

## Holdingsford City Council Minutes Monday, May 12th, 2025.

**Council Members in attendance:** Travis Harlander, Tim Winter, Seth Young, Jayme Opatz, Eric Berscheid.

**Others in attendance:** Nicky Lahr, Karla and Tom Kalla, Jenny Gunderson, Eric Kohorst, Sharon Berscheid, Diane Konsor, Herman Lensing, Gordy Sjaasheim, Bryon Kester, Davis Mickelson, Reed Allanson, Rick Solinger.

Travis called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Jayme made a motion to approve the consent agenda including April Council minutes and financial documents. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Guests: Davis Mickelson, Chair of Holding Township, let the Council know that at their next Township meeting they would be discussing the City/Township agreement for storing salt/sand and maintaining the dirt road (1<sup>st</sup> Street) from River Street to the Wastewater Plant. Both parties wanted the agreement on record for future reference. He also mentioned that Steve requested piggybacking dust control on first street with other Township projects. He wanted to know how to bill those services. Nicky will work with him on how to do this.

Jeff Ebnet mentioned that with his new house build, he is seeking some sewer deductions on his utility bill due to cement work and lawn seeding. It was noted that some forgiveness was given to another resident in 2024 for a similar situation. Jayme mentioned that they would take it into consideration and to come back after the project completion with gallon/dollar amounts put together with the Clerks.

Dave Blommel gave the Engineer report. SEH has located 3 sites in addition to the current city wells that they are ready to sample. He asked that the Clerk reach out to the three individuals to request water sampling from their wells and in return we would share the results with them. Dave also reported that Omann Bros will be ready to begin the paving project after July 4<sup>th</sup>. They will try to complete the project quickly and will not interfere with Holdingsford Daze activities. Dave will also connect with them in regard to street repairs from the water main break and also on behalf of Jeff Ebnet who needs repairs done from installing water lines to his new home.

Seth reported for the Land Use committee, stating that there were 2 new permit requests.

331 4<sup>th</sup> street is erecting a new shed. The committee approved all setbacks and requirements. Eric made a motion to approve permit 9-25-4-29 as long as the setbacks were confirmed correct. Tim seconded it and the motion passed with all in favor.

761 4<sup>th</sup> street West requested a permit to install a chain link fence. The Land Use committee verified all setbacks were met. Eric made a motion to approve this permit 10-25-5-5. Jayme seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Seth asked Eric Kohorst what the status was at 130 River Street. Mr. Kohorst asked for a variance to the City's ordinance to keep the improvements that he had made to date. Jayme explained that a permit should have been pulled prior to the work. He also explained that the State sets the regulations, and relies on the City to enforce. Eric Berscheid asked that by next meeting Eric Kohorst must have an engineer hired and actively working on the survey, or that the property is returned to its original grade with dirt removed, and all sheds and other items removed except for the shed that was on the property when he purchased it.

Nicky presented the Clerk's report. The annual audit will be submitted to the state this month and presented at the next meeting. She said that the MMBA conference and the Clerk's academy went well. Online campground booking went live on May 1<sup>st</sup> and seems to be working well. A new sign has been ordered for campground as well. The elementary School and Community Ed will be using the baseball fields again.

Minutes are not official until approved by the City Council and signed by the Clerk.

In Old Business: Tim made a motion to move forward with creating language for an ordinance that would allow chickens in city limits. Travis seconded the motion. The motion failed with Eric, Jayme and Seth voting against. Nicky was directed to check City Ordinances to determine how often the request can be made.

Eric made a motion to temporarily reduce new water and sewer hookup fees from \$900 each down to \$100 each for a two-year period. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

In New Business: The Holdingford Chamber of Commerce requested approval to close city streets for Holdingford Daze and to approve the Parade Route. Jayme made a motion to approve these, and Tim seconded the motion, and It passed with all in favor.

The City Hall POW/MIA flag needs to be replaced, and the Council was asked if the flag should be replaced with the MN State flag instead as there is a POW/MIA flag at Veteran's memorial park. The Council agreed that the old-style MN State flag would be appropriate for City Hall.

Additional Agenda items discussed: Travis mentioned that he reviewed the 2006 comprehensive plan, and would like to continue working towards these plans.

Karla Kalla asked if there was anything the City could do about the woodchucks in town. It was explained that the City workers are not trained to handle wildlife, nor do they have the equipment to do so. She also asked about having the water lines replaced on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street where the breaks have been occurring. The council said they will put this on the project list.

Looking forward: City Wide Cleanup on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 8-11am at the Holdingford High School, City Hall will be closed May 20<sup>th</sup> at noon, May 26<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day, and May 29<sup>th</sup>-June 6<sup>th</sup> for staff vacation.

Notices were sent for past-due water bills to: Covered Bridge, Tom & Amber Adelman, Kevin Feia, Andy Higgins, Holdingford Hillside Trailer Park, Roger Jensen, Nathaniel Posch, Jared Voudry, Joseph and Lana Doll.

Jayme made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Tim seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr \_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford