Hamburg City Council Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026

A regular meeting of the Hamburg City Council was held on August 6, 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, Bill Barrett, Mike Stenzel, and Luke Barrett.
Mike moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Bill, and all approved.
Bill moved to approve minutes from 7/6/2026, seconded by Mike and all approved.
Library Report: Katrina reported that in July there were 230 visitors and 24 new books acquired. The Summer Reading program will be held August 12 th & 13 th from 9:45 to noon with a theme of "Plant a Seed, Read." Registration slips are located at the Library, City Hall, Stoner Drug, the banks, Dollar General, the Swimming Pool, Casey's, and on social media. Nancy has helped with planning, and volunteers will be helping during the event. Those interested in helping should contact Katrina. Tuckpointing of the Library has been completed, with a final invoice of $81,585.00, to be added to this month's claims. There were $643.21 for Amazon purchases and $400.24 in credit card purchases. The Library reimbursed the City $31,113.25 for FY26 purchases. The library received $257.79 in bank interest and $108.37 petty cash income. Current projects include: reviewing proofs from Adkins Signs for a new sign; ongoing trial of Biblionix Apollo library software; researching an electronics recycling event, and; there will be a Library Open House on Popcorn day from 9am to Noon on September 12 th .
Citizen Presentations: Jeff Schear announced a petition to change county supervisor districts and left a copy at City Hall for those interested.
Resolution 0803-26A - CITY OF HAMBURG RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FOR CDBG HOUSING DEVELOPER PROPOSAL. Mike moved to approve a resolution to authorize Southwest Iowa Planning Council to submit the approved Developer Proposal by Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund (SWIHTF) to IEDA on behalf of the City of Hamburg. The project plan includes SWIHTF purchasing up to 6 Home for Iowa pre-made homes, and engaging contractors to construct full basements, sidewalks, driveways and garages at the sites where homes would be placed. Bill seconded the motion and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Kent – yes; Rod – yes; Bill – yes; Mike – yes; Luke – yes. The resolution was passed.
Resolution 0803-26B – Bill moved to approve a resolution stating the Council's intent to move forward with an electricity franchise agreement with MidAmerican Energy with a 1% franchise fee, which would replace the current 1% Local Option Sales Tax charged to residents. Rod seconded the motion and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Kent – yes; Rod – yes; Bill – yes; Mike – yes; Luke – yes. The resolution was passed. The Council set the date for a public hearing on the agreement for Monday, August 31 st at 6pm.
The Council discussed the need for a renewed 28E agreement with the Fremont County Sheriff for law enforcement patrol in Hamburg. The Council decided to put a hold on payments since there is no current agreement in place, and discussed plans to get on the Agenda with the County Board of Supervisors to continue to pursue renewed terms, services, and pricing.
The Council reviewed a quote from TownWeb for website development and hosting with online payment and reporting functions for a total of $2,520 per year. Bill moved to approve the quote, seconded by Kent and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Kent – yes; Rod – yes; Bill – yes; Mike – yes; Luke – yes.
IPIB Complaint #26FC-0175 was filed against the City claiming that the custodian of records did not provide adequate information on how a records search was performed after the requester was notified that the requested records did not exist. The City has provided their initial response and will further submit signed notarized affidavits attesting as to how the search was conducted and how it was determined that no responsive records exist.
The Council highlighted the fact that the City has been losing tens of thousands of dollars per year on utilities, and that part of the problem is the large number of customers who do not pay their bills. Revisions to the existing water ordinance fee/penalty structure were discussed, as well as utility collections procedures. Current ordinances already provide for shutting off water for non-payment and the City needs to renew efforts to follow these procedures consistently.
Public Works Update: Jarod requested $2,005.56 to order underground parts to replace those used in the recent sewer issues. Bill moved to approve the request, seconded by Kent and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Kent – yes; Rod – yes; Bill – yes; Mike – yes; Luke – yes. Jarod presented a demolition permit request for 401 E St. Mike moved to approve the permit, seconded by Bill, and all approved. Jarod presented a demolition permit request for 101 D St. Kent moved to approve the request, seconded by Rod, and all approved. Jarod reported that 1709 Park St. had been demolished. Jarod provided copies of two engineering proposals for site studies regarding sewer infrastructure improvements for review. The City will continue to seek funding for these projects. Jarod requested the Council agree to forgo waiting for the Army Corp of Engineers to approve the location of a concrete pad to store the HESCO barriers, and instead to keep the barriers stored as-is without a concrete pad. This would allow the City to close out the grant project, releasing the funds back to the Flood Recovery Fund, and allowing the City to request to apply those funds to other projects. The Council agreed to move forward with this plan. The Council asked Jarod to get a quote for the removal of a damaged tree at 1501 Argyle.
Clerk Update: Colleen requested $1,635.75 for a new laptop for the clerk's office. Bill moved to approve the request, seconded by Luke and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Kent – yes; Rod – yes; Bill – yes; Mike – yes; Luke – yes. Mike moved to approve Resolution 0803-26C, authorizing transferring $36,599.05 from the emergency fund to the general fund in order to close out the defunct revenue stream. Bill seconded and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Kent – yes; Rod – yes; Bill – yes; Mike – yes; Luke – yes. The resolution passed. Bill moved to approve Resolution 0803-26D, authorizing transferring $20,061.92 from the Local Option Sales Tax fund to the Debt Service Fund in order to rebalance after some accounting errors. Rod seconded and a roll call vote was held with the following votes: Kent – yes; Rod – yes; Bill – yes; Mike – yes; Luke – yes. The resolution passed.
Rod moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.
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