

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday October 14, 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 October 14, 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; Operations Director, Travis Reichl

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the 10-14-24 Hayward City Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve the 9-9-2024, Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

For the month of September, Fire Chief Eric Knutson reported the fire department responded to following:

- three medical calls,
- one motor vehicle call
- one trailer fire
- one canceled car fire call

Following the fall harvest, the fire department will inspect a slow leak in the 1995 Pumper truck.

A check in the amount of \$16,412.28 was given to the Fire Chief for State Fire Aid and Supplemental State Fire Aid.

Mayor Cox opened a sealed bid for the purchase of the city's 1974 Pumper truck, amounting to \$200. The bid was rejected by council. Operations Director Reichl will engage with Richie Brothers and a Museum north of the Twin Cities, which has already shown interest in said truck. Reichl will further explore these options.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Katie Erickson, a resident and concerned parent, approached the council to discuss the need for park improvements and safety measures, including the installation of safe playground equipment. She provided a magazine for the council to review. The council explained that a year or so ago, the city applied for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant. Unfortunately, the application was denied primarily because it did not adequately address the protection of monarch butterflies and a certain type of bat that may inhabit the park's trees.

The council further clarified that while the playground equipment itself may sound feasible, the costs double when considering excavation, the addition of an approved engineered wood surface, labor, and ongoing maintenance. At this time, the city cannot afford these expenses.

Despite this, the council acknowledged the importance of updating the park with safer equipment and assured Mrs. Erickson that they have not given up on the project – they have been saving for years. Additionally, a resident and president of a non-profit organization stated organization might be able to assist with park updates. However, it is too early to confirm, and he encouraged Mrs. Erickson to remain hopeful.

Resident Jason Heinzroth requested the council's approval to construct a 16' x 14' addition to his home. The addition will be built on a crawl space and will not include a basement. Council approved.

Due to a scheduling conflict, Andrea Mauer from the Freeborn County Crime Victim's Crisis Center was unable to attend the meeting. County Commissioner Dawn Kaasa informed the council that October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. The Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center provides support and education aimed at empowering the community to reduce crime victimization, increase awareness, and promote positive outcomes. The county is distributing signage and purple lights for residents to pick up and display around town.

Operations Director Reichl addressed the council on behalf of Crystal Davis, who was unable to attend the meeting. Davis requested permission to allow container fires at Lucky's Pub parking lot in November. The council approved the request.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

County Commissioner Dawn Kaasa spoke to council about the Freeborn County Bridge project recently completed along CR26 and the fact that Freeborn County is requesting \$3577.28 from Hayward to reimburse the county for sewer components required during the project. The issue of potential contention is the fact that Freeborn County failed to give the City of Hayward notice of this additional cost involved in the project. Phil Wacholz will be attending the November city council meeting.

Freeborn County will be using a calcium chloride treatment for dust control at the location of the bridge project on CR26.

Freeborn County contracted with Freeborn Construction to clean ditches.

Travis to attend free training classes in Clarks Grove and Keister.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual Flu Shot Clinic will be held on October 16th at the Hayward Community Hall from 10 – 11 a.m. Residents must call Freeborn County Public Health Services for an appointment. No walk-ins will be taken.

First Annual Budget meeting for 2025 was scheduled to be held at the Hayward Community Hall on Monday October 21, 2024, at 6 p.m.

The November city council meeting falls on Monday November 11th, which is Veterans Day, a Federal Holiday. Council voted to hold the city council meeting on November 11th at 7 p.m. as scheduled, because the mayor will be gone much of the remainder of the month of November.

Annual reviews will be held on Monday November 11th directly following the monthly city council meeting.

The second budget meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on November 11th prior to the beginning of the city council meeting.

Council decided that after this year, and with the next election cycle, the head judge will earn \$21 per hour and all other election judges will earn \$20 per hour.

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2024-19**, a resolution, under the authority of Minnesota Statutes 204C.05, subd. 1a, the City of Hayward will open their polling place at 10 a.m. effective January 1, 2026. Councilor Bangert seconded. Resolution 2024-19 passed unanimously.

Councilor Flaskerud reported back on his discussion with Freeborn County Building Inspector, Ross Leonhardi, regarding having the old school building condemned. Freeborn County does not do the type of building inspections Hayward needs. Leonardi told Councilor Flaskerud that to condemn a building the city would need someone to inspect and then author a report about the condition of the building.

An organization (unnamed at this time) stepped forward indicating it might be able to help with funds the city would need to tear down the afore-stated building and with debris removal. Said organization will only consider it pending an asbestos inspection. The property would later be turned back over to the city.

After a lengthy discussion, council decided that Mayor Cox will contact the owner of 300 West Street, the old school property, to ask if owner would be willing to sell the property to the city, pending an acceptable title, inspections relating to asbestos, and all such tests/inspections.

Clerk Aase was asked to speak with the city attorney asking her (attorney) to write the actual purchase agreement.

Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2024-20**, a resolution approving a purchase agreement between the City of Hayward (buyer) and the owner of 300 West St. (seller). Councilor Lerum seconded. Resolution 2024-20 passed unanimously.

After discussion, Councilor Flaskerud motioned to accept Cazzi Wacholz' bid to continue leasing the city's farmland - 5 acres west of the Hayward Cemetery and 8 acres on the east edge of the city limits; therefore, paying the city \$25 per bale, per the existing 50% contractual arrangement. This contract will last through 2026. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Flaskerud motioned to accept Cazzi Wacholz' bid to lease 37 acres of the north half of the northwest corner of section 8 and 17 acres lying on the southern part of Freeborn County Land Tract 2282; adjacent to city waste treatment facility, without an increase or decrease in land rent; therefore, maintaining the existing contractual agreement. This contract will last through 2026. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the list of 2024 projects and reserves set aside for said projects.

Clerk Aase provided an update on the positive progress being made on the city's website.

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

- a bill in the amount of \$3,057.31 made payable to Freeborn Construction for work on a water main break.
- a bill in the amount of \$2,987 to Fire and Rescue for EMS Gear

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

Councilor Lerum motioned to approve the month of September 2024 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and the YTD Budget vs Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Dolph 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 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer