

Minutes for Holdingford City Council Meeting Monday, September 14, 2026

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

Council members not in attendance: Tim Winter

Others in attendance: Nicky Lahr, Herman Lansing, Karla Kalla, Julie Jones, Steve Horvath

Travis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Eric made a motion to approve the consent agenda including August minutes, journal entries and financial documents.

Seth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Department reports:

Maintenance report: Steve reported that extensive water and wastewater sampling was completed during the month. He was still waiting for quotes from St. Cloud Concrete and another contractor regarding repair or removal of the damaged wing wall by the Fire Department entrance. Steve presented two quotes for removing trees near the shop so fireworks can continue to be launched from that location. A motion was made by Eric and seconded by Seth to approve the lower tree-removal quote from Custom View, including stump removal and cleanup. The motion passed unanimously. The Holdingford Chamber will consider contributing toward the cost at its October meeting since the trimming is mainly being done to clear the area for launching fireworks during Holdingford Daze.

Steve also reported that the plow truck was taken in for its annual DOT inspection, annual pump testing and inspections were scheduled, and the 2025-2026 annual biosolids report and biosolids PFAS report were submitted. The Council approved the purchase of a hydrant meter for approximately \$2,200 to accurately track bulk water used by contractors.

Clerk's report: Nicky reported that the City Attorney reviewed the ordinance-violation letter for Holdingford Hillside Trailer Park. The Council directed her to send the letter for the remaining violations. The Council also discussed permit requests at the trailer park and agreed that proof of ownership must be provided before permits are issued for work on individual manufactured homes. Additional coordination with Stearns County may be needed to clarify applicable requirements.

Nicky received a City Project Request for a memorial bench near the trailhead. Steve will work with the applicants on the exact location and the size of the concrete pad. The Garden Club will be consulted, and County approval will be requested if the proposed location is within the Lake Wobegon Trail right-of-way. Nicky also reported that the dining hall had been painted and that the Holdingford Lioness Club will be donating funds to cover the supplies and labor for this project.

Unfinished/Old Business: The Council confirmed that the City will not renew its Stearns County Sheriff contract for 2027.

Nicky confirmed that the city is required by statute to have criminal prosecution services. Eric made a motion to approve the Stearns County criminal prosecution contract for 2027-2028. Jayme seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business:

The Council reviewed a proposal to move payroll services from Paychex to Abdo. Paychex costs were approximately \$8,500 year to date, plus approximately \$2,100 paid to Abdo for assistance correcting payroll issues. Abdo proposed a flat rate of \$675 per month. The Council discussed comparing additional payroll options and completing any transition at the beginning of a calendar quarter, preferably January 1. No final action was taken.

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

A motion was made by Eric and seconded by Jayme to accept a \$25,000 donation from the American Legion, with \$5,000 designated for landscaping at Veterans Park, \$10,000 designated to Pedals to Petals for upgrades and repairs to the Triangle Garden, and \$10,000 designated to the Parks Capital Fund for future use. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jayme and seconded by Eric to approve Resolution 26-9-1 authorizing a raffle for the Holdingford Dance Team. The raffle will include 900 tickets at \$20 each, with the drawing to be held December 12 at the school. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric made a motion to approve the preliminary 2027 levy with a maximum increase of 10 percent over 2026. The Council stated that it does not expect the final increase to be that high and will review preliminary property-tax statements before setting the final levy in December. Seth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jayme made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Seth seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Notices for Past Due Water Bills: Joseph and Lana Doll, Roger Jensen, Nathaniel Posch, Nick Barbato, Dale Lundberg, and Ashley Carbert.

Looking forward: The next Council meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2026, due to the regular meeting date falling on Columbus Day.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr _____

City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford