

## **Minutes for Holdingford City Council Meeting Monday, March 9th, 2026.**

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

**Others in attendance:** Nicky Lahr, Herman Lansing, Karla Kalla, Holly Rudh, Kim Ebnet, Keith Hommerding, Aaron Rudolph, Tony Stalberger, Justin Spaneir, Adam Achmann, Melanie Odden, Dustin Siegle, Steve Horvath

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

Seth made a motion to approve the consent agenda including February minutes and financials documents. Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Guests:** Holly Rudh from Covered Bridges LLC updated the Council on the changes and updates happening at the facility. They are looking into expanding with areas of different care levels. Holly also mentioned that after receiving a letter from the city, she has been communicating with Keith Hommerding and working out a plan to reduce the number of non-emergency calls. Keith is working with Stearns County dispatch as well to assist with this process.

### **Department reports:**

**Fire Department update:** Keith said that there have been 49 calls this year to date. He also reported that approximately 1100 people showed up for the annual breakfast fundraiser. He mentioned that the number of people was down slightly, but the donation amount was up. He reported that Matt Panze resigned from the department. He is reviewing 2 possible applicants to replace him. Keith asked the Council if they would consider an increase of \$200 to the City's retirement contribution. Eric made a motion to approve the increase of \$200 to the retirement contribution. Jayme seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Keith asked about using one of the storage units at the former carwash site. Steve said he would have keys made for them.

**Proclamation:** Travis presented a proclamation to Keith Hommerding and the entire Fire Department, commending them for the job well done containing the Holdingford Mill Fire. The document was issued to Keith and several Firefighters that were in attendance. Travis also shared that he personally handed out thank you letters to the cities that assisted with the fire.

**Land Use:** Seth presented one land use permit application for tearing down and rebuilding a home at 770 Riverside Road. He mentioned that they met the setback requirements and would add an additional driveway that would lead into the attached garage. Seth made a motion to approve land use permit 26.2.24. Eric seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Ebnetts were also seeking approval for living in a camper during the construction. Eric made a motion to approve this until October. Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Eric shared with the council that Nicky issued a permit to the new owners of 521 Main Street under advice of land use committee head, Robb Berscheid allowing them to add a main floor apartment to the unit. Eric found ordinance language stating that there cannot be dwellings on the main floor of buildings that are zoned CB (Central Business) and has scheduled a meeting with the owner on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>. He asked the rest of the council if it would be acceptable to allow them to continue if they are beyond the point of return on their remodel since this was the City's error. They all agreed.

**Maintenance report:** Steve gave the maintenance report, and shared that he is working on the mercury and chloride minimization plans with the Engineers. He reported that Nelson Excavating removed the root-ball in the sewer by the school. He had the spectrophotometer sent for annual calibration and service and removed the snow pile at City Hall prior to breakfast.

**Clerk's report:** Nicky reported that the City was issued a \$15,000 grant that is to be used for water projects in the upcoming year. She shared that Michelle Fischbach called to check on the situation after the Mill fire and left her contact information in Minutes are not official until approved by the City Council and signed by the Clerk.

case help is needed. Nicky shared that the health inspector passed the commercial kitchen at City Hall. She also said that the dishwasher was not working and was repaired before the Fire Department breakfast. Final audit will be March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup> and all information has been submitted. Nicky gave an update on the property at 130 River Street West. She stated that the owner is working on correcting the issues that the City had presented to him. The Council advised that she asks the lawyer to hold off on the prosecution at this time. Nicky and Amy will be out of the office March 16-20<sup>th</sup> and Steve will keep an eye on the facility during this time.

**New Business:** Seth made a motion to approve resolution 26.3.9 approving a gambling permit for the FFA Alumni raffle event to be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.


**Additional Agenda Items:** Eric shared that he has been getting calls from Midco as the City's contract is expected to expire soon. It was determined that the city will move to a month-to-month basis until dates and pricing are quoted from Albany Tel.

Tim made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seth seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

**Notices for Past Due Water Bills:** Taxon Edens, Roger Jensen, Nathaniel Posch.

**Looking forward:** Next Council meeting is April 13<sup>th</sup>. Board of appeals and equalization is April 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. City Hall will be closed March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. City Wide Cleanup Is May 16<sup>th</sup> in the High School parking lot.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr  \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford