

**PERHAM CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 12, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Perham City Council held both in person in the Council Chambers at Perham City Hall, 125 Second Avenue NE, Perham, MN 56573 and electronically via Zoom was called to order by Mayor Meehl at 5:15 p.m. with all members of the Council having been duly notified of the meeting and the business to be transacted. Council Members present were Meehl, Lehmkuhl, Schmidt, Meyer and Fresonke.

Staff present: City Manager Smith, Finance Officer Stokke, Public Works Director Schossow, Police Chief Gritz, EDA Director Murdock and Clerk Hoefl.

Others present: City Engineer Berube and Jeff Fritz

Others present via Zoom: Barbie Porter

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Meehl requested all in attendance rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS CONCERNS**

Mayor Meehl stated Council will recognize citizens who may have items for the Council. There were no citizen concerns.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Meehl stated Council Members and Staff may add items to the agenda which requires Council action.

On a motion by Council Member Fresonke, seconded by Council Member Schmidt and carried without a dissenting vote, the Council approved the agenda as presented.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Meehl stated all items listed with an asterisk (\*) will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member or citizen so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered separately in its normal sequence on the agenda.

On a motion by Council Member Lehmkuhl, seconded by Council Member Fresonke and carried without a dissenting vote, the Council approved the consent agenda as presented.

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council held on December 8, 2025.

**APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF CITY CLAIMS**

Mayor Meehl stated Council may wish to approve payment of Prepaid and Unpaid City Claims. Finance Officer Stokke noted the following additional claims: Amazon for \$141.25, \$412.59, and \$(8836.76); Bergseth for \$(110.44) and \$17,680.30; Beverage Wholesaler for \$3,314.92; Breakthru Beverage for \$1,436.25; Esser Plumbing for \$156.63; Hometown Repair for \$84.59; Napa for \$16.99; Precision Plumbing for \$3,200.00; and Quadiant Leasing for \$342.48 bringing the Total Unpaid City Claims to \$3,009,646.54.

On a motion by Council Member Schmidt, seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried without a dissenting vote, the Council approved payment of Prepaid and Unpaid City Claims in the amount of \$3,182,992.15 for December 2025.

**ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION**

Mayor Meehl stated Council may wish to approve the 2026 Organizational Resolution.

On a motion by Council Member Schmidt, seconded by Council Member Lehmkuhl and carried without a dissenting vote, the Council approved Resolution 2026-1 entitled "2026 Organizational Resolution City Of Perham, Minnesota."

**\*2025 AUDIT**

Council authorized the Mayor and Finance Officer to sign the terms of engagement letter authorizing Brady Martz to provide audit services for the year ending December 31, 2025.

**\*APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION**

Council approved Resolution 2026-2 entitled "Resolution Establishing Procedures relating To Compliance With Reimbursement Bond Regulations Under The Internal Revenue Code," an annual resolution to preserve the right to be reimbursed through tax -exempt bonding.

**\*TAPROOM ON-SALE/BREWER/SMALL BREWER OFF-SALE/SUNDAY LICENSE RENEWAL**

Council renewed the Taproom On-Sale/Brewer/Small Brewer Off-Sale/Sunday Licenses for Goose Group, Inc. DBA Disgruntled Brewing which expires January 31, 2026 contingent upon all fees and legal requirements being met as required by the City and State of Minnesota's Liquor Control Board.

**\*APPROVE TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSE**

Council approved a temporary liquor license request from Birak Shrine Club for an event to be held on February 28, 2026 at the East Otter Tail County Fairgrounds.

**\*MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT/LAKES COUNTRY SERVICE COOPERATIVE**

Council approved the renewal membership agreement for 2026 with Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

**\*APPROVE AUDITORIUM DONATION**

Council approved Resolution 2026-3 entitled "Resolution In The Matter Of Accepting A Donation For The Auditorium, Perham, MN," to approve a donation from West Central Initiative on behalf of the Friends of the Perham Auditorium Fund for \$1,629.06 for cleaning supplies, electric winch, paint, and painting for the Perham Auditorium.

**\*APPROVE AUDITORIUM DONATION**

Council approved Resolution 2026-4 entitled "Resolution In The Matter of Accepting A Donation For The Auditorium, Perham, MN," to approve a donation from West Central Initiative on behalf of the Friends of the Perham Auditorium Fund for \$463.00 for a backstage system with five headsets for the Perham Auditorium.

**\*ACCEPT HOUSING STUDY DONATION**

Council approved Resolution 2026-5 entitled "Resolution In The Matter Of Accepting A Housing Study Donation, Perham, MN," to accept a donation of \$5,000.00 from the West Central Initiative Donor Advised Fund through the Otter Tail Power Company for the housing study.

**\*ACCEPT DONATION**

Council approved Resolution 2026-6 entitled "Resolution In The Matter Of Accepting A Donation From The Perham Area Youth Hockey Association, Perham, MN," to accept a donation from the Perham Area Youth Hockey Association for \$80,000.00.

**\*APPROVE 2026 GOLF COURSE RATES**

Council approved 2026 Golf Course rates.

**\*2026 BUDGET/PERHAM AREA COMMUNITY CENTER**

Council approved the 2026 Budget for the Perham Area Community Center.

**\*ACCEPTANCE OF PERHAM AREA COMMUNITY CENTER'S FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Council accepted the PACC's Financial Reports for November 2025.

**\*ACCEPTANCE OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Council accepted the following reports: Cash Balance and Investment Summary, Budget Summary – Revenue and Expense, Enterprise Financials and the Utility Aging Report for December 2025.

**\*LIBRARY BOARD**

On the recommendation of the Library Board, the Council approved the appointment of Linda Layman and Tom Tomporowski to another three (3) Year term.

**CITY ENGINEER MONTHLY UPDATE**

City Engineer Berube gave an update on various projects.

*Main Street Project*

Construction activities have been suspended for the winter, with various correction and completion items and the final cleanup and paving of Second Avenue Northeast and the City Hall parking lot remaining.

Correspondence with RL Larson will be completed this month, outlining the remaining items and a completion date for the remaining work. Similarly to past projects, final paving deadlines are typically required to be completed by mid-June, in order to allow for potential late seasonal road restrictions.

*Local Road Improvement Grant Application*

A grant application was completed for the reconstruction of Second Street Northeast and Sixth Avenue Northeast in early December. According to the available funding information, the final recommendation and funding information is to be published in March. The competitive program had 233 applicants requesting approximately 277 million dollars, with the program having \$47 million available for potential projects.

### *Lead Service Line Replacement*

The State's Final Intended Use Plan was published late last week and included multiple lead and galvanized water service replacement projects. Later this month, City Hall staff will be meeting with various local contractors to discuss the process for replacement, the funding and reporting requirements to determine the number of the 84 services on the list that could be replaced this summer. Once a replacement figure has been finalized, a meeting with property owners will be scheduled and the project scope will be determined for the 2026 replacement project.

### **\*APPROVE LAWN TRACTOR PURCHASE**

Council approved the purchase of a new lawn tractor for the Parks Department for \$27,980.00 from RDO of Hawley, MN.

### **\*APPROVE STREET SWEEPER PURCHASE**

Council approved the purchase of a new street sweeper from Macqueen Equipment for \$310,327.

### **INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

An EMS Joint Powers Board Meeting will be held, Monday, January 12 at 6:00 pm at the Perham Fire Department Meeting Room

The City Office will be closed on Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Perham Rural Fire Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21 at the Perham Fire Hall. A meal will be served at 6:30 pm; the meeting will follow at 7:00 pm

The Committee of the Whole is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28 at 5:15 pm

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9 at 5:15 pm

The Elected Leaders Institute is scheduled for February 20-21 in Alexandria.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Council Member Lehmkuhl, seconded by Council Member Schmidt and carried without a dissenting vote, Mayor Meehl adjourned the meeting at 5:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



Heather Hoefl  
Clerk

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor