

City Council Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026

A regular meeting of the Hamburg City Council was held on March 2, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harry Adams at 6:00 PM.

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

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

Bill moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 11 th and 23 rd . Rod seconded, and all approved.

Rod Wilson announced that he will post Hamburg City Council agendas on the City Facebook page on the Friday before the meeting. <https://www.facebook.com/hamburgiowa/>

LIBRARY UPDATE: Katrina reported on several upgrades and acquisitions, including installation of a new DVD media cabinet, the purchase of 33 new books, and repair of the basement floor. She reported on plans to replace the carpeting, including upstairs, and updating the voicemail hours for the phone system so that it does not go to voicemail on Saturdays. She informed the council that there is new legislation (State of Iowa House Bill 720 – HF2622) pertaining to libraries that might impact City Council oversight, and requested the Council to review. There were two library claims (see claims report below). The Council discussed whether the library could pay their bills directly through the library account, and Katrina said she would investigate whether this is allowed under regulations.

There were no citizen presentations.

RESOLUTION 302-26A CONTRACT WITH VALLEY CORPORATION: A resolution was introduced to authorize entering into a contract with Valley Corp to complete the infrastructure work at Northridge Acres, without the need for a payment assurance bond, and with IEDA allowing expedited payment procedures. Representatives Iowa Economic Development Authority notified Hamburg that HUD has approved the IEDA extension request for the Northridge Acres housing development. However, since the final revised contract from Valley Corp had not yet been received, Bill moved to table the resolution. Rod seconded the motion, and all approved. The council reviewed an invoice from Lamp Rynearson (project engineer) for scope of work activities and agreed to move forward with requesting funds from IEDA.

IPIB COMPLAINT #26FC:0034: A new IPIB complaint has been filed alleging that the City Council went into closed session on January 14 th to discuss contract negotiations regarding Northridge Acres. The City has responded to the complaint with the following facts: on January 14 th there was an agenda item for closed session, but it was not related to Northridge Acres. Rather it was related to an employee salary issue. During the meeting, the Council deliberated whether closed session was needed and subsequently no closed session was held, but rather the matter was discussed publicly. These facts are reflected in the meeting minutes published in the Hamburg Reporter on January 23 rd .

POOL BOARD: Deb Robinson informed the Council that Kathi Brennan had resigned from the Board and that the board requests appointment of Jessica Barrett and Jeri Jo Ashley. Kent moved to approve the nominations, seconded by Bill, and all approved. It was noted that the City was looking into whether there were any insurance issues with having exercise classes outside of lifeguard hours, since state regulations do not prohibit it. Deb informed the council that she was looking into a swim lesson program. Jarod also noted that this year a new shed will need to be built to better store the deck chairs. He also requested approval for a quote of \$3,400 for repair of the main circulation pump. Kent moved to approve the bid, seconded by Bill, and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Bill – yes; Rod – yes; Kent – yes; and Mike – yes.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE: Jarod reported that they had posted 42 water shutoff notices for non-payment of at least 60 days, and noted that quite a few people had contacted the city to make payment arrangements. RESOLUTION 302-26B was introduced to allow the Public Works Director a discretionary spending limit of \$10,000 per month for emergency expenses without prior approval of the Council. The current limit of \$1,500 was discussed and Jarod noted that he hadn't had any problem up until now contacting Council when he needed more and that he preferred prior approval anyway. No one moved to approve the resolution and no vote was held. Jarod requested approval of a quote of \$4,500 for 12 new water meters. Mike moved to approve the request, seconded by Rod, and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Bill – yes; Rod – yes; Kent – yes; Mike – yes.

Updates to the draft Employee Handbook were discussed with the following decisions to be included in the next version to be voted on next month: 1) employees with length of service 10 years or more will receive 160 hours vacation per year, and those with 20 years or more will receive 200 hours. Employees may only carry over 40 hours unused vacation per year; 2) Employees will be able to accrue up to 60 days of sick leave rather than 30; 3) Employees taking FMLA will be required to use all vacation, then sick leave, after which the leave will be non-paid; 4) a yearly performance review will be performed in December each year; 5) Nepotism restrictions will apply to “your spouse, or you or your spouse's mother, father, daughter, son, sister, or brother.”

CLERK UPDATE: Colleen asked the Council to review the Public Notice for the Proposed Tax Levy Hearing to be held at City Hall on Tuesday, March 24 th at 6PM. Bill asked Colleen to verify if it was the correct form for publication. Colleen provided documents on the State's Flood Recovery Funds request for reimbursement for overpayment of funds for the Ditch 6 Levee project. There was a discussion on whether to reimburse the State. Fund now, or whether to seek further info from the administrators. Kent moved to return the funds now, seconded by Rod, and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Bill – no; Rod – yes; Kent – no; Mike – yes. The motion did not pass and the Council will reach out to the Fund administrators for further info. Colleen presented a renewed offer from Potempkin Limited to purchase shares of Principal stock held by the City. It was noted that the offer was less than official market value, but to sell the shares a brokerage account was needed. Bill moved to approve the sale, seconded by Kent, and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Bill – no; Rod – no; Kent – no; Mike – no. The motion did not pass and Colleen will do further research on this asset.

Claims were reviewed and the Council debated whether they wanted to continue the current retainer arrangement with McGinn law firm. Bill moved to approve all claims except for the retainer request. Kent seconded and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Bill – yes; Rod – yes; Kent – yes; Mike – no. The motion passed. Claims approved were:

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
ACCESS LEASING	Copier	\$16.22
ACCESS SYSTEMS	Phones	\$442.82
AQUA CHEMICALS	chemicals	\$5,805.20
BADGER METER	metering	\$121.15
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	NATURAL GAS	\$722.30
BRIANNA O'HEARN	Legal - Nuisance	\$306.25
CENTURY LINK	PHONE BILLS	\$388.06
COLLECTION SERVICES CENTER	CHILD SUPPORT	\$602.40
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	minutes 02 09 2026	\$595.22
DELTA DENTAL	DENTAL INS	\$283.86
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	\$3,133.71
FIRST INTERSTAE BANK	Hand written on CK#62673	\$150.00
FREMONT COUNTY SHERIFF	SHERIFF CONTRACT	\$9,406.00
IPERS	Bill's back contributions	\$9.82
IPERS	IPERS - REGULAR	\$4,315.18
JESSICA KUHN	library cleaning	\$50.00
JON MCNEES	clothing allowance reimbursmt	\$368.07
MENARDS	supplies	\$137.93
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRIC	\$7,119.78
MIDWEST DATA CENTER	service charges and install	\$1,977.94
MOBILE ACCOUNTING	Payroll	\$300.00
PAGE COUNTY LANDFILL	landfill	\$374.20
PAPER TIGER	SHREDDING	\$35.00
POST OFFICE	UTILITY POSTAGE	\$310.00
PV BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	OSHA Compliance Journal	\$298.50
SHENANDOAH SANITATION	Trash	\$2.40
STOREY KENWORTHY/MATT PARROTT	Utility Billing Supplies	\$599.88
TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA	STATE TAXES	\$693.51
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT	Fire truck payment + principal	\$30,509.00
Accounts Payable Total		\$69,074.40
Invoices: Paid		\$68,924.40
Invoices: Scheduled		\$150.00
Payroll Checks		\$8,843.02
**** REPORT TOTAL ****		\$77,917.42
GENERAL		\$50,047.21
LIBRARY		\$2,524.93
ROAD USE TAX		\$6,896.87
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$170.32
WATER		\$12,957.81
SEWER		\$5,320.28
TOTAL FUNDS		\$77,917.42

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rod, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM. Published in the Hamburg Reporter on March 13, 2026

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