

City of Hayward Council Meeting Minutes

Monday October 14, 2025

7:00 p.m. Hayward Community Hall

Mayor Anthony Cox called the regular meeting of the Hayward City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 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 Bangert motioned to approve the October 14, 2025, Hayward City Council Meeting Agenda. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion carried.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the September 8, 2025, Hayward City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Fire Chief Eric Knutson reported three medical calls, one hazmat call, and one mutual aid call involving a collision between two school buses. On March 13, the department responded to a tree fire, and last week, to a combine fire. The tank on the department's older pumper truck has been patched. Firefighter Matt Solomonson is currently researching the cost of a polypropylene replacement.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Three Hayward residents attended the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Kyle Renneke attended on behalf of ISG Engineering. He reported that the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will provide an official determination regarding the percentage of grant funding the City of Hayward may receive. A list of eligible communities is expected in November.

Renneke noted that the water filtration structure still requires design work. Bridge loan options are available to support the city through both preliminary and final design phases. To proceed, the city must obtain project bids and a geotechnical report. While ISG does not conduct soil borings, they are equipped to handle all other aspects of the project.

Renneke strongly recommended that Operations Director Reichl and Clerk/Treasurer Aase meet again with MDH for confirmation and reassurance regarding funding eligibility. The City Council emphasized that no contract related to the project can be signed until the grant amount is known.

The city is hopeful it will qualify for an 80/20 grant—meaning 80% of the project cost would be covered by grant funds, with the city responsible for the remaining 20%. Regardless of the outcome, the city must understand its financial obligation and how the project will impact water rates for residents.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Travis Reichl, Director of Public Works, reported:

- Weed control spraying has been completed; mulching will be done prior to snowfall.
- Wastewater discharge at the ponds is ongoing.
- Riprap will be placed around culverts on Commercial Street to stabilize and prevent erosion.
- Reichl has been cleaning egg residue from stucco surfaces on multiple city buildings, including the community hall and park restrooms. This vandalism required an excessive amount of time to remediate. Council directed Reichl to close the park restrooms for the winter season.
- The City of Hayward is working with the Minnesota Department of Health on a wellhead protection plan. Wellhead protection designates and protects the surface and subsurface area around a public water well to prevent contaminants from reaching the drinking water supply.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council discussed the deteriorating condition of the property located at 100 Front Street. Due to concerns about potential fire hazards, it was recommended that the Fire Department conduct a walk-through inspection. Council directed Clerk/Treasurer Aase to contact the Fire Chief to initiate the review.

Council noted longstanding concerns regarding the interior, where boxes have reportedly been stacked to the ceiling for several years. Externally, the building shows significant neglect, including damage to the roof, siding, and metal fascia.

The property owner of 115 E. Front Street has been delinquent in payment of water and sewer utilities, including surcharges, since September 27, 2024. Applicable late fees have been assessed. Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2025-21**, authorizing action against the property for

nonpayment of water and sewer charges. Councilor Lerum seconded. Resolution 2025-21 was adopted unanimously.

The resident owner of 209B Main Street requested a change to their residential address due to ongoing issues with mail and package delivery. Following discussion, the City Council determined that 210 Main Street—currently designated as part of the city park and not in use—could be reassigned to the property. Councilor Dolph introduced **Resolution 2025-22**, approving the change of address from 209B Main Street to 210 Main Street. Councilor Flaskerud seconded. Resolution 2025-22 was adopted unanimously.

Council directed Clerk Aase to contact Freeborn County to update the tax records, GIS, and 911. The resident will complete a change of address form at the post office.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor Cox and Councilors Flaskerud, Dolph, Lerum, and Bangert had nothing to report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Bill(s) exceeding \$500 for Council approval:

- A bill in the amount of \$600 payable to Near North Title Group in Albert Lea, MN, for research conducted on the old school property prior to its sale.

Councilor Lerum motioned to pay the above-stated bill. Councilor Bangert seconded. The motion was approved.

Councilor Dolph motioned to approve the September 8, 2025 Deposit Detail, Check Detail, YTD Balance Sheet, and YTD Budget vs. Actual Report as prepared. Councilor Lerum seconded. The motion was approved.

Council scheduled the second 2026 budget workshop for November 25, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the community hall.

Councilor Bangert motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Dolph seconded. The motion was approved. Having no further business, Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Aase, City Clerk/Treasurer