

December 8, 2025

Regular Meeting

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Halstad was duly called and held at the Halstad Telephone Company community room in said city on December 8, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Darin Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

The following council members were present: Mayor Darin Johnson, Gaylord Christianson, Peter Jacobson, and Donna Scholl. Absent: Brandon Mickelson. Others in attendance: Adam Killian, Brock Robertson, Wayne Tenneson, Stephen Larson (via Zoom), Lucas Spaeth, Utilities Superintendent, and City Clerk/Treasurer Alli Tice.

Additions to Agenda – Add The Zone on 75 Liquor License Renewal. Motion to approve agenda by Gaylord Christianson, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Approval of November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Peter Jacobson, seconded by Gaylord Christianson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Public Forum and Correspondence- No comments or correspondence.

Consent Agenda

Peter Jacobson moved to approve the consent agenda, Gaylord Christianson seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried. The following items were on the consent agenda:

- A. Monthly claims for November 2025
- B. General checking bank reconciliation for November 2025
- C. Temporary Liquor Permit for 01/10/2026 at LRC
- D. Temporary Liquor Permit for 03/07/2026 at LRC
- E. Temporary Liquor Permit for 03/19/2026 at LRC

Appeal Hearing – Notice and Order for Abatement of Nuisance – Adam Killian was in attendance to appeal the amount of time he needs to abate the nuisance on the old railroad property along Highway 75. Killian explained to the council that he would be getting rid of the vehicles that are being stored on the property and he secured the windows and other openings on the building. Killian said that he needs until the end of February to remove all of the vehicles and the remaining nuisance items. City Attorney Stephen Larson addressed the council about needing to know if Killian appeals against the nuisance or just the amount of time that was given for abatement. Larson explained what can be done if no action is taken to abate the nuisance by Killian. The City can get an order for abatement from the court to abate the nuisance and charge the cost of the abatement to the property taxes, or the City can pursue criminal prosecution. Killian said that he agrees with the nuisance ordinance violations, but he just needs more time. Motion was made by Gaylord Christianson, seconded by Donna Scholl, to grant Adam Killian until January 30, 2026 to complete the corrective actions as explained in the Notice and Order for Abatement of Nuisance letter as he agrees with the nuisance violations but needs more time, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Wimmer and Sunrise Report- There are two vacancies at the Sunrise and two vacancies at the Wimmer Homes. The Sunrise Apartments was approved for a \$10,000 grant from CERTs for installing mini-splits into the nightly rentals and community room. The material is roughly \$3,800 and the labor is \$1,500 for each unit.

Utilities Report – We applied for a \$10,000 grant from CERTs for electrical upgrades at the Landmark. The Solar on Public Buildings grants were approved pending the state contracts for the Landmark, WWTP, Generators, HMU building, LRC, Fire Hall, and Sunrise Apartments. The grant is a 70% grant from the State of MN with a 30% Federal Direct Pay credit. AE2S is finishing the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The payloaders are back in service.

EDA-resignation – Kristi Melting has turned in her resignation for her position on the Halstad Economic Development Authority.

At 6:02 PM, motion was made by Gaylord Christianson, seconded by Donna Scholl, to suspend the regular meeting and open the Truth in Taxation Hearing, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Truth in Taxation Hearing- At 6:02 PM, Mayor Johnson opened the Truth in Taxation Hearing for public comment. Mayor Johnson reviewed the budget and stated that our increase is similar to surrounding communities. No one from the public had comments or questions.

2026 Budget – The final budget for 2026 was reviewed by the council. Peter Jacobson moved to accept the 2026 budget as presented, including the levy amount for 2026 of \$279,515, Gaylord Christianson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Peter Jacobson moved to adjourn the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:05 PM, seconded by Gaylord Christianson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting back to order at 6:05 PM.

Unfinished Business:

Blighted and Dangerous Properties- This was discussed during the Appeal Hearing.

Landmark- (Halstad School and Property) – We will need to have a new electrical service at the Landmark when we get the solar panels. We will look at another grant from T Mobile which would need to be spent in a year. We could use this to match the FEMA Storm Shelter grant or use it for other projects at the Landmark.

RFP for Redevelopment – The deadline was extended.

Regional Water Project-financing update – The Halstad Municipal Utilities Commission met on November 20th and voted to continue with the water project. There are two options for financing: ECRWD would borrow funds at 3% for 30 years or Minnesota Public Facilities Authority through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund would borrow funds at 1% for 20 years. There would be a buy in fee for the 12” line with 150 gallons per minute. We could get approved through MPFA as soon as March. The state sets the threshold for water rates and then funds needed above the water rate revenue would be grant dollars. Approval was given to spend \$150,000 on engineering fees to plan the project to get the pipe to Halstad. WCRWD is hoping for a court date by end of January 2026 to formally be WCRWD. We have been looking at new water meters with vendors.

New Business:

Sheet Metal JATC Lease – The 5 year lease is up in July 2026. The sheet metal workers would like to enter into another 5 to 10 year lease. The council discussed the current lease price and the length of the lease. Motion was made by Donna Scholl, seconded by Peter Jacobson, to approve entering into a 10 year lease with the first 5 years having an annual rent payment of \$11,000, renegotiating the price after the first 5 years, and to look at metering and charging for their electric usage, unanimous vote, motion carried.

2026 Cigarette License-Valley United Coop C-Store - Motion was made by Peter Jacobson to approve the 2026 Cigarette License application for Valley United Coop, seconded by Donna Scholl, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Potentially Dangerous Dog – The Norman County Sheriff's Office gave the city a police report about an aggressive dog that attempted to bite a resident. The council reviewed the report. A letter will be sent to the owner of the dog with information about being licensed with the city, running at large, vaccination requirements and designation of potentially dangerous dog.

The Zone on 75 Liquor License Renewal – Brock Robertson addressed the council in regards to the status of his liquor license renewal. Robertson asked the council to approve the renewal pending the completion of the required signatures on the renewal form. The council will hold a special meeting when the paperwork is completed.

Other –

Upcoming events- Halstad Fire Department Mixed Stag 03.07.2026

Gaylord Christianson moved and seconded by Donna Scholl to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm, vote unanimous, motion carried.

The next Regular meeting of the City Council will be on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:15 pm.

Alli Tice / City Clerk-Treasurer