

Holdingsford City Council Minutes Monday, July 14th, 2025.

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

Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Karla Kalla, Herman Lensing, Jessica Funk, Carlana Johnson.

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: Carlana Johnson and Jessica Funk made a request to have the rental fees waived for the rental of the park shelter for August 13-16. They will host a garage sale at that location during the Holdingsford City wide garage sales as a fundraiser for their troop. Jayme made a motion to approve waiving the fee for the shelter on those days. Tim Seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Carlana also mentioned that there are two Scouts looking for community projects that benefit the City, School or County that they are in.

Carlana also mentioned that cars have been parking on the sidewalk at Covered Bridge LLC. Council members also agreed that they have seen vehicles parking on the sidewalk in that location. Nicky will send a letter to Covered Bridge asking them to inform their staff and visitors not to park on the sidewalks.

Department reports:

Steve Horvath gave the maintenance report. He mentioned that they did quite a bit of prep work for Holdingsford Daze, and will follow up with street sweeping when time allows. He shared that he had applied for a Copper and Lead grant from the State of MN and we were awarded. This grant would pay S.E.H. to survey homes to determine if any of them have lead lines. If they do, there are grants available for replacement. Dave Blommel was out on vacation so Steve gave an update on the paving project. He stated that at the preconstruction meeting, the project manager recommended that we keep tar up alongside the building, and don't put in permanent curbing, as he believes that would cause water issues alongside the building. The council decided to keep to the original design of replacing all of the tar and Steve would purchase and install curb stops at each of the parking spaces after the paving is completed. Nicky will call the project manager to let him know. Steve also reported that a utility pole at the main lift station had tipped over. He said that it did not look like it was hit by a vehicle. The pole is owned by the city, so Steve locally sourced a replacement pole and will install it this week, with Hommerding Electric reconnecting the wiring.

Jayme gave a brief report for the Holdingsford Municipal Liquor Store. Amy had reported that the gross profit for Holdingsford Daze was \$26,116, up more than \$5,000 from last year.

There were no new permit requests for the Land Use committee, however there was discussion on how to proceed with the property at 130 River Street West. No action was taken by the homeowner to remove the sheds, pool, or posts that were put in place prior to mapping due to being in a flood plain, or getting permit approval. Travis stated that he had talked to Mr. Kohorst and recommends each of the Council members do the same as the homeowner does not like to speak in a formal public forum. Eric Berscheid agreed to do this. Jayme recommended a special meeting so this does not continue to drag out longer. A special meeting will take place on July 28th at 6:00 pm for further discussion. Holdingsford Hillside Trailer Park was issued a letter asking the owner to clean up the trash on his property no later than July 18. The council also asked Nicky to send out letters to several properties that were approached last year but did not comply with the nuisance clean-up requests including 220 Cedar Street, 841 4th Street, and 321 River Street West. Fines will be implemented if the nuisances are not abated.

Nicky gave the Clerk's report. She stated that the City received the first half of the tax levy, and will receive the first half of LGA later this month. The liability insurance was paid, and was \$3k less than last year's premium. She is starting to work on 2026 budget and will be cost forecasting based on projects and items useful lives. Nicky told the Council that there is approximately \$11k in the account at Magnifi Financial. She is recommending that the funds should be placed into a CD at 4.07% The Council Members agreed. And, Nicky also reported that Leigha Berscheid reached out on behalf of Magnifi and would like to schedule volunteer hours for the City again this year. She also would like to approach the Chamber of Commerce to solicit a donation for some new decorations for main street. The Council agreed and were grateful for the volunteer time. Nicky shared with the council that the Chamber will be donating funds for 4 new barricades. The City would purchase them and the Chamber would reimburse. These get used predominantly during Holdingford Daze.

In new business, the Lions submitted a request for a gambling permit for a raffle that will take place at the American Legion on October 3rd. Jayme made a motion to approve resolution 25-7-14-2 and Seth seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Additional Agenda items discussed: Travis changed the Mayor's office hours. He will now be available at City Hall on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm.

Looking forward: City Hall will be closed August 13th-15th. The next Council meeting will be July 28th (special meeting) followed by August 11th. City wide garage sales will take place August 14th-16th. Main street will be closed Aug 2nd for a benefit.

Notices were sent for past-due water bills to: Covered Bridge, Tom & Amber Adelman, Roger Jensen, Kevin Feia, Joseph and Lana Doll, Tawner Cleland, Eric Kohorst, Dale Lundberg.

Tim made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Seth seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr *Nicky Lahr*
City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford