

**Minutes for Well Head protection plan public hearing,
North High Court Assessment Hearing,
Holdingford City Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 14th, 2025.**

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

Council Members Not in attendance: Tim Winter

Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Dave Blommel, Alan Walz, Jolene Leither, Robyn Hoerr, Michael Schmidt, Josh Winter, Rick Winter, Carlena Johnson.

Travis opened the public hearing for the Well Head protection plan amendment at 7:04. Jolene Leither and Robyn Hoerr of the Minnesota Rural Water Association provided a summary of the steps taken to develop the plan. They mentioned that the Minnesota Department of Health has to review and comment and then Nicky can submit it for final approval. There were no comments or questions from the Council or the public. Jayme made a motion to close the hearing at 7:15. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Travis opened the public hearing for the North High Court assessments at 7:15. Dave Blommel reviewed the project and asked for public feedback. Comments from a resident at 1090 North High Court were read, as she was unable to attend the meeting. Feedback stated that her assessment amount was more than twice the amount that was originally presented. She stated that the cement quality of the curbing was poor. She wanted the Council to be aware that she purchased her current home with less street frontage after a bad past experience with assessments in Holdingford on a corner lot. She also requested that since the assessment was equalized, that the taxes are as well. Dave responded saying that the assessments did change as they were originally going to base the cost on street frontage, but due to a request from a resident at a prior meeting, the council decided to split the cost equally since all residents of the cul-de-sac use the street equally. He mentioned that all cul-de-sacs will be assessed this way on future projects as well. He also said that the cement quality was tested and has a 1-year warranty in case of any issues. Dave handed out FAQ sheets to all present, and reminded everyone that if the homeowners would like to pay the assessment in full to the City Clerk by November 15th, that it would not be placed on their property taxes which saves fees and interest. No further comments were made. Eric made a motion to close the hearing at 7:23. Jayme seconded it and the motion passed with all in favor.

Travis called the Council meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited. Jayme made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the September minutes and financials. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Guests: Josh Winter and Rick Winter were present to discuss ordinance violations at 230 Washington Street. They stated that they received a letter and wanted to know what could be done to avoid fines. They explained that they took care of the grass and weed issue, and also described the extensive work that they did on the inside of the home. Eric explained that the exterior of the property was the issue including the state of the siding and retaining wall. Josh said that he would resume exterior work in the spring. Nicky asked Dave Blommel if he knew of any grants that could assist residents with the repair or replacement of the retaining walls since there were many in town that were failing. Dave said there may be some and we would work on

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searching for that or low/no interest loans. Seth thanked Josh for coming in to discuss and explained that he would like to see that from more homeowners in the future. Nicky was tasked with reviewing past council minutes to find the determination of lot lines from when the City gave the alley alongside Josh's home, back to the property owners.

Jayne made a motion to approve the Well Head Protection Plan. Seth seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Eric made a motion to approve the assessments to North High Court as equal payments to each homeowner. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Department reports:

Dave gave the Engineer's report. He presented two bids for test drilling a well at the proposed site near the water tower. Jayme made a motion to approve Cascade drilling & Technical Services due to lower cost and earlier drill schedule of October 27th. Eric seconded the motion. Discussion on cost; Dave noted that the upper end could be \$70,000. Motion passed with all in favor.

Muni report: Jayme mentioned that the Liquor Store had both a State liquor and a gambling inspection in the last two weeks. They passed both with no issues. Jayme made a motion to hire PT bartender Abby Tensen. Seth seconded, and it passed with all in favor.

Maintenance, Emergency Manager, and Fire Department Heads were not present, and no updates given.

Seth Presented a change from the Land Use Committee. They would like to have accessory buildings of 200 sf or less be included on the permit application. This would fall under the "remodeling" category with a \$25 fee, and Clerk signature required. They would need to submit site plans with setbacks and include all other accessory buildings on the drawing. Eric made a motion to approve this change. Jayme seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Nicky gave the Clerk's report. She said that the city received an unemployment request from a former employee. She disputed the claim and the State denied their claim. She stated that there was a server failure after a power outage. 3 of the 6 drives failed, however IT was able to get them up and running again. Two replacement drives are on order. She also explained that the drives are of "home use" quality and do not have the life of a commercial server drive.

The push bars on the front doors at City Hall failed, and were replaced. She also mentioned that City Hall would be closed the remainder of the week.

Eric made a motion to accept a donation from the American Legion in the amount of \$57,500.00 and to pay an invoice in the same amount to Hanson Paving for the parking lot at Veteran's Park. Seth Seconded the motion. Discussion included having Nicky draft a letter thanking the Legion for the donation, and also letting them know that the Council must pre-approve any donated work in the future. Discussion also included having Steve contact Hanson Paving and Omann Brothers to pave the area between the parking lot and the road, preferably this year yet, up to \$10,000. The motion passed with all in favor. The council also asked Steve to ask Omann to come back to redo the patchwork from the Water Main break. The driveway that was repaired needs to be saw cut back and repaved. This does not need to take place until spring.

Unfinished/Old Business: Nicky asked the council how to proceed with the properties that received letters/citations for ordinance violations, but did not fix the issues. The Council directed her to send a letter to Minutes are not official until approved by the City Council and signed by the Clerk.

each giving them 15 days from the receipt of the letter to comply or the next violation will be imposed. They also asked to include "daily fines may be applied". Nicky will work with the City Attorney to investigate implementing daily fines.

Jayme made a motion to approve the final GO Bond resolution. Eric seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. The bond closing will be on November 3rd.

New Business: Nicky explained that there used to be 2 garbage cans on Main Street, and she had them removed as they were being used for personal/business use. Complaints were made and the Council asked Nicky to get them back, and to place one by the American Legion and one on the other side of Main Street. Eric made a motion to approve a gambling permit for Holdingford Post Prom. Seth seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

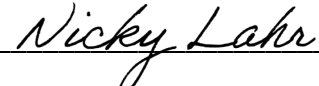
Additional Agenda Items: Eric made a motion to approve the formal acceptance of Corky's Carwash as-is (no soil testing). Jayme seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Seth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Jayme seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Looking forward: Next Council meeting is on Monday November 10th. City Hall will be closed October 15- 17, School Board Elections at City Hall on November 4th, City Hall Closed November 11th for Veterans Day.

Notices were sent for past due water bills: Tawner Cleland, Covered Bridge LLC, Joseph and Lana Doll, Kevin Feia, Roger Jensen, Josh Krueger, Dale Lundberg, and Jared Voudry, Robert keil, Brooklyn McGillivray, Walker Neinaber, Taxton Edens.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr  _____
City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford