

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 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, May 11, 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 May 11, 2026, agenda; seconded by Councilor Bangert. Motion carried.

Councilor Lerum moved to approve the April 20, 2026, meeting minutes; seconded by Councilor Bangert. Motion carried.

Fire Department Update: Fire Chief Eric Knutson reported:

- March responses included 3 medical calls, 2 vehicle fires, and 1 brush fire.
- April responses included 4 medical calls, 1 auto accident, and 1 miscellaneous call.
- Three individuals have expressed interest in joining the department.
- There are currently 25 fire department volunteers.
- New boots and gear have been ordered.
- Replacement options for the tanker truck's tank include plastic or stainless steel.
- A thermal imager has been received; a \$2,500 grant reimbursement is pending.
- A brush fire drafting training exercise is scheduled for May 13.

Community Forum: Michael Truesdell requested approval to install a 6-foot natural wood fence in his backyard in compliance with city ordinances (per MBC). Council approved.

County Commissioner Kaasa provided an update on Ditch No. 32 repair and improvements. The City of Hayward's share of the cost is estimated at \$20,672, to be repaid through taxes over ten years. Residents may contact Mark Behrends, Wesley Dahl, or Sandy Tomschin at Freeborn County for additional information or tax redetermination requests.

Mark Becker requested permission to install a sewer hookup for a bathroom at his outdoor shop. The Council approved the request with the condition that he must connect to the city water and sewer systems and pay applicable rates once the water treatment plant is completed.

Unfinished Business: The Council approved purchasing two \$200,000 Certificates of Deposit through Produce State Bank instead of Edward Jones. Approximately \$73,000+ will remain accessible in the city's account.

Mayor Cox reminded the Council of the annual Hayward Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and requested councilmember participation.

Operations Update: Operations Director Reichl reported:

- Trees were planted in the city park with donated funds from the now defunct Hayward Boosters Club.
- Pond discharge operations are ongoing.
- Seasonal mowing and spraying have begun.
- Central Tanks proposed a six-year contract at \$2,100 annually.
- Consultation was obtained from Blackstone Construction regarding future project considerations.
- ISG is researching grant opportunities related to Emerald Ash Borer.
- The Council directed Reichl to obtain cost estimates for treating or removing ash trees before making a decision on management.

Council Reports: No formal reports were presented. Mayor Cox raised concerns about the impact of recreational fire smoke on neighboring properties.

Financial Reports: The Council reviewed the following bills over \$500:

- \$152,000.30 to ISG for engineering services
- \$1,265.65 to the Albert Lea Tribune for public notices related to project bidding
- \$1,500 to SE MN Emergency Medical Services for fire department training

Councilor Dolph moved to approve the bills; seconded by Councilor Bangert. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Dolph moved to approve the April 2026 financial reports, including the Deposit Detail, Check Detail, Year-to-Date Balance Sheet, and Budget vs. Actual Report; seconded by Councilor Lerum. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilor Bangert moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Dolph. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer