

**City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday September 9, 2024**

**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 September 9, 2024.

The meeting opened with Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor: Anthony Cox; Councilors: Darwin Dolph, Gene Flaskerud; Derek Lemm; Mark Bangert

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Aase; Absent: Operations Director, Travis Reichl

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the 9-9-24 Hayward City Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve the 8-12-2024, Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Fire Chief Eric Knutson reported the fire department responded to two medical calls, three auto accidents, and one vehicle fire in the month of August. The Hayward Fire Department will be burning brush at the city's green waste landfill and another brush pile south of Hayward.

The new pumper truck is performing well. However, the 1995 pumper truck has developed a water leak and requires repairs. Also, a Battery was replaced in the 1974 Pumper truck. Additionally, the annual picnic held on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, was well attended.

**COMMUNITY FORUM:** Michael Hansen, President of the Hayward Booster Club, expressed concerns about the severely deteriorated condition of the old school building. He and the Booster Club believe the building should be condemned and demolished. After a discussion, the council agreed to consult with the Freeborn County Building Inspector to determine if the building meets the criteria for condemnation. Councilor Flaskerud will reach out to Freeborn County.

Clerk Aase relayed a message from resident Duane Scherff, who requested that pickleball lines be painted on the basketball court, suggesting that tape could be used as an alternative. Scherff offered to tape the lines himself with council's permission. Council stated that Operations Director, Travis Reichl, will paint both the pickleball and basketball lines on the court. Additionally, Scherff inquired about the boundaries of his property for mowing purposes. The council advises that Scherff contact the County Assessor's Office for clarification.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Mayor Cox reported that Freeborn County approved the installation of another driveway on either side of Hwy 46 near Freeborn Construction. Mayor Cox also shared estimates on the "going rates" of farmland, namely the 4-5 acres parcel the city owns, located next to Freeborn Construction on Hwy 46. Clerk Aase obtained the quotes from the University of Minnesota/Freeborn County Agricultural Extension Office. Per the Extension Office, farmland is

rated, and this plot is rated highly and therefore has a higher valuation, the land's estimated worth is between \$10,500 - \$12,000 per acre.

Jason and Rachel Miller, owners of Morrison Well and Plumbing, previously shared their interest in possibly purchasing the property from the city to build their primary business location on. During August's city council meeting, the council took their request under consideration and asked Clerk Aase to research the price of farmland in Freeborn County.

The Millers were unable to attend the council meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> but sent a message via Clerk Aase. They remain interested in the possibility of purchasing the parcel in the future; however, with winter approaching, they will need to wait until spring.

Council canvassed the results of the August 13, 2024, primary election. The information was tallied and prepared by the Freeborn County Auditor Treasurer's Office. Overall, there were 163 registered voters. 31 Hayward residents voted in the primary with a 19.02% voter turnout. The General Election will be held on Tuesday November 5, 2024, with in-person voting located at the Hayward Community Hall beginning at 7 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

**OPERATIONS UPDATE:** In Operations Director, Travis Reichl's absence, an operations update was not provided. Paul Ladlie has been filling in by taking readings at the sewer ponds, checking the well house, taking care of garbage and bathrooms at the park. Paul Ladlie and Mayor Cox have been mowing city properties.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor Cox reported that every year, cities in Freeborn County must establish rural service districts – a division of land which allows our city to establish separate taxing districts for the purpose of all municipal property taxes (there are some exceptions). The City of Hayward's Rural Service District(s) includes those portions of the following parcel IDs which are located within the city boundaries:

R29.050.0330

R29.050.0420

R29.040.0090

R29.050.0410

Councilor Dolph presented **Resolution 2024-16**, a resolution establishing the City of Hayward Rural Service District. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. Resolution 2024-16 passed unanimously.

Mayor Cox reported that by September 30<sup>th</sup> each year, every city in Freeborn County must certify to the county auditor the proposed tax levy for taxes payable in the following year. Because this is simply a proposal, the city of Hayward generally proposes a higher tax levy. The city can always levy less than proposed; however, not more. After discussion, council decided to propose a 7% tax increase for 2025. Councilor Flaskerud introduced **Resolution 2024-17**, a resolution establishing and certifying the 2025 preliminary tax levy for the city of Hayward. Councilor Dolph seconded. Resolution 2024-17 passed unanimously.

Mayor Cox will be unavailable October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Aase will be out of the office beginning Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> - returning Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>

Council scheduled the first budget meeting for Monday October 21, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Hayward Community Hall.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:** Councilor Bangert received phone call(s) about howling and barking dogs and wolves. Council advised having the complainant contact the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office to get it on record. Councilor Dolph stated he received a complaint from a resident about a couple of posts in their yard. Mayor Cox said he will check when he mows in the area and will talk to the resident. Councilor Flaskerud noted that the original school once stood on the site where the Hayward Community Hall is now located. Resident Louie Larson has the old 16" cast iron bell that was originally part of that school's property. Larson inquired if the city would be interested in taking custody of the bell which requires a new base. The Council unanimously agreed that preserving the bell would be a good way to retain a piece of the community's history.

Council questioned why the city does not have a franchise contract with Gig Fire (formerly LTD Broadband)? Mayor Cox stated he would speak with someone who understands such contracts. Council Lerum continues to receive complaints about property upkeep at 211 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. The yard is only partially mowed – overgrowth around the house needs to be cleaned up as it is beyond compliance. Also picking up personal items being stored in the open which causes visual blight in the neighborhood.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS: bill(s), exceeding \$500, for council's approval:**

- a bill in the amount of \$704.70 made payable to Knutson Oil for Fuel Oil
- a bill in the amount of \$650.36 to Hayward Coop for Truck Tires
- a bill in the amount of \$738 to LeVander, Gillen & Miller for legal work
- a bill in the amount of \$969.68 made payable to Electric Motor Bearing Service for Pump Seal, Timken Seal, National Oil Seal, Seal Sleeve, Gear Oil, Shop Supplies, Labor (Fire)

Councilor Dolph motioned to pay the afore-stated bill(s) exceeding \$500. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve the month of July 2024 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and the 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 unanimously. Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer