

**January 12, 2026**

**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 January 12, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Darin Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

The following council members were present: Mayor Darin Johnson, Brandon Mickelson, Gaylord Christianson, Donna Scholl, and Peter Jacobson. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Wayne Tenneson, Todd Westcott, and City Clerk/Treasurer Alli Tice.

**Additions to Agenda** – Add LRC freezer to letter G under new business. Motion to approve agenda by Gaylord Christianson, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Approval of December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes** - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Gaylord Christianson, seconded by Donna Scholl, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Approval of December 12, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes** - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Brandon Mickelson, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Approval of December 22, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes** - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Darin Johnson, seconded by Brandon Mickelson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Public Forum and Correspondence**- No comments or correspondence.

**Consent Agenda**

Donna Scholl 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 December 2025
- B. General checking bank reconciliation for December 2025
- C. Temporary Liquor Permit for ABW Booster Club for 04/18/2026 at LRC

**Wimmer and Sunrise Report**- Wimmer #14 is vacant. It would be a good time to update the unit with a mini-split. We received an estimate of \$5,600 to install a mini-split. Motion was made by Brandon Mickelson, seconded by Peter Jacobson, to approve spending \$5,600 for a mini-split in Wimmer #14, unanimous vote, motion carried. The Sunrise Apartments received a grant from NW Certs for mini-splits in the nightly rentals and the community room. Motion was made by Gaylord Christianson to approve installing mini-splits in the nightly rentals and community room, Donna Scholl seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Utilities Report** – The payloaders are back in service. The council reviewed the notes received by Titan Machinery after making the repairs. The utilities commission approved the utility solar projects at the wastewater treatment plant, utility office building and generator building.

**Fire Report** – Gaylord Christianson and Todd Westcott gave the annual fire department report for 2025. The fire department had a total of 42 calls, 23 of which were mutual aid calls to neighboring departments. There were 5 structure fires, 2 combine/off road vehicle fires, 5 grass fires, 8 lift assists and landing zones, 2 vehicle fires, 4 vehicle accidents, 6 cancelled en route, 4 public assistance, 3 smoke alarms and 3 other fires. The public assistance was weather related, and the other fires were returning to fire scenes. The Halstad Fire Relief Association has been working on updates to their by-laws. The updates included increasing the pension benefit level from \$800 to \$900 per year of service and allowing the general fund money received from nonpublic sources, such as fundraising, to be used for normal business operating expenses including but not limited to expenses for fundraisers, taxes or penalties owed from fundraising activities, professional fees (such as audit or legal fees), fire prevention materials, clothing with Halstad Fire Department logo for active members, and/or donations to the City of Halstad to acquire and maintain firefighting equipment as needed. Motion was made by Peter Jacobson, seconded by Donna Scholl, to approve the updated by-laws as presented, unanimous vote, motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Blighted and Dangerous Properties-** Adam Killian has until January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to comply with the nuisance abatement. We will revisit this in February.

**Landmark- (Halstad School and Property)** – There has not been any committee meetings. The Landmark building used roughly 6,000 kWh less in December 2025 compared to December 2024 due to heating the old music room with a heat pump. The breaker panel in the gymnasium is open so that members can turn on the gymnasium lights. Other breakers are being turned off in the panel that shouldn't be. Light switches have been purchased so that the lights can be turned on without using the breakers so that the panel can be locked.

**RFP for Redevelopment** – The deadline was extended.

**Regional Water Project – financing update** – No update at this time. We are still looking at using ECRWD or PFA for funding.

**Solar on Public Buildings – update** – Contracts were signed and submitted to the state and Ziegler. Landmark will only have one project and the Wimmer Homes will not have a project.

### **New Business:**

Brandon Mickelson made a motion to approve the following General Appointments for calendar year 2026.

Gaylord Christianson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Vice-Mayor:                                      | <u>Brandon Mickelson</u>  |
| Clerk:   | <u>Allison Tice</u>   |
| Treasurer:                                       | <u>Allison Tice</u>   |
| Street Commissioner:                             | <u>Darin Johnson</u>  |
| Park Commissioner:                               | <u>Donna Scholl</u>   |
| Attorney:  | <u>Stephen D. Larson, Harbott, Knutson, Larson &amp; Holten, P.L.L.P.</u> |
| Criminal Attorney:                               | <u>Norman County Attorney's Office</u>                                    |
| Newspaper:                                       | <u>Norman County Index</u>  |
| Bank:  | <u>Red River State Bank</u>   |
| Safe-keeping Agent<br>for Pledged Collateral:    | <u>United Bankers Bank</u>  |
| Fire Chief:                                      | <u>Gaylord Christianson</u>   |
| Rescue President:                                | <u>Rachel Arneson</u>   |
| Weed Inspector:                                  | <u>Mayor (by default)</u>   |
| Board of Adjustment<br>for Floodplain Ordinance: | <u>City Council</u>   |

Peter Jacobson moved to approve the following committee appointments for 2026. Brandon Mickelson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Utilities Commission:                 | President – <u>Tom Maroney</u> (3 more years of 3 year term)<br>Secretary – <u>Ron Gotteberg</u> (1 more years of 3 year term)<br>Member – <u>Darin Johnson</u> (2 more years of 3 year term) |
| Planning Commission:                  | <u>City Council</u>   |
| Halstad EDA:                          | <u>Donna Scholl and Brandon Mickelson</u>   |
| Norman County EDA<br>Representative:  | <u>Jeremy Melting</u>   |
| Fire Relief Association<br>Directors: | <u>Donna Scholl and Brandon Mickelson</u>   |

Donna Scholl moved to approve the following other appointments for 2026. Peter Jacobson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Northern Municipal Power Agency

(NMPA): Lucas Spaeth, City Director  
Darin Johnson as Alternate Advisor

Local Levee Partnership Team – Darin Johnson, Tom Maroney, and Lucas Spaeth

Gaylord Christianson moved to approve the following authorized check signers/use of debit card/initiators of electronic or wire transfers/use of Mayor's signature stamp for 2026. Brandon Mickelson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Treasurer on Red River State Bank accounts:

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 70105    | General Checking          |
| 70105-50 | General Savings           |
| 5338     | Street Construction       |
| 6613     | Rescue Squad Equipment    |
| 6605     | Street Equipment          |
| 5418     | Fire Department Equipment |
| 1412761  | TIF No. 2-3 Checking      |
| 1412212  | Debt Service              |

Authorized check signers/initiators of electronic or wire transfers for Sunrise and Wimmer Homes:

Mayor Darin Johnson and Utilities Superintendent Lucas Spaeth

Authorize use of Mayor's signature stamp:

Allison Tice – for General Government, Sunrise and Wimmer Homes

**LRC – Projector and Speakers** – Mayor Johnson installed a new projector at the LRC which cost around \$1,400.00. New speakers are needed to replace a few that are broken. Clerk Tice suggested asking the EDA to pay for the new projector and speakers. The EDA can discuss this at their next meeting.

Upcoming events- Halstad Fire Department Mixed Stag 03.07.2026

Gaylord Christianson moved and seconded by Peter Jacobson to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm, vote unanimous, motion carried.

The next Regular meeting of the City Council will be on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 5:15 pm.

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Alli Tice / City Clerk-Treasurer