

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday February 9, 2026

7:00 p.m. Hayward Community Hall

Mayor Anthony Cox called the regular meeting of the Hayward City Council to order at 7 p.m. on Monday February 9, 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 Dolph motioned to approve February 9, 2026, Hayward City Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve the January 12, 2026, Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Fire Chief Eric Knutson presented January's activity report. He explained that the Hayward Fire Department responded to a large, shed fire that required support from several neighboring departments. From that incident, the department identified a need for additional specialized equipment, including a larger nozzle, a charger for the thermal imager, pike poles, and replacing the current cribbing with plastic composite.

Knutson also noted that the tires on the old pumper truck were purchased in 2011–2012. The department will be seeking state bids to obtain quotes for new tires. In addition, the back axle on the tanker truck is original and approximately twenty years old.

During January, the Hayward Fire/Rescue Department responded to three car accidents, one medical emergency, one car fire, and assisted with one mutual-aid incident.

Knutson reported that the next department meeting will follow a fire engine training on Wednesday, February 11. He also noted that CPR training will be held after the 6 p.m. meeting on March 11. Advance notice is required for attendance.

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2026-5**, approving the appointment of Hayward Fire Department and Fire Relief Association Officers. Councilor Lerum seconded the motion. Resolution 2026-5 passed unanimously.

Councilor Bangert introduced **Resolution 2026-6**, accepting a \$200 donation from Lodge Zare Zapadu #44 (Z.C.B.J.) – Bohemian Brick Hall - for the Hayward Fire Department, to be used for equipment and tires. Councilor Dolph seconded the motion. Resolution 2026-5 passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY FORUM: Martha Jones-Sichko from Hollandale asked if she could speak about senior health care, or lack thereof, in our rural communities. Jones-Sichko stated she is not political. She is issue-driven, and her passion is working for better health care for senior citizens. She commented on her disappointment with the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners and their lack of empathy toward this issue. Jones-Sichko encouraged folks to consider running for public office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ISG Engineer Kyle Renneke attended the meeting to answer any questions the Council may have regarding the MIDI loan process and the Temporary General Obligation Water Revenue Note.

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2026-7**, authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of the \$459,000 Temporary General Obligation Water Revenue Note, Series 2026A. Councilor Flaskerud seconded the motion. Resolution 2026-7 passed unanimously.

OPERATIONS UPDATE: Operations Director Travis Reichl reported

- The former owner of Albert Lea Fire and Safety has sold the business, and its headquarters will now be located in Owatonna. He also noted that he received a service quote from Brooks Safety Equipment of Albert Lea, operated by Al Brooks, for annual fire-extinguisher inspection and maintenance. The Council agreed that it is important to keep the service local; therefore, Hayward will do business with Brooks Safety Equipment.
- He reviewed a contract proposal from Wigham Trucking for street sweeping, totaling \$900. The Council chose to postpone the decision, and the item will be revisited at the March meeting.
- He noted that chip sealing is on hold for now, as the engineers may be digging up 2nd Street and completing the work beforehand would provide little benefit.
- He also reported that he will be attending the annual MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference, scheduled for March 3–5 in St. Cloud.

NEW BUSINESS: Regarding the (former) Booster Club park and city beautification funds, Clerk Aase reported on the findings for the highest CD interest rates, noting that Edward Jones offered the most competitive options. She also noted that the risk may be slightly higher when placing the City's funds with an investment firm rather than a traditional bank.

The Council discussed whether savings funds could also be invested through Edward Jones. Clerk Aase stated she was unsure and would need to consult the League of Minnesota Cities and/or the City's auditor. The Council requested that she research whether a municipality is permitted to place its capital-expenditure savings with an investment firm, specifically Edward Jones.

The Council did vote to transfer the funds from its bank to Edward Jones in Albert Lea. Councilor Dolph introduced Resolution 2026-8, approving the placement of \$200,000 into a one-year CD with Edward Jones, \$200,000 into a nine-month CD, and the remaining \$72,240.18 into a money market account. Councilor Flaskerud seconded the motion. Resolution 2026-8 passed unanimously.

APPROVED 3/9/2026

Clerk Aase informed the Council that Hayward's City Attorney has moved to a new law firm, Kennedy & Graven Chartered in Minneapolis. The firm specializes in municipal law and works with cities, townships, and school districts. Our attorney has agreed to maintain the City's current contract. Councilor Dolph motioned to retain the City's current attorney, Greta Bjerkness. Councilor Lerum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilor Bangert and Travis Reichl rescued a dog that had run away during 20-below-zero weather and safely returned it to its owner.

Council directed Clerk Aase to send a letter to the owner of 202 Main Street stating that the gas cans must be removed from outside and stored in the garage.

The council approved the purchase of a John Deere 1585 lawn mower, with a cab unit to replace the current 1570 model. The lowest quote was received from Kibble Equipment at \$45,820, with a trade-in value of \$14,050 for the 1570 tractor. Council chose to fund the purchase using \$21,000 from the park funds previously donated by the former Booster Club, and with the remaining \$10,770 coming from capital expenditure reserves.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Bill(s), exceeding \$500, for council's approval and payment:

\$500 payable to the League of Minnesota Cities for annual membership dues.

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve paying the aforementioned bill(s) exceeding \$500. Councilor Bangert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the month of January 2026 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and the YTD Budget vs Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Dolph motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. The motion carried.

Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Aase
City Clerk/Treasurer