APPROVED OCTOBER 14, 2026

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 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 September 14, 2026, at the Hayward Community Hall.

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.

Council Dolph moved to approve the Sept 14, 2026, agenda; seconded by Councilor Bangert. The motion carried.

Councilor Lerum moved to approve the August 10, 2026, meeting minutes; seconded by Councilor Dolph. The motion carried.

Fire Department Updates: Fire Chief Eric Knutson reported the following call activity for August: one hazmat CO2 call, three medical calls, and one vehicle incident.

Three Hayward Fire Department volunteers attended the funeral of Joshua Cornelius of Hollandale, Minnesota, who served with the Hollandale Fire Department and was killed in a motorcycle crash near Sturgis, South Dakota, on August 10, 2026. The Hayward Fire Department also brought two fire trucks in his honor. Hayward and Hollandale occasionally partner on emergency responses together.

Chief Erickson reported the department still expects $9,500 in grant funding toward the purchase of the spreader. The department needs $22,000 for the 32" spreader. Arcadian Bank presented the Hayward Fire Department with a $1,000 donation. It was determined that the grant funds will be applied to the extrication equipment. Councilor Bangert moved to approve Resolution

2026-21; Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Department members received extrication equipment ("Jaws") training from Genesis Rescue Systems Specialist Brent Soland in Rochester, Minnesota. The City may submit the training expense to the Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education for full reimbursement.

The Family Picnic sponsored by the Hayward Fire Department went well this year.

Commissioner Dawn Kaasa reported that grant funding is available for street and road repair. She noted that, if interested, the City may apply through Freeborn County Engineer Phil Walcolz. Kaasa encouraged the City to reapply even if previous applications were not successful.

Operations Update: Operations Director Travis Reichl provided the monthly operations update. Reichl stated there will be no patching on Main Street due to the time of the year.

service connections for each residence. In October, crews will move to the far west portion of the project to begin storm sewer work.

As noted earlier, the team will again bore beneath Highway 26 rather than trench through it, per Freeborn County's direction.

Regarding funding from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA), there are just a couple more questions the engineers would like answered. Engineers will be meeting regarding the Second Street Project. We should hear more at the October meeting. The water plant is a different grant; we are still waiting to hear the final percentage/dollar amount that will be provided to the city.

New Business: The City Council chose to delay proposing any water rate increase until additional supporting information is available to determine the amount that may be required. Council also discussed the possibility of using funds from the City's CDs to help offset customer water and sewer payments. Further discussion was held regarding whether the City could legally use funds endowed by the former Hayward Booster Club for this purpose. It was discussed the endowed funds were donated with a specific purpose and legal documents expressly state the money may not be used for issues pertaining to water and sewer infrastructure. Clerk Aase was tasked with obtaining a copy of said legal documents for next month's meeting.

Two two-year farmland lease agreements were presented by Cazzi Wacholz for the Council's review. Councilor Dolph moved to approve the leases, and Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The leases cover 34 acres in the north half of the northwest corner of Section 8 and Freeborn County Tract 2282, 17 acres on the southern portion of Tract 2282 near the City Water Treatment Facility, 5 acres west of the Hayward Cemetery, and 8 acres along the east edge of the Hayward City Limits.

Per the request from Cathy Malakowsky, City of Albert Lea's Engagement and Enrichment Director, the Hayward City Council approved a resolution requesting that the DNR complete the remaining one-half mile of gravel on the Blazing Star Bike Trail, as originally promised by the State of Minnesota. Council emphasized the importance of finishing this segment before additional trail projects are started. The project was first authorized in 1996, with initial funding provided in 1998, and it is now nearly 2027. The remaining half-mile still needs to be paved.

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve passing a Resolution 2026-20, imploring the DNR complete the Blazing Star Trail, a process that began nearly 30 years ago. Councilor Dolph seconded and Resolution 2026-20 passed unanimously.

Council Reports: Council asked Clerk Aase to research whether a camper parked in an alley on the edge of city property can be occupied by tenants, even temporarily.

The were no further council reports.

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Financial Reports: Council reviewed the following bills over $500:

- $1125.30 to Knutson Oil for fuel across several classes

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve payment of the afore stated bill exceeding $500. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the August Financial Reports, including the Deposit Detail, Year to date Balance Sheet, Budget vs Actual, and Check Detail. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Bangert moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer