

June 8, 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 June 8, 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, Peter Jacobson, & Gaylord Christianson(via Zoom). Absent: Donna Scholl. Others in attendance: Wayne Tenneson, Todd Westcott, Jay DeLong, Bjorn Solberg, Veera Khalil, Lucas Spaeth, Utilities Superintendent and City Clerk/Treasurer Alli Tice.

Additions to Agenda and Approval – Add Zoning Permit for Mark & Kathy Larson to letter B under New Business. Motion to approve agenda by Peter Jacobson, seconded by Brandon Mickelson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Approval of May 11, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Peter Jacobson, seconded by Darin Johnson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Public Forum and Correspondence- Wayne Tenneson addressed the council with his concerns about the different water project costs he has heard. The council informed him that the \$10 million cost, as mentioned by Tenneson, is the funding request to the State of MN for the entire West Central Regional Water District, not for Halstad. WCRWD received \$5 million from the State of MN for the entire project. Halstad will not have final costs for their portion of the project until MN Public Facilities Authority gives approval of the project and the project goes out for bids.

Bjorn Solberg spoke to the council to inform them that he is running for District 1 State Senate. Solberg provided a little background about himself and his priorities for representing rural communities.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Monthly claims for May 2026
- B. General checking bank reconciliation for May 2026
- C. Zoning Permit – Halstad Fire Department
- D. Zoning Permit – HMU Generators
- E. Zoning Permit – HMU Office
- F. Zoning Permit – Landmark
- G. Zoning Permit – LRC
- H. Zoning Permit – Sunrise Apartments
- I. Zoning Permit – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Wimmer and Sunrise Report- The elevator is still not working at the Sunrise. We have 3 vacancies at the Sunrise. We have 4 Wimmer Homes that are vacant.

Utilities Report – Aid to construction policy is being reviewed by the utilities commission. This was introduced to aid the construction of a water line to Valley Tissue as they could potentially be a customer. The USACE was in Halstad today to inspect the levee. They will send a report with the findings from the inspection. They commented on rodent control and some cracks due to drought conditions. They also suggested cameraing the gate valve outlets. We applied for a SPARK grant for electrical upgrades in the amount of \$2 million. The generators will be recertified with the League of MN Cities for the 10% premium reduction. We will wait to hear on the electric grant before deciding on meters for electric and water. We need to assist Borup with water tank cleaning and service line inventory. We have been spraying weeds throughout the city. We have Clay Larson-Reinhart mowing for the city this summer.

Unfinished Business:

Blighted and Dangerous Properties- Some progress has been made in the nuisance abatement. Adam Killian asked for more time as he injured his back. The council discussed how much time has already been given. Motion was made by Peter Jacobson to move forward with a civil lawsuit for nuisance violations, Gaylord Christianson seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Landmark- (Halstad School and Property) – After council approved the new 10 year Sheet Metal lease last month, the Sheet Metal JATC asked that mutual indemnification language be added to the lease. Motion was made by Darin Johnson to approve the lease as presented with the indemnification language, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

The roof is leaking above the gymnasium. We will need to get this patched. The EECBG grant that we received for energy audits and efficiency studies can be used to pay for some of the engineering for the Landmark completed by Energy Management Solutions. We will be meeting with the Dekko Foundation on June 10 to give them an update on the Landmark.

RFP for Redevelopment – The deadline was extended.

Regional Water Project – financing update – The \$3.5 million EPA funds should be getting released to help pay for water access charges and the upsizing of the water pipe. Polk County has a pending \$750,000 to be released. We received a draft contract agreement that the city and utilities will have to enter into stating that the utilities will pay the loan through water revenue. MDH should be getting back to us at the end of the week if our project is certified. West Central Regional Water District was legally formed on April 17th. WCRWD was appropriated \$5 million through the state bonding bill.

Solar on Public Buildings – update – We are waiting for construction to start in July. We have been working through the interconnection process in the NOVA portal.

Proposed Utility Ordinance – We have found the establishment of the Halstad Public Utilities Commission, but there is not a city ordinance for the authorization of the utilities commission. The proposed utility ordinance needs to be reviewed by our attorney and AE2S before being approved by the council.

New Business:

5th Street and Highway 75 Corners – It was brought up for discussion to concrete the flower beds. It would be roughly 10 yards of concrete. Brandon Mickelson made a motion to fill the 3 flower beds with concrete, seconded by Peter Jacobson, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Zoning Permit – Mark & Kathy Larson – Motion by Darin Johnson to approve the zoning permit for Mark & Kathy Larson, Brandon Mickelson seconded, unanimous vote, motion carried. Peter Jacobson abstained.

Upcoming events- Clean-up Day – 06.09.2026, Sugar Fest – 08.29.2026

Peter Jacobson moved and seconded by Brandon Mickelson to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm, vote unanimous, motion carried.

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

Alli Tice / City Clerk-Treasurer