



City of Hill City Minutes
February 2026 Council Meeting
February 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Hill City Community Room

Note: Please silence your electronic devices during the meeting. Thank you.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lange called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Mayor Dave Lange
Council Member Lin Benson
Council Member Tom Semler
Council Member Amanda Goodrich

ABSENT

Council Member Kenny Hilton

2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

There was a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Semler.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

3. Guest Speaker

There were no guest speakers.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approve minutes of the Regular Council Meeting

b. Approve

January Cash Control Statement and Reconciliation

Account Balances as of 2/6/2026 Checking \$807,819.59, MM \$29,035.04, CD \$510,591.40

Claim's - 1/26 \$20.06, 2/3 \$51,819.80, 2/6 \$50,203.67, 2/10 \$10,363.70

EFT's - 1/26 Payroll \$12,864.98, 1/26 Fed Taxes \$3,084.34, 1/26 PERA \$3,204.637, 1/27 Colonial Life, 2/2 MN Revenue Withholding Tax \$3,583.14, 2/3 Sales Tax \$294.00, 2/3 Midco \$147.59, 2/10 Campspot \$275.70, 2/9 Payroll \$11,659.10, 2/9 PERA \$3,029.32, 2/9 Fed Taxes \$2,819.05

Transfers - none

c. Reports – Public Works, Fire, Police,

Maintenance

- Painting and Cleaning on the hydraulic tank on the backhoe.

Water

- On going work with Bolton & Menk on the Water Treatment Plant.
- Bypasses are in at the Hill Lake Café and the Trinity Lutheran Church

Sewer

- Nothing to report

Parks

- Will plow for the fishing contest.

Airport

- Working with Bolton & Menk on the Fencing project.

Streets

- Sanding and scraping continues
- Order another 50 yards of sand

Trail

- Nothing to report.

Fire

- There were 13 calls in the past month.
- The Annual Fish Fry will be April 18th at the Fire Hall.

Police

- **Police**-Jordan started DARE up again, guys have been very active with traffic at various hours and time, 1 shift at least in the AM during pre school and after school hours when traffic picks up.
- **Squad**-New squad is in progress, old one has close to 50k miles, we pre ordered lights for the new on so save almost 5% due to increase in costs. Pending the council decision would like to move the old one to EMR for another vehicle that we can use to get to out of area medicals and fires, trying to be mindful of what it is worth vs what we can sell it for. We took a big loss on the last one because you only get a manufactured deed which limits prices.
- **Extra**-Had a snowmobile crash up at smith creek trail and the ATV with tracks was huge in getting folks to and from the scene will be a big asset to the community for Police/Fire/EMS
- **Events**-We completed some great Ice Training with ACSO, MLCSO, and various other agencies at the Libby Dam, was super fun but very cold, Brevon even wore a suit. This just helps when we have an event to know what equipment we bring to the table. We have the lions club fishing contest Feb 14, the 4th grade ice fishing day Feb 18, and various other events. Enbridge

will be at the 4th grade event serving hot chocolate out of the sherp, it'll be a cool event.

- **School**-School is going great, guys have been to just about all games and or large events
- **FLOCK**-Flock cameras in the works, and should be installed soon.
- **Call Volume**, looks to be about another 15% increase in calls, hard to justify a reason because the cops go to medicals and fire calls as well. We will be helping the county attorney on Sobriety Court checks, we have 2 folks in the area on this intense supervision. No major workload related to this but it helps to hopefully keep the habitual offenders in line

Clerk

- Working with Bolton & Menk on multiple projects.
- Paperwork is ready for the Auditor's. They will pick it up in February and start the audit in April.
- Brandi and I got the Boat Slip added into Campspot but it is not active yet.
- Working on Fund Balance and Investment Policies.
- Working with Jessica on the Community Tree Planting Grant, the ReLeaf Community Grant, and 2026 Blandin Grant
- Reviewing the MN Basic Code
- Attended the following meetings/activities
 - January 21 – Clerk's monthly meeting virtual
 - January 28 - Water Treatment Plant meeting
 - February 4 – Sales Tax webinar

- d. Approve Resolution 2026 - 2 and LG555 from the Hill City Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Fire Equipment Fund.

There was a motion made to approve the consent agenda.

Motion made by Council Member Benson, Seconded by Council Member Goodrich.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

5. Public Forum – 3-minute limit

No public Spoke

6. Reports:

a. Mayor and Council

Mayor Lange talked with John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer about the Lake Ave Sewer issue from last month. It will go to the County Board for approval of them paying for part of the invoice, once we get it.

Mayor Lange went to the League of MN Cities conference last week. It was a good conference. It focused mainly on communication..

Kessler House finally contacted Council member Benson about the Raised Garden beds, they will get us a quote for next month.

b. Engineer

Andrew read his report.

Force Main Reroute Project

- Contractor received and installed remote dialers on January 7th and the necessary tweaks have been made for them to be fully functional.
- Partial pay application on agenda tonight, now that the dialers are installed.
 - o We'll wait until next spring to close out the project.

Water Treatment Plant Project

- January work mostly consisted of piping, mechanical, and electrical rough in.
- Filter media installation and interior painting is in progress.
- Equipment started up should take place the second half of February.
- Water treatment plant startup will happen expected in March when we will start running water through the plant for treatment.
- Site wrap up spring of 2026.

Hill City Airport

- Airport Layout Plan
 - o We received no comments on the preferred layout for the ALP.
 - ♣ We will proceed with submitting this to MnDOT Aeronautics for comments before we complete our ALP.
- Airport Fence Project
 - o Working through the last details of the plans and working with property owners and George about fence locations.
 - o We will bring final plans and specifications to March's council meeting for approval to advertise and bid the project. Plan would be to open bids in April.

c. CEDA

Jessica read her report.

1. Park and Rec

- Met with Park and Rec Committee to discuss priorities at campground.
- Worked on Outdoor Rec Grant.
 - o Reached out to electricians, concrete contractors, and multi-court companies.
 - o Attended information webinar.

2. Veterans Commemoration Grant

- Finalized annual report and Tami submitted.
- Still need to complete the stencils for the helicopter.

3. Events Committee

- No meeting in February.
- Worked with Sue on the food booth to ensure everything is ready to go.
- Attended the Lion's Club meeting to present the opportunity of merging.
 - o Sue is going to follow up with Jay

4. Blandin

- Filled out Letter of Interest asking for \$150,000.
- Worked with George, Mayor, and Office Staff on project quote.
- Received notification to submit a full proposal. o Currently working on the full proposal in the amount of \$150,000.
 - o This grant would be to update city hall.
- Reached out a business owner and sent over grant resources and partner information.
- Submitted banner paperwork to Mark Jeffers for County to Approve.
 - o Banners have been approved by the county. Mark is working on processing the paperwork for payment.
- Updated ReLeaf grant submittal.

d. Land Use Committee

No permits issued

There was a question about a parcel near the Quadna Villa's about an easement and if the property is buildable. The easement has nothing to do with the city and they were told to talk to the Aitkin County Wetlands Specialist on buildability.

e. Events & Planning Committee

Did not meet in February. Will be selling food at the Fishing contest on the 14th.

f. Personnel Committee has not met.

g. Park Committee has not met.

7. Old Business

a. Quote for raised beds for the Community Garden.

Kessler House finally contacted Council member Benson about the Raised Garden beds, they will get us a quote for next month.

8. New Business

- a. Approve Pay Request #4 in the amount of \$40,109.33 to Tom's Backhoe Service for the Lift Station No. 2 & Forcemain Reroute Project.

There was a motion to pay Tom's Backhoe \$40,109.33.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Semler.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

- b. Approve Pay Application #14 to McGough Construction in the amount of \$166,435.00 and Draw Request #14 in the amount of \$207,576.25.

There was a motion to pay McGough Construction \$166,435.00 and to approve the draw request in the amount of \$207,576.25.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Benson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

- c. Airport - Winter opening for skis.

Casper asked about having the airport open in the winter for skis. They may have to roll it once or twice.

There was a motion to open the airport in the winter for airplanes with skis.

Motion made by Council Member Benson, Seconded by Council Member Semler.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

- d. Approve quote from Quality Flow to rehab the wet-well.

The wet-well at the lift station at the Lodge needs repaired. Casper got a quote from Quality Flow, we will not do the pump that is listed on the quote. The pipes are approximately 35 years old and need to be replaced.

There was a motion to accept the quote from Quality Flow in the amount of \$24,700.00.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Benson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

- e. Approve the 2026 Fire Contracts

Mayor Lange talked with Chief Nelson about the formula. Currently it is based on Population, calls, and tax capacity. The City has a number of properties that don't pay taxes, churches, veterans, low income housing etc. nothing to change for this year to look into it for next year.

There was a motion to approve the 2026 Fire Contracts

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Benson.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

- f. Water increases to fee schedule

The fee schedule will be discussed in April but Clerk Meyer wanted to remind the Council that water rate increases were approved in 2024 and they will go into effect with the next billing cycle.

- g. Approve Bounce Houses for the 4th of July

There was discussion on the cost of the bounce houses between last year and the cost this year. There are a couple of new houses and there are 7 houses this year where last year there were only 6.

There was a motion to approve the Quote from Lefty's for the bounce houses for the 4th of July in the amount of \$3,577.52.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Benson.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

- h. Donation request from First Call 211. Donated \$300 last year and \$500 previous years

There was a motion to donate \$300 to 211 - First Call for Help.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Benson.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

- i. Approve January Council Pay

There was a motion to approve the January Council Pay.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Semler.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

9. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Wednesday, February 11 - Mid-month WTP Meeting 10 am
- Saturday, February 14th – Lion’s Club Fishing Contest 12 - 3 pm
- Wednesday, February 18th - fishing day with 4th grade kids from Hill City and McGregor.
- Wednesday, February 18 - Quarterly City Collaboration & Economic Development in Aitkin 10 - noon
- Wednesday, March 11th - City Day on the Hill all Day

10. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Motion made by Council Member Benson, Seconded by Council Member Goodrich.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lange, Council Member Benson, Council Member Semler, Council Member Goodrich

Dave Lange, Mayor

Tami Meyer, Clerk/Treasuer