

**Minutes for
Holdingford City Council Meeting
Monday, November 10th, 2025.**

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

Council Members Not in attendance: Jayme Opatz

Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Dave Blommel, Herman Lensing, Karla Kalla, Diane Konsor, Sharon Berscheid

Travis called the Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited. Seth made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the October minutes and financials. Eric seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Guests: Diane Konsor spoke about the retaining wall at her property at 700 4th Street. She stated that the wall was installed when the County repaved and widened CR 17, which cut into her property. The retaining wall is leaning out and she fears it may fall. Records received from Stearns County stated that the City paid and contracted the retaining wall. Eric Berscheid mentioned that the City paid for it because the County was going to assess the costs back to the City. Tim said that he did not believe that the City should be liable to pay for the repairs/replacement of the wall. His concern is that the City would then be liable for all the retaining walls in town. Dave Blommel mentioned that there is possible funding in the form of a grant. Eric made a motion to approve resolution 25-11-10-5 to fill out an application for a small city development program. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Department reports:

Dave Blommel gave the City Engineer's report. He explained that the soil boring conducted near the water tower determined that location would not work for a city well. He will work with Holdingford School to see if they would allow a test boring on their property.

Nicky gave the Clerk's report. She said that the final budgets are due for the December meeting, and final levy will be set at that time. There will be no increases to health care premiums in 2026. We received funds and an invoice for the new fire truck. The invoice for Omann Bros came in approximately \$18,000 below estimate. The new Kubota was delivered and we are awaiting that invoice. 2025 audit is scheduled for March 30-April 1st. She also mentioned that she was figuring the cost of making the Grounds and Facilities position full time, and it would run approximately \$30,000 in additional annual cost. She also mentioned that Maintenance is getting quotes on a new larger skid steer. This would replace the smaller skid steer and the loader. Numbers will be provided when they are available.

New Business: FFA asked if they could place "Proud FFA Community" on two population signs. Seth made a motion to approve this, and Tim seconded it. Discussion: Maintenance will have to remove other signs that are on the pole currently. Motion passed with all in favor.

Eric made a motion to approve resolution 25-11-10-1 Lions gambling permit. Tim seconded it and it passed with all in favor. Eric made a motion to approve resolution 25-11-10-2 Knights of Columbus gambling permit. Tim seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

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

2026 fee schedule was tabled until next month. The Council stated that there will be an increase in water and sewer to account for shortages, and new infrastructure. Notices will be put out in the next utility bills.

Eric made a motion to approve resolution 25-11-10-4 certifying delinquent utility bills to be added to the 2026 property taxes. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

A complaint was made about the paint in the dining hall stating that it is dingy and no longer comes clean.

Nicky shared that there is a potential donation to have it repainted. The Council agreed to this.

Eric made a motion to approve a 4% COLA increase for non-union employees for 2026. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

The MOU from the AFSCME union for the Paid Family and Medical Leave was tabled until next month. The Council asked Nicky to find the handbook language that relates to earning PTO while using PTO.

The Council thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the fall decorations. Eric mentioned that there have been requests for more to be made for each season.

Additional items: Eric requested that the new parking lot at Veterans Park have better drainage. He would like to have the South end connected to the storm. He would prefer it happen this fall, but if there are potential grants to make this happen, he would like to see it done within a year.

The Council approved the American Legion to stay in the storage unit that is being donated to the City. They would like a formal agreement drafted for the December meeting stating that they will receive the storage at no cost for a predetermined amount of time in exchange for the donations that they have contributed to the City.

Looking forward: City Hall is closed Nov. 11th, 27th, and 28th. Dog tags are due December 31st.

Notices were sent for past due water bills: Tawner Cleland, Covered Bridge LLC, Joseph and Lana Doll, Kevin Feia, Roger Jensen, Dale Lundberg

Seth made a motion to Adjourn at 7:58. Tim seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr _____

City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford