



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Zeeland Honors the Life and Legacy of City Manager Tim Klunder

It is with profound sadness that the City of Zeeland announces the passing of City Manager Tim Klunder, who faithfully served the City for 25 years.

Klunder passed away early Monday morning following a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout his quarter century of service, he led Zeeland with humility, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to public service, leaving an immeasurable mark on the City and the people he loved.

As City Manager since 2001, Klunder helped guide Zeeland through decades of thoughtful growth and meaningful investment. Under his leadership, the City strengthened its neighborhoods, enhanced its parks and public spaces, revitalized its downtown, expanded public safety services, invested in critical infrastructure, and remained committed to providing the high level of service residents have come to expect. While those accomplishments helped shape Zeeland's future, those who worked alongside Tim knew that his greatest legacy was the way he led—quietly, with integrity, compassion, and a genuine belief that local government exists to serve others.

"Twenty-five years is a remarkable career, but Tim's legacy cannot be measured by years alone," said Mayor Richard VanDorp III. "He led with humility, treated every person with dignity, and cared deeply about this City and the people who call it home. Zeeland is stronger because of his leadership, and generations to come will benefit from the foundation he helped build. We will miss him greatly."

(more)

While Tim's accomplishments can be seen throughout Zeeland, those who knew him best will remember him not only for what he accomplished, but for the kindness, humility, and integrity with which he served.

Klunder's influence extended far beyond City Hall. He was a trusted mentor to employees, a respected partner throughout the region and state, and a steady source of encouragement and wisdom for those fortunate enough to know him. His leadership was never motivated by recognition, but by a sincere desire to serve City Council, support the City team he led, and leave Zeeland better than he found it.

In remembrance of Tim's extraordinary service, Mayor Richard VanDorp III has ordered City flags to be flown at half-staff from Tuesday evening, July 28, 2026, through Friday evening, July 31, 2026.

Celebration of Life arrangements are being made with Yntema Funeral Home. Additional information will be available at <https://www.langelandsterenberg.com/>.

The City of Zeeland extends its deepest condolences to Tim's wife, children, grandchildren, extended family, and all whose lives were touched by his extraordinary example. Tim's legacy will continue to live on in the City he so faithfully served and in the countless lives he touched.

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