

March 9, 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 March 9, 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, Donna Scholl, Gaylord Christianson, and Peter Jacobson. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Wayne Tenneson, Jay DeLong, Neil Breidenbach, Stephen Slick and Abby Ritz with AE₂S (via Zoom), Lucas Spaeth, Utilities Superintendent and City Clerk/Treasurer Alli Tice.

Additions to Agenda and Approval – None. Motion to approve agenda by Gaylord Christianson, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Approval of February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Peter Jacobson, seconded by Donna Scholl, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Public Forum and Correspondence- Wayne Tenneson discussed the Landmark FEMA Safe Room grant with the council. Tenneson had talked with a reputable source who told him that the Landmark cannot be used as a community center after making improvements for the FEMA Safe Room with grant funds. The council will look into this.

Consent Agenda

Brandon Mickelson 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 February 2026
- B. General checking bank reconciliation for February 2026

Wimmer and Sunrise Report- There was an electrical issue in one of the Wimmer Homes. We received a quote from an electrician for suggested upgrades to fix the issue, but the unit is occupied. The Sunrise elevator needs a new solid-state starter to get it operational again, which is an estimated \$6,850. Motion was made by Brandon Mickelson to approve the quote for the Sunrise elevator repairs for \$6,850, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried. The work has started on the installation of the six mini-splits. There is one going into Wimmer #14 and 5 going into the Sunrise Apartments, which includes one in each nightly rental and one in the community room.

Utilities Report – The Halstad Municipal Utilities Commission approved a 4% increase to electric, sewer, and large water service rates.

Unfinished Business:

Blighted and Dangerous Properties- Adam Killian has not complied with the nuisance abatement. Clerk Tice contacted City Attorney Stephen Larson to see what the next steps are for the nuisance abatement. The city needs to follow Chapter 92 of the city ordinances and Minnesota State Statute 168B for the removal of the vehicles. Donna Scholl made a motion to find that the nuisance conditions previously identified on the property on the railroad ROW, along US Highway 75 West remain uncorrected following service of the Notice and Order for Abatement and expiration of the abatement deadline, and to authorize city staff to proceed with abatement of the nuisance conditions pursuant to Chapter 92 of the City Code, with the costs of abatement to be billed to the property owner and, if unpaid, assessed against the property as allowed under the ordinance and applicable Minnesota law, Peter Jacobson seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Landmark- (Halstad School and Property) –A T-Mobile grant application has been submitted for a new gymnasium floor in the amount of \$50,000. An AARP grant was applied for in the amount of \$15,000 for HVAC. The Summer Rec program will continue again for 2026.

RFP for Redevelopment – The deadline was extended.

Regional Water Project – financing update – Stephen Slick with AE₂S had a regional water project presentation for the council. Slick recapped the Preliminary Engineering Report that was completed in 2023 for Halstad. He discussed the various options that were evaluated for water supply and storage. The PER was used to complete grant applications for the project. The low-cost option that emerged from the PER was for regional connection with sizes based upon whether the existing water tower would be rehabbed or decommissioned, which also were the apparent low-cost option when looking at a life cycle cost analysis. The PER also determined that rehabilitating the water tower or demolishing it seemed to be the most economical options, contingent upon the city’s long-term planning, and chosen connection size to regional water. After the PER study was completed and presented, Riverview Dairy announced their project which would be roughly 2 miles west of Halstad. With this new future usage, East Central Regional Water District would be adding new pipelines from Hillsboro to Riverview Dairy and plans for a new treatment plant and water sources were developed. This resulted in a decrease in cost for Halstad based on the original pipeline route. Halstad was approved for a grant from Small Cities Development Program for citywide meters, loop pipeline, and a pressure reducing valve/metering facility. The Halstad Water project was also found to be fundable for a grant loan package through Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. To keep the project moving forward, Halstad Municipal approved funding for permit applications for the river crossing, which were completed and approved. Two projects are now being presented. Project 1 is the water supply project with ECRWD. Halstad would pay ECRWD for the pipeline and capacity buy-in to ECRWD. The project would be developed, bid and owned by ECRWD and paid for by MN DWSRF through Halstad to ECRWD, by means of a water access charge. The project would be a 16” pipeline or other size options with estimated cost to be \$2,850,000 paid for in a lump sum to ECRWD following the construction which includes engineering, easement acquisition, additional permitting, capacity buy-in, etc. Project 2 is the Halstad internal SCDP project. This consists of bidding, a meter/pressure reducing facility, new city-wide meters and pipeline loop to facilitate the regional water connection to the city. Halstad already received a MN SCDP grant for \$600,000 for this project. Halstad will bid out meters first. This project includes engineering fees for administration and construction. The project plans will be submitted to Minnesota Department of Health by March 31st. MN PFA grant loan application is due March 31st as well. The clearance for the plans and specs is estimated to be in June, with a current spec bid date of June 15th. Neil Breidenbach with ECRWD gave the council a little history on ECRWD and how regionalization has worked in North Dakota. Halstad Municipal Utilities will be paying for the project loan through water revenues.

Solar on Public Buildings – update – Final plans for placement of the solar panels are being discussed with Ziegler.

New Business:

Resolution 2026-03-09A – Accepting Donations – A resolution was presented to approve donations totaling \$10,698.00 to the City of Halstad. Motion was made by Donna Scholl to approve the resolution, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Resolution 2026-03-09B – Approving Lawful Gambling Exemption Permit – NW Regional Firefighters Association is holding a meeting at the LRC on March 19. They submitted a lawful gambling exemption permit which requires approval from the local governing body. Brandon Mickelson moved to approve the resolution for the lawful gambling exemption permit, Peter Jacobson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Resolution 2026-03-09C – Authorizing Application to MN Public Facilities Authority – Resolution 2026-03-09C was presented to the council to authorize the city to apply for a MN PFA loan from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund for the water project in the amount of \$2,830,255. Motion was made by Gaylord Christianson to approve the resolution, seconded by Donna Scholl, unanimous vote, motion carried.

AE₂S Engineering Agreement for Halstad SCDP Improvements – Motion was made by Brandon Mickelson to approve the engineering agreement with AE₂S for the Halstad SCDP improvements for \$40,000, Peter Jacobson seconded the motion, unanimous vote, motion carried.

AE₂S Engineering Agreement for Water Regionalization Support – Peter Jacobson made a motion to approve the engineering agreement with AE₂S for water regionalization support for \$55,000, seconded by Donna Scholl, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Upcoming events- Halstad Pet Clinic 05.05.2026, Clean-up Day 06.09.2026

Gaylord Christianson moved and seconded by Peter Jacobson to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm, vote unanimous, motion carried.

The next Regular meeting of the City Council will be on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 5:15 pm.

Alli Tice / City Clerk-Treasurer