City Council Special Budget Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026

On 01/26/2026 the Hamburg City Council held a special meeting for the FY27 budget. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harry Adams at 6:30 PM. A roll call was conducted and those present were: Rod Wilson, Kent Benefield, Mike Stenzel, and Bill Barret.

Mike moved to approve the agenda, Rod seconded, and all approved.

RESOLUTION 126-26A CLERK SALARY: On 01/14/2026, the Council had previously resolved to increase the Clerk salary from $52,000 to $58,656 to comply with the Department of Labor's final rule on compensation limits for overtime-exempt employees. However, this final rule is currently not being enforced, as it is under litigation in several District Courts and an appeal is pending. Therefore, the Clerk introduced a resolution to restore the salary level back to the original agreement. Kent moved to approve the resolution, Rod seconded, and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Bill – Yes; Rod – Yes; Mike – Yes; Kent -Yes. The resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 126-26B: EXTEND BANK IOWA LOAN: Mayor Adams introduced to seek a year extension on a short-term loan from Bank Iowa related with a remaining balance of $593,355.41. Bill moved to approve the resolution, Kent seconded, and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Bill – Yes; Rod – Yes; Mike – Yes; Kent – Yes.

The Clerk introduced materials regarding the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT), an organization created pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 28E in 1987 to enable eligible Iowa public agencies to effectively invest their available operating and reserve funds. Participation requires no fees or investments and allows cities to obtain interest rate comparisons for use in negotiations with private lenders, and with the option to invest funds with IPAIT. Bill noted that a similar organization exists for schools (Iowa Schools Joint Investment Trust – ISJIT) and that he had experience successfully using this mechanism with the schools. The Council was provided with materials to review with the intention of introducing the resolution to join at the next regular meeting to be held on February 9, 2026.

The Council next began discussions of budget items. The council discussed the allocation of funds for legal services and nuisance abatement issues. It was that previous years' budgets for legal services related to housing projects could be reduced as they would not be needed in FY27, and the budget for legal and contractual services for nuisance abatement could be increased to $20,000 for legal, and $20,000 for contractual. The Council discussed funds for Animal control, but no firm budget allocation reached, due to the lack of a solution for housing impounded animals.

The Council discussed purchase requests for operational equipment. Based on estimated budget, the Council approved $8,500 for a skidloader mower replacement and $12,000 for a new snowplow attachment. They also discussed possible funding for a new service truck at an approximate cost of $75,000. Options included leasing or purchasing using municipal financing to spread the cost over three years. The Council concluded that more information was needed to make a decision, but that funds previously saved for equipment replacement could be used. The Council discussed the need for re-lining the water tower, at a projected cost of $250,000 spread over three years. Current debt obligations make embarking on this project difficult for FY27, but Jarod Coy, the Public Works director, pointed out that the water tower should at minimum be cleaned and inspected in FY27, at an estimated cost of $25,000. The Council agreed to budget for that, and to consider other special revenue fund reserves to be used in a future year to fund starting the water tower updates.

The draft budget included a 3% increase in wages for City workers. Current consumer price index (CPI) estimates are around 2.7%, with the cost of food and housing estimated between 3.0% and 3.2%.

The Council concluded discussing the FY27 budget and considered a request of $10,894.76 for purchase of new water meters and underground parts in FY26. Bill moved to approve the purchases, seconded by Mike, and all present approved. Earl Hendrickson was absent.

The agenda included an item for new claims, but no new claims were ready to be presented.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

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