

Minutes for Holdingford City Council Meeting Monday, February 9th, 2026.

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

Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Herman Lansing, Gordy Sjaheim, Greg Konsor, Brooke Opatz, Karla Kalla

Travis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jayme made a motion to approve the consent agenda including January minutes and financials documents. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Guests: Janelle Kendall gave the annual city prosecution contact update. She stated that 2025 was another average year and shared handouts that included statistics to show this. She mentioned that she is always available for any questions.

Department reports:

Keith gave the Fire Department update. He said there have already been 30 calls this year, which is up quite a bit. He mentioned that many calls are to the Covered Bridge assisted living facility and asked if the City would send a letter letting them know that if a large amount of non-emergency calls continue that they may need to begin billing for them. Nicky will draft the letter and send to Keith for review. Keith also mentioned that there are 2 additional grants that they would like to apply for. Jayme made a motion to approve the applications. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Dave gave the City Engineer's report. He reviewed the handout that was presented at the January meeting outlining the options for the City to continue to provide clean water. Options included asking the School if the City could test their well and share it, building a wellhouse near the tower. Or coming up with funding for a treatment plant for the water we currently have. After some discussion, the Council agreed that they do not want to impose on the School's water source and would like to move forward with the filtration system. Steve did share concerns about the possibility of adding another staff member due to the daily maintenance needed with the filters. There were also concerns about the ongoing costs after the system is installed. Jayme made a motion to apply for grants for the filtration system. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Land Use: Greg Konsor's land plat and rezoning public hearing was held in January. The council tabled the decision to the February meeting. Jayme made a motion to approve the preliminary plat and rezoning. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Steve gave the Maintenance report. He reported a water main break and a plugged wastewater pipe in January, causing some service disruptions for residents. Larson Excavating was quick to do the repairs in both cases. Steve also gave a formal thank you to Jeff Berg at the Holdingford Mill for the use of his lift to remove the Christmas decorations from Main Street. Steve went to a Class B Wastewater refresher course and took the exam for the Class B license. He should have results in the coming weeks. Eric made a motion to approve Steve's annual review. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

The Clerks report was given by Nicky. She reported that the annual work comp premiums went down again this year, so we opted to keep the same coverage. The Utility bond and the Street project bonds were both paid. The Audit is back on track and will be completed on April 1st. W2s/W3s were sent out as well as 1099s.

Nicky reported that Jim's Snowmobile was having problems with deliveries due to their address. It was recommended that they put up signs to indicate where deliveries go. There was also a discussion about a 2-hour parking limit on Main Street. Eric said that although it is not posted, it is still in place and he would rather speak with individuals that are violating this on a regular basis than reposting the signs. Nicky also mentioned that there was an individual that expressed concerns that the City employees would not bring water to residents' home during the water main break. The Council agreed that calling the affected homes and offering individuals to get water from City Hall was more than sufficient.

Unfinished Business: The Council asked Nicky a letter to be sent to 130 River Street West's realtor to ensure that they know there are violations on the property.

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

Discussion on the nuisance ordinance fines took place. It was under advisement from the City Attorney that the city does not impose daily fines, rather do a higher fine that can be implemented monthly. Jayme made a motion to change the fine to \$300. If the issue is not corrected in 30 days, the property owner will be charged \$600. \$600 will be fined every month after if the issue is not corrected. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Nicky will post and publish the changes.

New Business: There is a CD at Magnifi that matures on February 15th. Jayme made a motion to roll the funds into another CD. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Helping Hands submitted a gambling permit for bingo on July 11th, 2026. Tim made a motion to approve the permit. Seth seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Holdingford Elementary will be borrowing chairs for Grandparent's Day on May 1st.

The Wellhead Protection Plan received final approval from the State and will be finalized after one more mailing goes out. The committee will meet one more time to develop an annual list of what should be done to stay in compliance.

Additional Agenda Items: Karla Kalla inquired about the skating rink. The council stated that it did not work out this year with the weather or the Maintenance schedule. They reassured her that the City has a liner purchased and ready for next winter.

Jayme made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Tim seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Looking forward: Next Council meeting is on March 9th. City Hall will be closed February 16th for President's Day and March 16th-20th.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr  _____

City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford