

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday December 8, 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, December 10, 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 Lerum motioned to approve December 8, 2025, Hayward City Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve November 10, 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. Councilor Flaskerud introduced **Resolution 2025-23**, accepting a donation in the amount of \$6800 from the Hayward Fire Relief Association to be placed in the Fire Department's General Fund, to be used as needed. Councilor Lerum seconded. Resolution 2025-23 passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Five Hayward residents and two guest speakers attended the meeting. Resident, Mike Truesdell, asked permission to install underground invisible fencing in the spring. Council approved Truesdell's request.

Residents Mark and Joan Becker requested to build a 60' x 200' cold storage shed instead of the 70' x 170' cold storage shed he had originally intended on building on his residential property. It would still be 35 feet from adjacent property lines. Beckers were also wondering about a conditional use permit. Mayor Cox stated that the City would need to consult with the City Attorney.

Resident LouJean Ingham informed Mark Becker that she experienced breathing difficulties after black smoke from items he burned drifted toward her property. She stated that the wind carried the smoke in her direction and caused her to struggle with breathing. The Council instructed Becker that any such burning requires prior approval and no one should burn on windy days as it's a safety hazard.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hayward Booster Club Treasurer, Bonnie Felt, informed the Council that the Club's CD will mature on December 19, 2025. The Club also maintains a checking account. On or before that date, all remaining funds must be transferred to the City of Hayward. Felt noted that once taxes are filed in April 2026, the Booster Club will be formally dissolved.

It was stated that Mayor Cox, Clerk Aase, Bonnie Felt, and Booster Club President Michael Hansen will be required to sign the legal documents prepared by the Club's attorney, Donald Savelkoul, and complete the transfer of funds into a CD at an FDIC-insured bank. Felt agreed to contact Alerus regarding potential interest rates if the funds were to remain there, and Clerk Aase will inquire with additional banks.

Following discussion, it was determined that opening a new account would be in the best interest of all parties, allowing the Booster Club representatives and attorney to make a clean and straightforward transition. It was reiterated that these funds must be used exclusively for beautification of the City of Hayward and improvements to the city park and its playground equipment.

Felt also recommended that the City establish a resident committee to oversee the expenditure of these funds. Council agreed.

Engineers Kyle Renneke and Brian Hiles of ISG attended the meeting to review the City's position on moving forward with some potential infrastructure improvements on Second Street, Armstrong Street, and the development of a new water filtration facility.

For several years, the City Council has emphasized the need to carefully evaluate major utility upgrades to ensure responsible use of public funds. With strict deadlines from state agencies and potential funding partners looming, the Council unanimously approved signing a compliance agreement authorizing ISG to begin preliminary work. Advancement beyond these initial tasks will depend on available funding.

The proposed project includes watermain replacement, upgraded water services, and full street reconstruction on Second Street (from 810th Avenue to Armstrong Street) and on Armstrong Street (from Front Street to Second Street). Additional work involves replacing water services on the west side of 810th Street and completing targeted valve improvements throughout the project area. These efforts align with the City's broader plan to modernize its water system and prepare for a future water filtration facility.

ISG has noted that Hayward is currently well-positioned on the state's funding priority list. The City will continue working with ISG and the Minnesota Rural Water Association to explore financing options and evaluate potential impacts on water rates. Preliminary tasks now underway include site investigations, design development, permitting, and preparation for the bidding process.

While the City remains optimistic about securing grant funding, affordability and long-term sustainability will guide all decisions. The combined project cost is estimated at \$3.9 million, with the City responsible for approximately 20% (\$780,000) and hopeful that the remainder will be covered through grant funding.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Public Works Director Travis Reichl reported that snow plowing operations have been going well. He reminded residents that after any snow event in which 2 inches or more of snow have accumulated, all motor vehicles must be removed from any street or public way to allow plows to clear both sides of the roadway.

Residents are also reminded that all snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after snowfall or ice accumulation occurs.

Reichl also reported that this year we will be doing lead and copper samples again and certifying the sites that we do them at. These tests are done through the Minnesota department of health to ensure we still meet water quality requirements.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2025-24**, a resolution adopting the 2026 operating budget. Councilor Bangert seconded. Resolution 2025-24 was unanimously approved.

Councilor Lerum introduced **Resolution 2025-25**, a resolution approving a 5% tax levy to balance the 2026 budget. Councilor Bangert seconded. Resolution 2025-25 was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

There were no council reports.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

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

- A bill in the amount of \$935.50 payable to Clary's Safety Equip. for SCBA & Fit Test
- A bill in the amount of \$1419.08 payable to Clarey's Safety Equip. for Recert. of Air Tanks
- A bill in the amount of \$4,457 to the LMCIT for W/C Insurance

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

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the month of November 2025, Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and YTD Budget vs. Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. The motion was approved.

Councilor Bangert motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion was approved. Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer