

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday July 14, 2025

7:00 p.m. Hayward Community Hall

Mayor Anthony Cox called the regular meeting of the Hayward City Council to order at 7:06 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 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 the 7-14-2025 Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Flaskerud motioned to approve the 6-9-2025 Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Fire Chief Eric Knutson presented the Fire Department updates. In June, the department responded to:

- 2 medical calls
- 1 service call
- 1 train incident
- 1 weather spotting
- 1 mutual aid call

Leaks were reported in the tank of the 1995 tanker truck. The cost of a new tank is up to \$30,000. Council determined the tank will be patched for now.

The annual Hayward Fire Department picnic fundraiser will be held on Friday, September 5, 2025. Everyone is welcome to attend – help spread the word.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

David Thompson, Auctioneer & Broker Associate from Austin, MN, informed the Council that an auction will be held in Hayward on Saturday, September 6. Various parking spots for auction goers were discussed.

MN House Representative Patty Mueller attended the meeting and reported that the Minnesota Legislature finalized the state budget, thus preventing a government shutdown. After a special session in June, lawmakers passed a two-year, \$66.8 billion budget that funds key areas such as infrastructure, wastewater, and legacy funding. Local Government Aid (LGA), critical funding for cities, was spared from cuts. Funds for local fire departments and EMS were set aside.

Resident Michael Hansen informed the Council that the handicap sign outside of the community center needs to be replaced.

Engineers Kyle Renneke and Michael Novitzki of ISG addressed the City Council to present information on potential infrastructure funding sources. Minnesota received approximately \$700 million in 2025 through a bipartisan bonding package enacted during a special legislative session. Additionally, the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) offers financing counselors who are available to assist the Clerk/Treasurer with funding strategies.

A workshop meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2025, preceding the regular City Council meeting. At 5:00 p.m., the engineers from ISG and Council members will tour the city's existing water facilities. Following the tour, the group will reconvene at approximately 5:45–6:00 p.m. at the community center for a discussion focused on infrastructure planning, design considerations, and project scheduling.

Novitzki added that they would like to schedule a Zoom or phone meeting with a representative from the Minnesota Department of Health and provided a list of suggested dates.

The Council inquired about the appropriate process for addressing ground contamination resulting from a petroleum leak at the former school site, where a buried petroleum tank had previously been removed. Renneke and Novitzki noted that the League of Minnesota Cities offers a Limited Site Investigation (LSI) grant that may cover up to 90% of eligible LSI costs. In response, the Council directed Clerk Aase to contact Carlson McCain, the firm previously involved with the tank removal, to obtain their assessment and recommendations regarding next steps.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Operations Director Travis Reichl provided an update on the following items:

- Reichl addressed the July 3rd water main leak on Front St. and noted it was repaired by Freeborn Construction.
- Reichl will be attending classes in Rushford on July 23 and 24, organized by the Minnesota Rural Water Association. The classes focus on water and wastewater and are especially relevant for rural communities.
- Reichl reported that patchwork repairs will begin on 2nd St., W. 2nd St., Front St., and Main St.

OLD BUSINESS:

Clerk Aase reported back to Council on the cost of increasing the treasury bond coverage from

Approved August 11, 2025

\$80,000 to \$100,000. Councilor Bangert motioned to increase said coverage. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilor Lerum reported flashlights were seen coming from within the old school building. Councilors Bangert, Dolph, Flaskerud, and Mayor Cox had nothing further to report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Council reviewed and approved payment of bills over \$500.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve payments for bills over \$500. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve the month of June 2025 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and the YTD Budget vs. Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Lerum motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried. Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer