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Date: 10/28/2025 3:52:17 PM
Subject: City councilor's Facebook post rankles Hermantown city official

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The Minnesota Star Tribune



News about Duluth/Superior,
the North Shore and the Iron Range

Good morning, Duluth. Man, has air ever felt more crisp? Excuse me while I go stand on my porch and take several deep breaths.

[Check out this treat from Bryan Clapper](#), a Twin Cities real estate agent who has grown a decent-sized audience with his funny videos about various Minnesota cities. Here he does Duluth, which he describes as the state's "spiritual center." (He also says we offer a "pee break" for people traveling to the North Shore and makes a dig about Superior, as one does.) Clapper gets extra kudos for mentioning [Bea Ojakangas](#) and for not saying that we [once had more millionaires per capita than any other city in the country](#). Anyway, the video will charm the heck out of you because, as we all know, Duluth loves Duluth.

The Duluth Entertainment Convention Center announced Tuesday morning that [Amsoil Arena will be the site of a pre-tournament series](#) for the IIHF World Juniors Hockey tournament. There will be games Dec. 19-23 between Finland and Germany, USA and Germany and USA and Finland.

Have a great day!

— Christa Lawler, Duluth reporter



Researchers with the Voyageurs Wolf Project fit a GPS collar on a wolf in 2023. Mild winters and scarce deer have likely taken a toll on gray wolf populations. (Anthony Soufflé/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Gray wolf numbers fall to their lowest level in a decade in far northern Minnesota

The Voyageurs Wolf Project estimated a 20% decline in wolf numbers this year, likely because of mild winters and fewer deer.

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DULUTH

City councilor's Facebook post rankles Hermantown city official



The Minnesota Star Tribune

The economic development director of Hermantown (who held the same role in Duluth a year ago) asked the Duluth City Council last night to censure Councilor Wendy Durrwachter for comments she made about Hermantown's proposed data center.

In his address to the council, Chad Ronchetti quoted something the city councilor wrote on Facebook recently. "I think it's important right now for at least one Duluth elected official to call out the actions of Chad Ronchetti," she wrote. She alleged that he "screwed Duluth over" with the failed Incline Village project. She accused him of doing the same in Hermantown.

Ronchetti said Durrwachter "attacked" his professional reputation and made "baseless and false accusations" against him, violating civility codes.

Durrwachter said Tuesday morning that nothing she wrote was illegal, especially because Ronchetti is a public leader. Asked whether she thought it was uncivil, she said, "I think it's uncivil to plan an AI data center or anything without the public's knowledge."

The council did not address his request, but state DFL Sen. Jen McEwen took to the comments section of the Duluth Monitor's Facebook page to protest his request.

"I take real offense to a power broker like Chad Ronchetti having the gall to come after my city councilor like this. He must really think he's something to dig in on his bad acts and go all in on a Trump-style offensive — aggressively attacking instead of taking responsibility."

The City Council on Monday also approved a land-use study for the Lester Park Golf Course property and tabled a decision on a year-long moratorium for short-term rental units, including Airbnbs. The reason behind the pause, Councilor Lynn Nephew said, is that a decision last night would have hindered a project that was close to the application stage.

Durrwachter requested the tabling.

— Jana Hollingsworth, Duluth reporter

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13 horror-esque movies to catch before Halloween, including 'Hocus Pocus' at Zinema 2

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