City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 13, 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, July 13, 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.

Councilor Dolph moved to approve the July 13, 2026, agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Lerum moved to approve the June 8, 2026, meeting minutes; Councilor Dolph, seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Fire Department Update: The Fire Department reported that it is applying for grant(s) to purchase battery-powered extrication equipment (Jaws of Life), with an estimated cost of **$18,000**.

Councilor Bangert introduced **Resolution 2026-16**, accepting a $4,000 donation from the Hayward Fire Relief Association. Council designated these funds for the Hayward Fire Department and Equipment Fund**,** specifically to work with Lou Rich on construction of the pumper truck tank. Councilor Dolph seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The air conditioner on the tanker truck requires repair; Operations Director Reichl will be addressing the issue.

The Hayward Fire Department's annual family picnic is scheduled for Friday, September 11**.**

Community Forum: Resident Eloise Hunt reported that fireworks within the City of Hayward were loud and disruptive this year, continuing well past a reasonable hour. The Council advised that concerns may be directed to the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office and discussed the City's 10 p.m. noise-curfew ordinance. It was noted, however, that enforcement during the July 4th holiday is often more relaxed.

Resident Bonnie Felt reported that she will begin researching park equipment options for potential City purchase(s). She was selected to serve as chair of the oversight committee and is seeking additional residents to participate in the park upgrade/oversight committee. Bonnie intends to visit with as many residents as possible to gather input on desired amenities for both adults and children. She requested access to catalogs or magazines that outline available

equipment and pricing. She also noted that grant opportunities may exist to support construction of a pickleball court.

Resident Ron Hansen reported that several ash trees are located along the shared property line between his parcel and City property. The Council discussed that when a tree trunk sits entirely on one property, responsibility for removal rests with that property owner. When a tree is situated directly on the boundary and shared equally, it is reasonable for both property owners to divide the cost. Given the unique circumstances of Mr. Hansen's situation, Council agreed to share the expense of removing the tree and approved contributing half of the cost.

Resident Marlowe Wangen raised questions and concerns regarding the quarterly water and sewer surcharges being billed on his son's property. The Council explained that municipalities impose such surcharges to repay government loans used for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. These charges apply not only to active use of the services but also to the availability of those services, and the property in question has access to both.

Unfinished Business: Kyle Renneke of ISG provided an update, noting that the City is still awaiting confirmation of Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (MPFA) funding. While the projected percentage appears favorable, the overall project cost has increased.

Renneke reported that additionally, Anita Smith recently contacted the City and indicated that $617,000 has been allocated to the water treatment facility project through the SMART grant program**.**

After discussion, Councilor Flaskerud introduced **Resolution 2026-17**, acknowledging MPFA funding and affirming the City's commitment to securing the loan and meeting repayment obligations. The resolution further recognizes that rate increases will be necessary to support repayment of the MPFA loan. Councilor Bangert seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Operations Update: Operations Director Reichl reported that the new John Deere lawn mower has arrived.

He noted issues with the lighting in the Community Hall, where half of the fixtures were dim and not fully illuminating. Albert Lea Electric has since repaired the lights.

Reichl presented several options and potential costs for road patching**,** though no decision was made at this time.

He also reported that he will be attending the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) water and wastewater operations and maintenance training sessions on July 15 and July 16, 2026**.**

- **Financial Reports:** The Council reviewed the following bills exceeding $500:

- $1,069.20 to Knutson Oil for fuel
- $10,170.42 to Northland Bond Services – first repayment of the Temporary General Obligation Water Revenue Bond (Midi-Loan Series 2026A)
- **$**577.50 to Hayward Township for dust control
- $630.00 to Innovative IT Services

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

Councilor Flaskerud moved to approve the June 2026 financial reports, including the Deposit Detail, Check Detail, Year-to-Date Balance Sheet, and Budget vs. Actual Report. Councilor Bangert seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Bangert moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Lerum seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: Cityclerk@cityofhaywardmn.gov