

## City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2026

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, April 20, 2026, at the Hayward Community Hall. The meeting was rescheduled from April 13, 2026, due to inclement weather.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Anthony Cox; Councilors Darwin Dolph, Gene Flaskerud, Derek Lerum, and Mark Bangert

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Aase and Operations Director Travis Reichl

### **The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Councilor Dolph moved to approve the April 20, 2026, Council meeting agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded the motion, and it carried.

Councilor Lerum moved to approve the March 9, 2026, Council meeting minutes. Councilor Flaskerud seconded the motion, and it carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** In the absence of Fire Chief Eric Knutson, no fire department report was provided for April. Operations Director Reichl reported that the Fire Department will receive a Crystal Valley Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the purchase of a thermal infrared imager.

Mayor Cox reminded the Council that the funeral for former Mayor Michael Hanson will be held at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Austin, MN. Visitation will be held from 9:00–10:00 a.m., with Mass to follow at 10:00 a.m. The city will send flowers.

**COMMUNITY FORUM:** Mike Petersen, Heartman Insurance (Albert Lea), presented information regarding the City's 2026 property/casualty and workers' compensation insurance renewals.

Petersen reported that the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust anticipates a 4.29% premium reduction for workers' compensation coverage in 2026.

County Commissioner Kaasa reported that an informational meeting was held on April 14, 2026, regarding Freeborn County Ditch No. 32. Kaasa had planned to attend the originally scheduled April 13 Hayward City Council meeting; however, it was postponed due to inclement weather. Council members and/or staff may contact Mark Behrends, Robert Hansen, or Wesley Dahl with questions. The cost of repair and improvements to the ditch will be divided between the City of Hayward, Hayward Township, and other affected parties. The City of Hayward's share is estimated at \$20,672. The project is anticipated to begin in 2027.

Kaasa also reported that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is seeking land in southeastern Minnesota for battery energy storage projects. The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners opposed construction of an energy storage facility near the Shell Rock River, citing concerns regarding potential human and environmental impacts.

Leah Palomo and her father, Jeff Ravenhorst, requested authorization to construct a 6-foot fence at 210 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Ravenhorst stated the fence will be constructed of quality wood and maintained in good condition. Following Council approval, they were directed to complete and submit a construction authorization form to the City.

An anonymous complaint was received alleging that the tenant at 104 E. 2nd Street is transporting tree brush and other rough debris, including stumps, onto the property from locations other than the residence. It was further reported that the tenant intends to cut and sell the material as firewood, and that the brush, stumps, and related material may be hauled from Staceyville, Iowa.

The Council directed Clerk Aase to research whether such brush is required to be burned at the location where it is cut and whether the described activity is lawful. The Council also expressed concern that transporting this material could contribute to the spread of Emerald Ash Borer.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** ISG Engineer Kyle Renneke attended the meeting to address questions regarding plans and specifications and the advertisement for bids for the proposed water treatment facility and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street watermain improvements project.

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2026-13**, a Resolution Approving Plans & Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids for the proposed Hayward Water Treatment Facility. Councilor Flaskerud seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Lerum introduced **Resolution 2026-14**, a Resolution Approving Plans & Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids for the proposed Hayward 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Watermain Improvements (2<sup>nd</sup> Street from 810<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Armstrong Street; Armstrong Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Front Street; and Front Street from Armstrong Street to approximately 250 feet east). Councilor Dolph seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**OPERATIONS UPDATE:** ISG Engineer and Operations Director Travis Reichl reported that, beginning next year, cities will be required to identify the material of any water service lines currently listed as “unidentified” based on prior service line surveys completed by residents and businesses.

Reichl further reported that the State of Minnesota is offering a pilot program with grant funding to assist cities in inspecting pipes. The Council expressed interest in being considered for the pilot program, and all members concurred.

Reichl also reported the following:

- Obtain estimates from Central Tanks for water tower cleaning.
- Continue discharging at the ponds, as needed.
- Continue hydrant flushing.
- Anticipate delivery of the new lawn tractor/mower in May.

- Mason Rafdahl remains interested in purchasing a lot in Hayward and inquired regarding required plans prior to a sale.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Clerk Aase requested that the Council consider an increase in pay for the Document Retention/Destruction position. By consensus, the Council approved increasing the position's hourly rate to \$15 for 33 hours per year.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:** Councilor Bangert recommended that Council members' phone numbers and email addresses be included in the Summer Quarterly Newsletter and posted on the city website.

Councilor Flaskerud noted that asphalt repairs are needed on Main Street. Reichl indicated he will arrange for the repairs. Councilor Flaskerud also requested that evergreens and shade trees be planted at the park, with funding to be provided from the Park/Beautification Fund.

Councilor Lerum inquired why the speed sign south of town has not yet been repaired. Reichl stated he approved the repair last year but received no further communication after the County initially contacted him.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Bills exceeding \$500 were presented for Council approval and payment:

\$3,463.86 payable to the Freeborn County Auditor/Treasurer's Office for first-half property taxes.

\$962 payable to Knutson Oil for oil delivery.

\$827 payable to the Albert Lea Tribune for ads for bids on projects.

\$1,360 payable to METCO for tank removal at the old school property.

\$31,302.30 payable to ISG for engineering services.

Councilor Bangert moved to approve payment of bills exceeding \$500. Councilor Dolph seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Lerum moved to approve the APRIL 2026 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and YTD Budget vs. Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Bangert seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Dolph moved to adjourn. Councilor Bangert seconded the motion, and it carried.

There being no further business, Mayor Cox declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Aase  
City Clerk/Treasurer