

CITY OF HENDRUM
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johannsen called to order the regular meeting of the City of Hendrum Council at 7:36 PM on September 17, 2025, in the boardroom of the Professional Building located at 308 Main Street East in Hendrum, Minnesota. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

The following council members were present: Paul Baukol, Curt Johannsen, Stephanie Kaasa, and Mike Smart.

The following city personnel were present: Keri Plemmons, Clerk-Treasurer; Dustin Reinhart, Maintenance Superintendent.

The following members of the public were present: Brian Evenson, Polk County Representative for the West Central Regional Water District; Lucas Spaeth, Halstad Municipal Utilities Superintendent; and Brandon Reber, Moore Engineering Civil Engineer.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) 2025-08-20 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- b) 2025-08 Maintenance Logs

MOTION: M. Smart moved; seconded by *P. Baukol* to approve the consent agenda items.

BAUKOL: *aye*; JOHANNSEN: *aye*; KAASA: *aye*; LOPEZ: *absent*; SMART: *aye*. *MOTION PASSED.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a) Add to D. Infinity Center under Unfinished Business: Building Closure Plan

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by *S. Kaasa* to approve the agenda with the listed addition.

BAUKOL: *aye*; JOHANNSEN: *aye*; KAASA: *aye*; LOPEZ: *absent*; SMART: *aye*. *MOTION PASSED.*

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

- A. PUBLIC WORKS:** Mosquito spraying is ongoing, with 15 gallons of spray remaining in stock. Sewer concerns at 444 Gordon St W were addressed, with indications that the issue lies within the private service line rather than the city's main. The council agreed to test a snow pusher attachment offered by Brandon Borgen to improve winter alley maintenance, with the option to purchase it if the equipment proves effective.

B. CLERK-TREASURER:

- 1. Financial Report & Claims List:** The August financial report and September claims list totaling \$21,020.43 were presented for approval.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by *M. Smart* to approve the August financial report and pay the following claims totaling \$21,020.43:

Claim #	Vendor	Total
5281	The Red River Promoter	\$407.00
5282	Loffler Companies, Inc.	\$192.05
5283	Red River Valley Cooperative Power	\$306.25
5284	Red River Valley Cooperative Power	\$3,023.44
5285	USPS	\$11.00
5286	Arvig	\$4.95
5287	PERA	\$641.13
5288	Auto Value Parts Store	\$53.05
5289	Alex Air Apparatus 2 LLC	\$728.80
5290	Kotaco Fuels	\$1,113.00
5291	Kotaco Fuels	\$556.50
5292	Amazon.com	\$44.88
5293	Amazon.com	\$66.74
5294	Northwestern Bank	\$30.00
5295	Hendrum EDA	\$242.00
5296	City of Hendrum	\$225.43
5297	PERA	\$587.75
5298	Internal Revenue Service	\$2,046.81
5299	Titan Machinery	\$242.96
5300	Gopher State One-Call	\$2.70
5301	Valley United Co-op	\$489.52
5302	Bitker, Inc.	\$562.59
5303	Bernie's Water Conditioning	\$386.55
5304	Verizon Wireless	\$38.58
5305	Minnesota Department of Health	\$313.00
5306	League of MN Cities Insurance Trust	\$3,704.00
5307	Valley General Store	\$47.45
5308	Jeff's Plumbing, Inc.	\$703.00
5309	Kotaco Fuels	\$259.62
5310	Red River Valley Cooperative Power	\$246.30
5311	Red River Valley Cooperative Power	\$3,109.84
5312	Red River Valley Cooperative Power	\$317.25
5313	Grainger	\$80.33
5314	Sam's Club	\$59.09
5315	O'Reilly	\$51.45
5316	Sam's Club	\$116.32
5317	Northwestern Bank	\$10.00

BAUKOL: *aye*; JOHANNSEN: *aye*; KAASA: *aye*; LOPEZ: *absent*; SMART: *aye*. MOTION PASSED.

- C. **MAYOR:** Mayor Johannsen reported that he had no new items to present beyond those already covered in the meeting agenda.
- D. **FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The department successfully participated in a live training burn on September 6, with participation from nearly 20 firefighters, supported by eight instructors. The recently acquired pumper truck performed effectively during the exercise and was used again in joint training with Perley firefighters. Upcoming pump certifications and vehicle inspections are scheduled for September 29 through Emergency Apparatus Maintenance. Repairs are needed on the Kenworth engine's air solenoid, and a manual override kit is being considered. Three to four firefighters, including one from Perley, plan to enroll in Firefighter I training beginning October 14. Equipment damage from a recent power outage is being assessed for insurance claims.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Ordinance Violations:** The Council received updates on ongoing ordinance enforcement actions. Letters were authorized and sent regarding identified violations, and additional notices are being prepared for mailing. Notable progress was observed at a previously noticed property where exterior improvements, including scraping and painting, are underway. The Council acknowledged these efforts and will continue monitoring compliance. No new violations were introduced for discussion at this meeting.
- B. **Street Improvement Project:** No updates.
- C. **Rural Water Supply Project:** Representatives from the West Central Regional Water District, including Lucas Spaeth and Brian Evenson, presented a comprehensive update on the regional water supply initiative. The project, formed through collaboration among Norman, Polk, and Clay counties, aims to address long-term water quality, infrastructure, and operational challenges by sourcing treated water from East Central Regional Water District in North Dakota. The presentation covered the project's history, feasibility study progress, funding efforts, and potential partnerships with existing water systems. Council members expressed concern over projected costs, including a potential \$1 million buy-in and significant monthly rate increases for residents. While the quality of water and regional benefits were acknowledged, the Council emphasized the need for additional state and federal funding to ensure affordability and sustainability.
- D. **Infinity Center:**
 - **Gymnasium Roof Repair:** No new information.
 - **Rentals:** The Council noted that one tenant is currently three months behind on rent, while the other tenants are up to date following recent payments.
 - **Realtor:** The Council is working through a realtor to determine the value of the property and explore potential sale options. However, no recommendations had been received at the time of the meeting, and further information is expected by October.

- **Building Closure Plan:** The Council held an in-depth discussion regarding the financial sustainability of maintaining the Infinity Center. Councilmember Baukol proposed a plan to close the building by November 25, 2025. The proposal included notifying the tenants with at least 30 days' notice, winterizing the boiler and water systems, and deactivating utilities and building access systems. While other council members expressed concern about the impact on local businesses and requested additional time to consult with a realtor, the Council acknowledged the urgency of addressing the financial burden. The motion to develop a closure plan was introduced and seconded but did not receive the required number of affirmative votes and was therefore not adopted.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by *S. Kaasa* to develop a building closure plan for the Infinity Center, with a proposed closing date in either November or December, and to provide tenants with a minimum 30-day notice. The plan shall include winterizing the boiler and water system, deactivating utilities and key fobs.

BAUKOL: *aye*; JOHANNSEN: *nay*; KAASA: *aye*; LOPEZ: *absent*; SMART: *nay*. *MOTION NOT ADOPTED.*

NEW BUSINESS

- 2026 Proposed Tax Levy:** The Council discussed the 2026 proposed tax levy in comparison to nearby communities. After reviewing financial projections, the Council approved a preliminary 7% increase to the tax levy, with the understanding that the final amount can be reduced before certifications in December.

MOTION: M. Smart moved; seconded by *P. Baukol* to approve a preliminary 7% increase to the 2026 tax levy.

BAUKOL: *aye*; JOHANNSEN: *aye*; KAASA: *aye*; LOPEZ: *absent*; SMART: *aye*. *MOTION PASSED.*

- Donation Resolution:** The council accepted two donations of \$300 each from the Borup Community Club – one designated for the gaming account and the other for the fire department.

MOTION: S. Kaasa moved; seconded by *P. Baukol* to adopt Resolution No. 2025-18: Resolution Accepting Donations. On the following roll call vote, the resolution was duly adopted and is on file at the City Clerk's office.

BAUKOL: *aye*; JOHANNSEN: *aye*; KAASA: *aye*; LOPEZ: *absent*; SMART: *aye*. *MOTION PASSED.*

ADJOURNMENT

M. Smart moved; seconded by *P. Baukol* to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 PM. The next regular council meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on October 15, 2025, in the boardroom of the Professional Building located at 308 Main Street East in Hendrum, Minnesota.

Minutes submitted by: Keri Plemmons, Clerk-Treasurer