding the harmful downstream effects the COVID-19 eviction moratorium had on a wide array of interests within the City and on its most vulnerable residents, CM Whiting introduced an amendment to add two essential edits to the resolution language. First, the new language tied the length of any enacted moratorium to the duration of the deployment of Federal immigration enforcement agents, and second, it requested Governor Walz ensure the long-term stability of all housing providers by providing emergency rental assistance to residents most vulnerable to attacks by the federal government, prioritizing those residents living in mission-driven nonprofit affordable housing properties. These amendments were approved unanimously by the full Council.

The political likelihood of Governor Walz enacting an eviction moratorium is low, and CM Whiting believes most of the Council's time should be spent ensuring there are ample resources available to provide emergency rental and mutual aid assistance to those who need it. He believes this to be a better, more immediate way to help reduce harm to our neighbors, and the City of Minneapolis, alongside philanthropic partners, are in active communication on how best to provide those resources as fast as we can. CM Whiting has urged his colleagues to join him in this action over the coming days and weeks.

Closed Session

1. Litigation mater of State of Minnesota, et al. v. Noem, et al. (2026-00026)
Receiving a briefing on the litigation mater of State of Minnesota, et al. v. Noem, et al.
26-cv-00190
 - **Council Member Whiting "Yes"** to this motion to hold a closed meeting. This motion passed 12 to 0, with 1 absence.

Addendum

1. Operation Metro Surge (2026-00047)
Passage of Resolution condemning the egregious disregard of constitutional rights and the reprehensible, unsanctioned commission of violent acts against the Minneapolis community during Operation Metro Surge.
 - **Council Member Whiting "Yes"** to this motion. This motion passed 13 to 0.

Announcements

Adjournment

Next meeting: Jan 22, 2026