

MINUTES

City of Mankato Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and Mankato City Council (Council)



July 28, 2026
6pm
Council Chambers

Present: PSAC Members Chelsea Hintz, Curtis Peters, Bryan Schneider, Lynn Butcher, Jessica McLaughlin, Matthew Loeslie and Heather Callens; Mayor Najwa Massad; City Council Members Mike Laven, Michael McLaughlin, Dennis Dieken, Kevin Mettler and Jessica Hatanpa; Public Safety Staff, Director Jeremy Clifton, Deputy Police Chief Chris Baukol, Administrative Assistant Jamie Goodrich; City Manager Susan Arntz; and City Attorney Pam Whitmore.

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Agenda Approved:

Meeting agenda for the **July 28, 2026**, PSAC meeting was provided.

Meeting Minutes Approved:

Meeting minutes for the **June 2, 2026**, PSAC meeting were tabled until the next PSAC meeting.

Joint Public Safety Advisory Committee and City Council:

Welcome and Introductions: Director Clifton welcomed the meeting participants and introductions were made.

Overview: City Manager Arntz provided an overview of how the PSAC can be utilized by the Council. Director Clifton provided history of the PSAC.

Understanding Roles and Responsibilities: City Manager Arntz indicated the Council is looking to the PSAC as an advisory to the Council, to review matters brought before the PSAC and for the PSAC to provide recommendations to the Council on Public Safety matters.

Focus Topic: The continuation of the City's emergency ordinance regulating law enforcement activity of agencies in Mankato, which was originally enacted in February 2026 due to federal immigration enforcement activities in the City, was discussed. The emergency ordinance is set to expire in August 2026.

Attorney Whitmore provided background of the emergency ordinance and discussed how the ordinance, as written, opens the City up for litigation by the Department of Justice. Attorney

Whitmore reported that since February 2026, additional court decisions have provided further guidance on local authority. In July, in court hearing *United States vs. Philadelphia*, the 3rd District Court found that because of the Supremacy Clause, local and state governments do not have authority to dictate or interfere with how federal officers conduct their business. These court decisions do not create authoritative law in Minnesota, but given the similarity, the City should take the decisions into account and continue to monitor further court decisions.

City Manager Arntz discussed the possibility of strengthening and revising the emergency ordinance to make it enforceable. Director Clifton discussed that Public Safety Policy 414 is already in place and does not allow Mankato Police to assist federal agents or allow federal agents to utilize the City's facilities to conduct immigration enforcement activities. This policy, as well as additional Public Safety policies, are publicly published on the City's website.

Attorney Whitmore provided clarification as to policy vs ordinance. Ordinances are formal, requiring a vote and Council adoption. At any time, a citizen may come to the Council requesting an emergency ordinance be enacted.

A common concern of the PSAC and the Council is public trust. Discussion surrounded ways to improve and build the public's trust, including suggesting an ordinance highlighting items of public concern and modification to Public Safety Policy 414. Information was shared that Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement has conducted activity in the city for several months. City Manager Arntz remarked that this will be problematic due to laws that provide restrictions on Policy 414. It is not practical to highlight all the laws that guide Policy 414. Director Clifton added that in addition to law, the Minnesota Police Officer Standards and Training direct reform in policing policies.

Identify Next Steps: Attorney Whitmore will continue to monitor legislature surrounding this topic and provide recommendations to City staff and Council, as needed.

City Manager Arntz will bring this matter before the Council on August 10, 2026, providing an update, incorporating the nature of the emergency ordinance, summarizing this July 28, 2026, meeting, and providing a Resolution on policy or legislative changes.

On August 11, 2026, City Manager Arntz will be a guest on "Talk of the Town" and discuss the August 10, 2026, Council meeting.

The PSAC will review Public Safety Policy 414 at the September 22, 2026, meeting, and provide a recommendation of any revisions to the Council.

Closing: Due to the City's existing policies and also given the recent court decisions and high possibility of the Department of Justice seeking litigation, Attorney Whitmore recommends allowing the emergency ordinance to expire and not consider it for permanent adoption.

Next Meeting Date:

September 22, 2026

Meeting adjourned at **7:50 p.m.**