

City Council Special Meeting Minutes
Budget Workshop #1
January 14, 2026

On 01/14/2026 the Hamburg City Council held a special meeting to being the FY27 budget process. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harry Adams at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call: City Clerk Colleen Pelser conducted the Roll Call, those present were Rod Wilson, Kent Benefiel, Earl Hendrickson, and Mike Stenzel.

Rod moved to approve the agenda, and seconded by Kent. The council approved the agenda.

RESOLUTION 114-26A APPROVE BOND AND VALLEY CORP CONTRACT: Valley Corp, the contractor for completing the infrastructure at the Northridge Acres housing development has request the City secure a payment bond as a condition of the contract, which will be repaid to the City by IEDA. The City has been pursuing quotes for the bond, but has not yet secured one. The resolution was for the Council to approve signing the bond contract upon receiving an offer and should the terms of the bond be acceptable to the council. The Mayor noted that approving the resolution will show the contractor and IEDA that the City is in good faith working toward a signed contract. Earl moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mike. A roll call vote was held with the following votes: Earl – Yes; Kent – No; Rod – Yes; Mike – Yes. The resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 114-26B REVERSE FUND TRANSFERS: The City Clerk requested that the Council approve reversal of some accounting transfers that were approved in August (Resolutions 811-#1-8). The accounting method used resulted in double counting that was distorting budget reports, whereas a different but still valid method would not produce this effect. Kent moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Rod. A roll call vote was held with the following votes: Rod – Yes; Kent – Yes; Earl – Yes; Mike – Yes. The resolution was approved.

The Council then reviewed the current FY26 budget balance sheet, cash balances, and some initial expected/requested budget items for FY27. Mike wanted to allocate funds for nuisance abatement, and Jarod gave an overview of expected public works expenditures, including possible equipment purchases. Regular items included vehicle maintenance and repairs, sewer and water equipment and supplies, and street maintenance supplies. Equipment potentially needing replacement included a service truck, a skidloader mower replacement, snowplow replacement, and replacement of a mower for the cemetery, as maintenance and repair cost on these items was beginning to pile up. Rather than replace the mowers, Kent suggested that it might be more cost effective to put the cemetery mowing out for bid, as well as mowing for the park and City buildings. Jarod said that he would create and advertisement and put it out for bid. In addition, Jarod noted that the water tower would need to be relined and recoated soon, but that costs could be spread over 3 years.

Some additional claims were reviewed for invoices that had been received late:

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
CENTURY LINK	PHONE BILLS	\$765.95
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRIC	\$1,614.78
VISA	Old acct - Final Bill - close acct	\$11.96
VISA	Office supplies, parts - road use	\$858.93
**** REPORT TOTAL ****		
GENERAL		\$2,981.87
ROAD USE TAX		\$269.75

Mike moved to approve the claims, seconded by Rod. A roll call vote was held with the following votes: Rod – Yes; Kent – Yes; Earl – Yes; Mike – Yes. The claims were approved.

An agenda item included one to move into closed session under Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) to discuss an employee salary issue. It was pointed out that salaries are public and should not be in closed session. Further discussion noted that employee interviews, hiring, and performance are valid reasons to go into closed session under Iowa Code Chapter 21.5, if the employee requests it. There was further discussion and review of the regulations, but no firm conclusion was reached. Since the discussion was salary only and not performance, no one moved to go into closed session and the discussion was held publicly.

RESOLUTION 114-26C CLERK/TREASURER SALARY: In October, a new City Clerk was hired with an agreed salary of \$52,000, and exempt from overtime. After hiring the City was made aware that the threshold for exempt salaried administrative workers had been changed in January of 2025 to a minimum of \$58,656. Thus, to be in legal compliance, the City would need to either raise the salary, or pay the Clerk overtime for hours worked beyond 40 hours per week. Based on the comparison between the costs of overtime vs. the costs of the legal exempt salary, Earl moved to approve the resolution setting the salary at the minimum exempt level. Mike seconded and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Rod – Yes; Kent – Yes; Mike – Yes; Earl – Yes. The resolution passed.

Mike moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rod, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned.
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