

Approved June 9, 2025

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday May 12, 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 May 12, 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 Flaskerud motioned to approve the 5-12-2025 Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the 4-14-2025, Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Fire Chief Eric Knutson provided an update on the department's activities for April. During the month, fire department personnel and first responders addressed the following incidents: one truck-versus-train collision, one vehicle fire, two medical calls, one mutual aid fire response, and one storm watch activation.

Department members continue to research information regarding side-by-sides. Additionally, three newer members successfully completed Fire Fighting 1, Fire Fighting 2, and Hazmat training. Upcoming training includes EKG instruction, scheduled for the June 11 Fire Department meeting.

The county-wide fire meeting is set to take place in Hayward on July 21. In closing, the department acknowledged the retirement of longtime member Gary Westland, expressing gratitude for his years of dedicated service.

COMMUNITY FORUM: The meeting was attended by two community members, with no comments or questions raised during the public input period.

Kyle Renneke and Michael Novitzki, engineers from ISG, presented financial information regarding a proposed water filtration system, an ongoing topic of discussion between the city council and the engineers. ISG outlined available grants and various funding sources.

The council expressed concern about the financial burden already placed on residents, particularly in repaying a Public Facilities Authority loan from a mandated sewer pond upgrade approximately ten years ago. The city is also repaying an infrastructure loan through Produce State Bank and has previously worked with the USDA to secure funding for water infrastructure

Approved June 9, 2025

improvements. The engineers noted that, among 800 cities seeking similar funding, Hayward ranks fourth, making this an ideal moment to capitalize on financial assistance.

Following discussion, Councilor Bangert motioned to approve ISG as the city engineers for this project, with the first step being the submission of an Intended Use Plan (IUP) application to obtain more definitive financial details. Councilor Dolph seconded the motion, and it carried.

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

- Wastewater Compliance Summary 2024 – Reviewed current compliance status.
- Lift Station Maintenance – A pump was plugged and addressed.
- Sewer Cleaning – Completed on Monday, May 12th at the following locations:
 - 3rd Street (West, between Noland and CR26)
 - All Commercial Street
 - All CR26
 - Lift station
- Chip Seal Bid Review – Reviewed half of the city's streets in most need at this time: Armstrong, E. 2nd Street, Commercial Street, Noland, Walin, Candy, and Hansen are scheduled for chip sealing sometime between May 15th and September 15th. The bid was approximately \$26,000.
- Future Chip Seal Plans – The council will address chip sealing for the remainder of the town during the budget discussions.
- Backflow Testing – Tests conducted at Co-op and Crystal Valley showed no issues; systems are functioning properly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The City of Hayward's Cannabis Ordinance, as prepared by the City Attorney, was reviewed by Council. Councilor Dolph introduced **Ordinance No. 001-2025**, an ordinance amending Title XV, Chapter 151 of the Hayward City Code pertaining to cannabis uses and lower-potency hemp edible uses. Councilor Lerum seconded the motion. Ordinance No. 001-2025 was adopted unanimously.

Clerk Aase reaffirmed that Freeborn County would manage all cannabis-related operations for the City of Hayward.

Mayor Cox reminded council that the annual Hayward City Clean-up Day will take place Saturday May 17th from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. All councilors will be present to help.

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2025-12**, accepting a \$23,660.15 donation from the Hayward Boosters' Club for the removal of asbestos at the old school building located on 300 West St. so that the contractors can tear the building down and haul away the debris. Council Lerum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Cox presented a construction authorization form submitted by Cheryl and Kevin Davis for home repair and maintenance, including shingling, soffit, fascia, and gutter

Approved June 9, 2025

work. After reviewing the document, Mayor Cox signed the form and advised that the next step for the Davis family is to submit it to Freeborn County for final approval.

Council reviewed the County's Highway Department schedule. Highway 26 has been completed; however, Hwy 30 has not.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilor Lerum shared concerns raised about barking dogs and owners allowing their dog(s) to roam unleashed. Councilor Lerum stated he will speak with one of the owners. Mayor Cox and Councilors Flaskerud, Dolph, and Bangert had nothing further to report.

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

- A bill in the amount of \$23,660.15 to Asbestrol for asbestos removal at the old school building located at 300 West. St.
- A bill in the amount of \$536.64 to Utility Consultants for sewer testing
- A bill in the amount of \$649.18 to Thompson Sanitation for the large trash bin for Hayward's annual city clean-up day.
- A bill in the amount of \$936 to the city attorney for legal research and legal work done on the cannabis ordinance and summary for posting in Albert Lea Tribune

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the month of April 2025 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and the YTD Budget vs Actual Report as prepared; Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Dolph mentioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer