

Holdingsford City Council Minutes Monday, June 9th, 2025.

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

Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Karla and Tom Kalla, Herman Lensing, Dave Blommel

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

Eric made a motion to approve the consent agenda including May Council minutes and financial documents. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Guests: Karla Kalla was present to discuss the locating of the sewer lines to her property. She was informed that the initial scoping was done, but the jetting and re-scoping have not yet been completed. She was told that someone would inform her as soon as it has been completed, however there are several emergent projects that may take priority.

Department reports:

The maintenance, emergency management, municipal liquor store, fire department and clerk's reports were not submitted this month.

Dave Blommel gave the Engineer report. He shared the plan for the City Hall parking lot which includes removing the peninsula, and installing a curb extending from the stairs so there is a plowable barrier, and possibly placing rock between the curb and the building. WM. D. Scepaniak will be rebuilding their retaining wall with larger heavier blocks before the project begins. Dave also said that the well sampling is on course to be done this week. There are some contingency properties lined up in case the preferred wells are not usable. Dave has been working on a \$1.3 million bond request application with Nicky that will be submitted this week. Jayme asked about residents that might want to piggyback with the paving company. Dave said they can reach out directly to Omann Bros, and he thinks they may be willing to do this. Jayme made a motion to approve resolution 25-6-9-1 authorizing the Clerk to file the application for the funding request. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Tim made a motion to hire Aaron Olson at the top of the Lead Bartender range F5. Jayme seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Tim also commented that he liked the fact that Aaron has been cleaning in his downtime instead of sitting on his cell phone as he has witnessed in the past.

Land use permit 12-25-5-27 was presented for a pool deck install at 275 Ridge Way. The land use committee recommended approval as long as the deck is not attached to the existing deck. If it is, footings would be required. Eric made a motion to approve the permit if it follows the committee's recommendations. Jayme seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

In old business, Eric Kohorst's property at 130 River Street West, has not been corrected and he has not provided proof that he has hired an engineering firm to model the floodplain potential. The Council discussed what the possible outcomes could be due to non-compliance. They asked Nicky to check with the League of MN Cities, and the City Attorney to determine what steps the City should take next.

In new business: Dan Lahr had his annual employee evaluation. As he is at the top of his pay scale, no pay increase was recommended until he passes his next waste water license test. Jayme made a motion to approve Dan's evaluation. Tim seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Thank you to the American Legion for donating \$2000 for landscape work done at Veteran's park. They will be working with Steve and donating more this summer as well. Thank you to all the volunteers that participated in the Pedals to Petals organization. They recently refreshed the triangle park and maintain it throughout the year. Thank you to Helping Hands and the Lionesses for helping residents during Holdingsford Cares Day. A request was made to move the event back to the first Saturday in May, however the school is not able to accommodate that day due to other events. Eric

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made a motion to hold the Holdingford Clean-up on May 16th in 2026. Jayme seconded the motion and they stated they would like to continue to have the event at the school. Motion passed with all in favor.

The Council was asked if Main Street could be closed during a fund raiser benefit on August 2nd. Jayme made a motion to approve this and Tim seconded it. Motion passed with all in favor.

All of the background checks came back in good standing for the liquor license applications, along with the proof of liability insurance. Jayme made a motion to approve the license for the American Legion, and Tim seconded it. Jayme made a motion to approve the license for Art in Motion and Boho Café Tim seconded it. Jayme made a motion to approve the license for Rudolph's Redneck Roost Tim seconded it. Jayme made a motion to approve the license for the Municipal liquor Store Tim seconded the motion. Jayme made a motion to approve a temporary license for Holdingford Youth Wrestling over Holdingford Daze Tim seconded it. All liquor licenses passed with all in favor.

Additional Agenda items discussed: Karla and Tom Kalla discussed Eric Bercheid's property, stating that the work he is doing looks good. They asked for clarification on what to do with sticks/branches, and mentioned they saw what they think is an otter in town.

Looking forward: City Hall will be closed on June 19th and 20th, and on July 4th and 7th.

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, Tawner Cleland.

Tim made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Eric seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr _____

City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford