

CITY OF HENDRUM
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2026 – 7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johannsen called to order the regular meeting at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

City staff present: Keri Plemmons, Clerk-Treasurer; Dustin Reinhart, Maintenance Superintendent.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

No citizens appeared before the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included the February 18, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes, February 2026 Maintenance Logs, and Resolution No. 2026-06 accepting a \$300 donation from the Borup Community Club.

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

BAUKOL: aye; JOHANNSEN: aye; KAASA: aye; SCHLAPKOHL: aye; SMART: aye.

MOTION PASSED.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions under New Business included YMCA Summer Meals and Flower Pots.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by M. Smart to approve the agenda with the listed additions.

BAUKOL: aye; JOHANNSEN: aye; KAASA: aye; SCHLAPKOHL: aye; SMART: aye.

MOTION PASSED.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. PUBLIC WORKS & MAINTENANCE REPORT

Maintenance Superintendent Reinhart reported on fuel oil levels, facility conditions, preparation for the upcoming steak supper, and recent school vandalism. He also shared a personal update regarding a family medical matter. The Council expressed support.

B. CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. The February financial report and March claims list totaling \$14,329.69 were reviewed and approved.

Claim #	Vendor	Total
5487	PERA	\$509.17
5488	MN DNR Ecological & Water Resources	\$155.47
5489	USPS	\$78.00
5490	RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.	\$20.00
5491	Verizon Wireless	\$38.62
5492	City of Hendrum	\$120.98
5493	Visser Trenching Inc.	\$1,250.00
5494	Hendrum EDA	\$242.00
5495	Loffler Companies Inc.	\$192.05
5496	Red River Valley Cooperative Power	\$240.77
5497	arvig	\$4.95
5498	Minnesota Department of Health	\$490.00
5499	Minnesota State Fire Dept. Assoc.	\$130.00
5500	VIA Actuarial Solutions	\$2,100.00
5501	Bitker, Inc.	\$40.00
5502	Minnesota State Community & Technical College	\$2,515.00
5503	PERA	\$509.17
5504	Internal Revenue Service	\$1,600.74
5505	Hendrum EDA	\$242.00
5506	Fuch's Sanitation, Inc.	\$2,729.21
5507	MN Dept. of Labor & Industry	\$55.00
5508	Valley General Store	\$9.99
5509	Red River Valley Cooperative Power	\$215.04
5510	Kotaco Fuels	\$53.67
5511	City of Halstad	\$300.00
5512	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	\$345.00
5513	Sam's Club	\$43.08
5514	USPS	\$7.55

MOTION: M. Smart moved; seconded by B. Schlapkohl to approve payment of claims totaling \$14,329.69.

BAUKOL: aye; JOHANNSEN: aye; KAASA: aye; SCHLAPKOHL: aye; SMART: aye.

MOTION PASSED.

2. **Voided Checks:** 18359, 18361

- C. **MAYOR'S REPORT:** No additional items were reported beyond those listed on the agenda.
- D. **FIRE & RESCUE REPORT:** Fire Chief Smart reported ongoing Firefighter I training, dispatch mapping issues, and steak supper preparations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Ordinance Violations:** Animal control and nuisance vehicle cases remain under review with the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney.
- B. **City Street Paving Project:** The Council discussed continued efforts to pursue state and federal funding opportunities for future street paving improvements, including coordination with engineering partners and legislative offices.
- C. **Rural Water Supply Project:** The Council discussed ongoing coordination with engineering partners and legislative offices regarding potential grant funding opportunities to support future development of a rural water supply connection for the City.
- D. **Infinity Center:**
 - **Gymnasium Roof Repair:** The Mayor reported that additional information has been submitted to the Dekko Foundation, and the City is awaiting further communication.
 - **Rentals:** The Council reviewed current rental activity at the Infinity Center, noting that one tenant remains delinquent and that follow-up communication has been initiated to address the outstanding balance.
 - **Realtor:** The Mayor reported ongoing discussions with a realtor regarding potential options for marketing and selling the Infinity Center, with further information expected at a future meeting.
 - **Riverview Dairy:** The Council discussed continued interest expressed by Riverview Dairy, noting that a facility tour with an architect may occur pending scheduling availability.
 - **Industrial Arts Building/Football Field:** The Council reported that survey work has begun to establish boundary lines for the football field property, with additional surveying needed for the Industrial Arts Building.
 - **Building Closure Plan:** The Council discussed potential timelines, utility and insurance cost-saving measures, tenant notification requirements, and building system considerations related to a possible phased closure of the Infinity Center should a sale or long-term use agreement not be secured.

MOTION: S. Kaasa moved; seconded by P. Baukol to shut down the school building effective May 31, 2026.

BAUKOL: aye; JOHANNSEN: nay; KAASA: aye; SCHLAPKOHL: nay; SMART: nay.

MOTION FAILED.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Infinity Center Vandalism:** The Council discussed a recent incident involving unlawful entry, vandalism, and theft at the Infinity Center, reviewed the scope of damage and cleanup efforts completed by staff and volunteers, and received an update on the ongoing investigation and criminal charges; the Council further discussed restitution for labor and material costs, coordination with the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney, and the City's role as a victim in the prosecution process.

MOTION: P. Baukol moved; seconded by S. Kaasa to request restitution and counseling/treatment, designate Mike Smart as city contact, and defer a victim impact statement pending further information.

BAUKOL: aye; JOHANNSEN: aye; KAASA: aye; SCHLAPKOHL: aye; SMART: aye.

MOTION PASSED.

- B. YMCA Summer Meals Program:** The Council discussed the YMCA summer meals program, which provides free breakfast and lunch to children during the summer months, and approved use of the Infinity Center playground as a distribution location pending final scheduling and state funding approval.

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by P. Baukol to approve use of the playground for the YMCA summer meals program.

BAUKOL: aye; JOHANNSEN: aye; KAASA: aye; SCHLAPKOHL: aye; SMART: aye.

MOTION PASSED.

- C. Flower Pots:** The Council discussed the City flower pot program, noting that the Community Club does not have sufficient volunteers to coordinate planting and ongoing maintenance this season. Council members discussed alternative options including individual volunteers, shared maintenance responsibilities, and potential adjustments to the number or placement of flower pots, with the matter to be revisited at a future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 28, 2026 – Steak Supper Event
- April 15, 2026 – Regular Council Meeting
- April 21, 2026 – Local Board of Appeals and Equalization

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: B. Schlapkohl moved; seconded by M. Smart to adjourn at 8:22 pm.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

Keri Plemmons, Clerk-Treasurer