

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday November 10, 2025

7:00 p.m. Hayward Community Hall

Mayor Anthony Cox called the regular meeting of the Hayward City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2025.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor: Anthony Cox

Councilors: Darwin Dolph, Gene Flaskerud, Derek Lerum, Mark Bangert

STAFF PRESENT:

City Clerk/Treasurer: Kathy Aase; Operations Director: Travis Reichl

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Flaskerud motioned to approve the November 10, 2025, Hayward City Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the October 14, 2025, Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

In Fire Chief Eric Knutson's absence there were no fire department updates.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Four residents of Hayward were present at the meeting. Michael Hansen, serving as the Blazing Star Trail Representative, reported that the trail has now been completed up to Hayward, noting this as a significant accomplishment for the community. In his capacity as President of the Hayward Booster Club, Mr. Hansen informed the council that the Booster Club is finalizing matters with its attorney and intends to transfer its responsibilities to the city. He further recommended that the remaining funds, following the Booster Club Apartment clean-up and the transfer to the city for green space, as well as the demolition and clean-up of the former Hayward school site designated for beautification, park, and playground purposes, be placed in an interest-bearing account, such as Alerus Financial at 4-percent.

Residents Mark and Joane Becker requested to build a 70' x 170' cold storage shed on their property. Becker stated the building will not be visible from the road. Council stated the project will be approved; however, Becker will need to complete the fence on his property on 810th Avenue, north of Lou Rich, which was started but never finished. Councilor Flaskerud presented the motion to

approve the building of the 70' x 170' cold storage shed on his home property with the condition he cleans up the fence on his property located along 810th Avenue, north of Lou Rich. Councilor Dolph seconded. Councilor Bangert approved and Councilor Lerum was absent during this vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Clerk Aase reported that she had spoken with Hayward Fire Chief Eric Knutson and Freeborn County Building Official Ross Leonhardi regarding the possibility of scheduling a walk-through of the building located at 100 Front Street in Hayward. The Council expressed concern that the structure may pose a fire hazard and noted that the roofing, siding, fascia, and related components are in need of repair. Chief Knutson advised that the Hayward Fire Department is not licensed to conduct walk-through inspections, and Mr. Leonhardi stated that such inspections cannot be performed without the property owner's consent.

The City Council subsequently directed Clerk Aase to issue a second letter to the building's owner, citing that siding is detaching, both the roof and siding require repair, and the metal fascia is deteriorated and must be replaced.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Travis Reichl, Director of Public Works, reported that funding is anticipated to be available on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. At that time, the city will learn whether it qualifies for assistance related to the proposed treatment facility and well, and, if eligible, the percentage of grant funding that Hayward may receive.

The Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) provides financial assistance to communities for the construction and improvement of drinking water storage, treatment, and distribution systems in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The program is jointly administered by the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Department of Health, offering below-market loans to support the upgrade and development of public drinking water systems.

- Reichl will request ISG Engineering to investigate potential grants for addressing Emerald Ash Borer.
- METCO has completed drilling at the school property where the former fuel oil tank had been located prior to its removal.
- Reichl confirmed that all discharging activities for the year have been completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Freeborn County Commissioner Dawn Kaasa visited to commend the City and Booster Club for their successful efforts in removing the old school building and enhancing the appearance of the site. Commissioner Kaasa further noted that grant funding for park equipment may be available through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). Discussion also took place, and concerns were voiced regarding Freeborn County's preliminary tax levy of 15%.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Flaskerud reported that a junk and/or unlicensed vehicle has been parked at 104 East 2nd Street, and that a non-current licensed vehicle along with accumulated garbage/debris is located at 117 East Front Street. The Council directed Clerk Aase to issue letters to the respective residents regarding these matters. Mayor Cox and Councilors Dolph, Lerum, and Bangert had no further reports.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Bill(s) exceeding \$500 for Council approval:

- A bill in the amount of \$2802.28 payable to METCO for old school boring.
- A bill in the amount of \$592.31 payable to Hayward Township for dust control.
- A bill in the amount of \$1017.06 payable to Ulland Bros. for street repair.

Councilor Dolph motioned to pay the above-stated bills each exceeding \$500. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. The motion was approved.

Councilor Bangert motioned to approve the October 14, 2025, Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and YTD Budget vs. Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion was approved.

Council scheduled the second 2026 budget workshop for November 25, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the community hall.

Councilor Dolph motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion was approved. Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer