

Minutes for Holdingford City Council Meeting Monday, April 13th, 2026.

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

Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Herman Lansing, Karla Kalla, Steve Horvath, Jessica Wells, Jessica Funk, Tim Berscheid, Meghan and Bryan Carstensen, Dane Heinen, Michael Scegura, Jacob Brutger, Carlena Johnson, Gavin Barstow, and Boy Scout Troop members.

Travis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by the Boy Scouts.

Jayme made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the April minutes and financial documents. Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Guests: Carlena Johnson requested, on behalf of the local Boy Scout Troop, that the City waive the rental fee for the park shelter for August 12–15 to hold a garage sale fundraiser. Tim moved to approve the request, and Seth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Gavin from Covered Bridge LLC asked the council's approval to install a loading zone area in front of the facility. Eric made a motion to approve a 30-foot section in front of the facility. Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Gavin was asked to put their signs far enough off the sidewalk to allow the snow removal equipment to pass.

Jessica Wells presented it on behalf of Two Rivers Enterprises. They are expanding their facility's office space and are looking to amend the current TIF agreement. Tim made a motion to authorize staff and David Drown Associates to draft an agreement to amend the current TIF district. Jayme seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Department reports:

Land Use: Seth made a motion to approve Resolution 26-4-13-2, granting a variance to Holdingford School district 738 for the installation of a football scoreboard exceeding the maximum sign size in the R-2 zoning district. Jayme seconded the motion. Eric, Tim, Travis, Seth, and Jayme all voted in favor of the variance. The resolution passed unanimously. Eric made a motion to approve the land use permit for the installation of a scoreboard at the Holdingford School. Seth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tim made a motion to approve resolution 26-4-13-3, granting a variance to Chris Swenson to build a shed positioned forward of his house due to the irregular shape of the lot. Seth seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor

Eric made a motion to approve land use permit 26-4-5 to build a new shed at 235 Ridge Way, pending the land split and purchase of the property next door. Seth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fire Department: Tim shared that the turnout gear that they received a grant for is now in. He also mentioned that they would like to hire Ryan Olson, Ryan Sowada, and Clara Mead. Jayme made a motion to hire the three individuals and Tim seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Maintenance: Steve reported that he ordered another tail shaft for a mixer at WWTP. He took samples in preparation for the May land application. Copper and Lead water samples will be out on April 20th for 20 residents. He also shared that frost heaved the sewer pipes at his residence, disconnecting them, and had the repairs done. It was reported that the water line to the restrooms by the ballpark is broken and would need to be dug up and repaired before they would be usable. The Council asked for quotes for repairs. Steve also mentioned that a mixer bracket broke, and he would have to hire someone to winch it out and repair the brackets. He will get a quote on inspecting the other brackets as well.

Engineer: Dave Blommel was not present, but asked Nicky to share that SEH applied for grants and funding from the following: Bonding Bill-lift station project, Rep Fischbach-lift station and Water treatment plant, Sen Smith- lift station and Water treatment plant, Sen Klobuchar- lift station and Water treatment plant, PFA/MPCA-lift station, PFA/MDH-water treatment plant.

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

Clerk: Nicky reported that Borgmann's is now supplying bins to the customers that want yard waste pickup. Citizens need to reach out to them directly for the container. The audit is going smoothly, and reports will be submitted within the month. Liquor license applications have been sent out and will be ready for approval at the June meeting. Citywide cleanup is May 16. Eric, Travis and Seth stated that they would be available to help. The council agreed to keep the pricing at the same rate as last year. Nicky also shared that VersaBank will be changing back to Stearns bank. She also said that she will be at the Clerk's Academy the week of May 4-8th.

Old/Unfinished Business: Variance application for 521 Main Street was discussed. Tim made a motion to approve the variance allowing the Rum Runner Ventures to have a main floor apartment with a commercial unit at the front of the building. Seth seconded the motion. Eric voted against it, stating that he does not want a loss of commercial space on Main Street, and stated that it would violate the parking ordinance that states there must be 2 off street parking spaces for each residential unit. Seth voted in favor, Travis voted in favor, Jayme voted against, with the same reasons that Eric stated. Tim voted in favor. The variance did not pass, as a super-majority was necessary. The Carstensens asked the council to reconsider since they followed all of the rules that were presented to them. They also asked for reimbursement for the money they had spent on renovations up to this point, coming to approximately \$20,000. The Council asked them to supply receipts, and they will discuss it at the next meeting. Nicky also recommended looking into an insurance claim to cover costs.

New Business: The Holdingford Chamber of Commerce requested street closure and approval of the parade route for Holdingford Daze July 10-11. Tim made a motion to approve these. Jayme seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Seth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Tim seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Notices for Past Due Water Bills: Joseph & Lana Doll, Taxton Edens, Kevin Feia, Roger Jensen, Eric Kohorst, Dale Lundberg, Alisha Netter, Jayme Opatz, Terry Runge.

Looking forward: Next meeting is May 11th, City Hall will be closed May 4th-8th for training, voicemail, email, and utility bill drop box will be checked during this time. City Wide Cleanup is May 16th in the HHS parking lot 8-11am.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr  _____

City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford