

CITY OF HENDRUM
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2026 – 7:30 PM

Professional Building Boardroom – 308 Main Street East, Hendrum, Minnesota

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johannsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Council members present: Paul Baukol, Curt Johannsen, Brian Schlapkohl, Mike Smart, and Stephanie Kaasa.

City staff present: Keri Plemmons, Clerk-Treasurer.

Members of the public present: Marit Martell, CPA (Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC); Cindy Jensen; Angie Nelson; Sarah Anderson; Krista Timm; Kristi Beyl; Ann Baukol; Curt Gunderson; Darlene Gunderson; Carla Torgerson; and Darrell Torgerson.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Residents addressed the Council regarding concerns about the financial burden associated with continued operation of the former school building, including rising utility costs, increased insurance premiums, and impacts on property taxes. Residents questioned long-term plans for the building, including whether demolition funding had been explored, and expressed concerns regarding the City's financial stability. Additional discussion addressed the need for improved transparency, communication with residents, and clearer planning timelines. The Council discussed ongoing efforts to market the building through a Request for Proposals process, continued communication with potential developers for employment housing, and evaluation of options due to the City's inability to sustain heating for another season.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included the May 27, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Resolution No. 2026-11 accepting a donation from Ada BIO girls of \$313.75 for the Rescue Squad.

MOTION: M. Smart moved; seconded by B. Schlapkohl to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by S. Kaasa to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. PUBLIC WORKS & MAINTENANCE REPORT:

Supervisor Mike Smart provided an update based on the maintenance report submitted by Maintenance Superintendent Reinhart prior to the meeting. The zero-turn mower was sent in for warranty repair due to a leaking seal and wheel damage. Mowing operations are ongoing, while weed spraying has been delayed due to wind conditions. Rodent activity near the wastewater system is being addressed, and the tractor loader joystick repair has been completed. A water shutoff issue at a private property will require repair due to a broken valve and malfunctioning curb stop.

B. CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Clerk-Treasurer reported completion of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan survey, including updates to infrastructure vulnerabilities and mitigation efforts. The report ensures continued eligibility for state and federal grant programs.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by M. Smart to approve the May financial report and payment of the following claims totaling \$19,917.52. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Claim #	Vendor	Total
5593	USPS	\$10.48
5594	United Lease & Finance	\$4,529.44
5595	United Lease & Finance	\$1,906.00
5596	Norman County Index	\$44.50
5597	MAOSC	\$261.50
5598	RMB Environmental	\$229.90
5599	Valley General Store	\$173.13
5600	Lako Drilling	\$4,360.55
5601	Gopher State One Call	\$12.15
5602	RRV Coop Power	\$4,347.96
5603	IRS	\$737.17
5604	PERA	\$236.19
5605	Hendrum EDA	\$242.00
5606	Fuch's Sanitation	\$2,744.46
5607	Amazon	\$73.94
5608	USPS	\$8.15

C. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Johannsen reported that there were no additional updates beyond the items already included on the agenda.

D. FIRE & RESCUE REPORT:

Fire Chief Smart discussed the potential implementation of a fire call billing ordinance to support cost recovery. Staff will distribute materials for further review by the Council.

- **Applications:** Council closed the meeting to evaluate employment applications for the fire department. Following the closed session, the Council approved hiring four new members of the fire department.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by B. Schlapkohl to close the meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.43, subd. 3 to evaluate employment applications.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by P. Baukol to reopen the meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by P. Baukol to hire Faith Morris as a member of the Fire Department. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by S. Kaasa to hire Tanner Tommerdahl as a member of the Fire Department. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: M. Smart moved; seconded by P. Baukol to hire Kyle Ross as a member of the Fire Department. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by S. Kaasa to hire Ethan Dunn as a member of the Fire Department. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. City Ordinance Violations:** The Council reviewed and discussed pending ordinance violations. Staff was directed to resend previously submitted violation files to the Sheriff's Office for citation processing. The Council also identified three properties requiring mowing violation notices, and one additional nuisance violation notice was directed to be sent.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by M. Smart to send mowing violation notices to the properties located at 350 Rice St S, 359 Rice St S, and 514 Hancock St E.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by S. Kaasa to send an ordinance violation notice to 216 Canning St E for the stack of pallets and unregistered vehicle.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. City Street Paving Project:** No updates were reported.

- C. Rural Water Supply Project:** The Council discussed the rural water supply project and noted that it has been submitted for federal funding through congressional directed

spending requests by both U.S. Senators. The project has advanced to the next stage of the federal appropriations process, indicating continued consideration, although similar efforts in prior years have not yet resulted in awarded funding. Council acknowledged that regional support including approved state funding may improve the likelihood of funding success and confirmed that the City will continue monitoring progress.

D. Infinity Center:

- **Gymnasium Roof Repair:** No updates were provided.
- **Rentals:** Council discussed rental activity within the building, including delinquent accounts, compliance with lease terms, and ongoing management of tenant agreements.
- **Realtor:** Mayor Johannsen reported meeting with a representative to discuss marketing the building and recommended pursuing a Request for Proposals process rather than an auction due to the property's specialized nature.
- **Riverview Dairy:** The Mayor reported that no new updates had been received from Riverview Dairy and that follow-up communication is planned to obtain a status update.
- **Industrial Arts Building/Football Field:** Council discussed the status of the industrial arts building and football field property, noting that survey work has been completed with no additional updates received.
- **Building Closure Plan:** Council discussed the building closure plan and a motion was introduced to close the building on August 1st.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by S. Kaasa to close the building effective August 1, 2026, proceed with winterization of the facility, and issue notification to all current renters.

Voting AYES: P. Baukol and S. Kaasa; NAYES: M. Smart, B. Schlapkohl, and C. Johannsen.

MOTION FAILED.

E. Summer Help: An application was reviewed and discussed in closed session.

MOTION: M. Smart moved; seconded by B. Schlapkohl to close the meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.43, subd. 3 to evaluate an employment application.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by S. Kaasa to reopen the meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council reconvened from closed session and, following review and discussion of the application received, determined to continue accepting applications for the seasonal maintenance position before making a hiring decision.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Audit Report:** Council reviewed and discussed the 2025 audit report presented by Marit Martell, who provided an overview of the City's financial statements and issued an unmodified opinion, indicating the statements were fairly presented. Discussion included the City's financial position, noted improvements, ongoing budget pressures,

cash flow considerations such as tax anticipation certificates, and the importance of continued long-term financial planning.

- B. Permit Applications:** Council reviewed and discussed multiple permit applications for various property improvements, including structural repairs and exterior updates, and evaluated each request for compliance with City ordinances and zoning requirements. Applications meeting requirements were approved, while one application was denied due to noncompliance and insufficient information.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by P. Baukol to approve the permit application for 454 Gordon St W for removal and replacement of a front porch. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: M. Smart moved; seconded by B. Schlapkohl to approve the permit application for 526 Hancock St for siding replacement. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by M. Smart to deny the permit application for 357 Rice St S for installation of a fence due to noncompliance with ordinance requirements and require resubmittal with compliant specifications and measurements. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. Closed Session – to evaluate whether an employee’s conduct affects employment status under the city’s personnel policies, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(a):**
The policy review and employee conduct discussion were reviewed and discussed during a closed session.

MOTION: S. Kaasa moved; seconded by P. Baukol to close the meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(a) to evaluate whether an employee’s conduct affects employment status under the City’s personnel policy. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by P. Baukol to reopen the meeting. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council reconvened from closed session and, following review and discussion of the personnel policy and the employee’s recent conduct, determined that no action was necessary at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by M. Smart to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm. *MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.* The next regular council meeting will take place at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, in the boardroom of the Professional Building, 308 Main Street East, Hendrum.