



City of Hill City Minutes

May Council Meeting

May 12, 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 6:05 pm. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Mayor Dave Lange

Council Member Lin Benson

Council Member Tom Semler

Council Member Kenny Hilton

Council Member Amanda Goodrich

2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

A motion was made 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 Hilton, Council Member Goodrich

3. Guest Speaker

Dr. Linda Bauer will be involved in a community action survey for Districts 7A & 7B. She would like to have a table/booth during the 4th of July celebrations.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Approve minutes of the 4/14/2026 Work Session and Regular Council Meeting and the 4/28/2026 Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting.

b. Approve

Account Balances as of 5/5/26 Checking \$409,525.94, MM \$29,042.13, CD \$515,970.94

Claim's - 4/15 Claim's \$500.00, 4/24 Claim's List \$6,390.85, 4/29 Claim's List \$2,950.00, 5/8 \$176,219.77, 5/12 \$4,284.71

EFT's - 4/15 MN Paid Leave \$698.78, 4/15 MN Paid Leave \$22.04, 4/22 Payroll \$9,834.85, 4/22 PERA \$2,518.97, 4/22 Fed. Taxes \$2,860.49, 5/4 Payroll 9,194.64, 5/4 PERA \$2,420.15, Fed Taxes \$2,618.52, 5/10 Campspot \$88.90,

No Transfer

c. Reports – Public Works, Fire, Police, Clerk

Maintenance

- Titan Machinery was here. The backhoe needs a wire harness. Waiting on a quote.

- Changed Oil in Unit 6

Water

- On going work with Bolton & Menk on the Water Treatment Plant.
- Water treatment plant is running well. Working on small issues.
- Old Pumphouse and Tank are demoed and unhooked from distribution system.

Sewer

- Quality Flow did yearly service checks. Some small issues on a couple lift stations.
- Will be doing the Spring discharge.

Parks

- Bathhouse is open for the season.
- Site signs are all out.
- Fishing Pier will be put in place within the next week.
- Boat Dock is in.

Airport

- Working with Bolton & Menk on the Fencing project.

Streets

- Street Sweeper was here.
- Looking at getting Chloride applied to the city streets in June.

Trail

- Will be sweeping it within the next week.

Fire

- There were 10 fire/medical calls this past month
- The Annual Fish Fry was a success, great attendance, and ran out of fish
- Will be budgeting to replace SCBA air bottles as they have expired over the next few years. They are \$1,300 each, they purchased some from Bagley FD that will be good for 5 to 10 years.
- Assisted the Maintenance Staff with burning at the airport and sewer ponds.

Police

Police-Dare graduation will be this Friday May 8th and then the field trip May 22nd, I look forward to taking the kids to Duluth again and playing some laser tag. I, along with a few fire guys, chaperoned prom, it was a blast and the kiddos had fun

Squad-No new update on the replacement squad.

New Officer-I went from having hardly anyone to 3 really good officers to interview, 2 had military police experience, the one I selected, Landon Ryan will be a great addition to our town, he has a wife and 2 kids. He also has ties to the area with his father residing in Hill City in the past. Projected solo start date is June 8th so we can get him some experience before 4th of July. He is currently riding right now with Brevon and Matt.

FLOCK-Flock cameras are installed and operational

School-We will have the school wide evacuation drill 5/13, last one went great with some improvements, look forward to working with the school on this

Schedule-The guys will be switching to a 5 on, 2 off, 2 on, 5 off schedule with the limited hours this is the easiest way to cover 7 days a week and not having the guys work every weekend. This was after discussion with the league and Tami related to officer fatigue. We will be set going forward.

We will have good staffing for the 4th of July with the part-timers, of course it is all dependent on weather.

After the city cleanup days we will start trying to push people to clean up blight.

Clerk

- Working with Bolton & Menk on multiple projects.
- Working with CPA's on the 2025 Audit
- Started writing an EFT Policy and a Procurement Policy
- Working with Jessica on various projects/grants
- Attended the following meetings/activities
 - April 15 – Clerk's Zoom meeting
 - April 21 – LLCC meeting in Aitkin
 - April 28 – Board of Appeals & Equalization
 - April 29 – Agenda & Meeting Management Webinar
 - April 30 – PERA Webinar

There was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

5. Public Forum – 3-minute limit

6. Reports:

a. Mayor and Council

Mayor Lange talked with Farnsworth about more bonding money for the water treatment plant. He said that he probably can't get the full \$1.8 million but is hoping to get us something.

The mayor attended various meetings throughout the month.

Council Member Hilton commented on how good the water is.

Council Member Benson thanked everyone involved with the boat dock system, it looks really nice.

b. Engineer

Force Main Reroute Project

- Waiting to close out project until spring once turf has established.
- Worked with the SCDP for a grant reimbursement for pay application number 4. City should be receiving reimbursement soon.
- Finalized a grant amendment with SCDP to maximize the amount of grant the city is receiving.

Water Treatment Plant Project

- Contractor began exterior work around the site
 - o Ground storage tank removal along with well house removal.
 - o Performed some site utility work
 - o Completed some grading
- Contractor's schedule is to complete remaining sitework (paving, sidewalks, grading, seeding) by end of the month.

Andrew will do a social media release for the open house on June 9th.

Hill City Airport

- Airport Layout Plan
 - o Submitted ALP to MnDOT Aeronautics for comment before we finish the final ALP Document.
- Airport Fence Project
 - o City awarded the project at April's meeting
 - o Worked with MnDOT aeronautics to approve the city increasing the project scope to fit with the original grant amount.
 - ♣ On the agenda are three items:
 - Change order to increase the project scope by almost double which will put it back closer to the original grant amount with the local cost staying the same as originally discussed.
 - Bolton & Menk Fee amendment for additional work with the added scope
 - o Survey, inspection, design, and boundary work
 - Updated grant request to MnDOT Aeronautics showing with the added change order and amendment.

Clerk Meyer was asked to put something on social media about the new access to the sewer pond.

c. CEDA

Mainstreet Audio

- Received two quotes for boring to City Hall and pavilion.

Veterans Commemoration Grant

- Stencils are complete and will be dropped off at city hall soon.
- There was no charge for them as they used left over material.

Events Committee

- Attended events committee meeting on May 6th.
- Preliminary flyer was presented at the May meeting.
- Taco and Bake Sale Fundraiser will be held on May 16th from 5-7.

Blandin

- Received samples for siding and cupboards.
- Community input is open.

DNR Tree Grants

- Attended Community Tree Planting Grant Webinar on April 22nd.
- Organizing the community EAB Meeting on June 16th @ 6PM. As long as the ReLeaf contract award comes through.

Miscellaneous

- June 17th CEDA 40th Anniversary Regional Event: Floodwood Event Center
- October 2nd CEDA Annual Meeting: Sugar Lake Lodge

d. Land Use Committee

The following permits issued this past month; a Garage Permit, a Garage Demo Permit, and a Deck Permit.

e. Events & Planning Committee

5/6/2026 Attendance: Sue Kaslow, Ken Olson, Jessica Pellinen, Cynthia Jordan, Bill Klennert, Dave Lange, Ginny Dorn

Taco Bar May 16th:

Tami and Jessica taking the lead. Could use a few more volunteers. Jessica will post on Facebook for help and for baked goods donations. Setup 3-5, serve from 5-7, and cleanup at 7.

4th of July

Cynthia is with Assembly of God and would like to do a little kids sprint fun run from 10:00. Ages 4-7. All approved this addition. Grand Marshalls: still working on calling people and need vehicle. Buttons: 145 are currently

made, Ginny will make a couple hundred more to get them out to the businesses. Roadside, Hill Lake Café, Knuckleheads, Cozy Cove, Thrift Shop, and Harry's are where they will be placed. Sue has been calling the Air Force and getting no answer. She will continue to follow up. Vendor Set-up: Bill has been taking phone calls. Still need to find another volunteer to take this on.

Next Meeting will be held on June 3rd and June 17th at 5:00PM.

- f. Personnel Committee has not met.
- g. Park Committee has not met but the boat system is in. The fishing pier will go in within the next week.

7. Old Business

- a. Approve Resolution 2026 - 5

Clerk Meyer wrote a resolution directing the 1983-2023 designed Minnesota State Flag be displayed on all city-owned properties, now or in the future, that fly a Minnesota Flag.

A motion was made to approve the resolution. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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

Voting Abstaining: Council Member Goodrich

8. New Business

- a. Approve Pay Request #17 to McGough Construction in the amount of \$79,827 and Draw Request #17 in the amount of \$130,575.50

A motion was made approving Pay Request #17 to McGough Construction in the amount of \$79,827 and Draw Request #17 in the amount of \$130,575.50.

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

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

- b. Airport Fence Project Update

The project received very favorable bids and came in under the engineer's estimate that we submitted to the state for the original project estimate. MnDOT Aeronautics is allowing us to add fencing up to the amount from our original application and grant offer letter.

A motion was made to approve Change Order #1.

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

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

A motion was made for the fee amendment for Bolton & Menk.

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

Bolton & Menk will submit the new amounts to MNDOT

c. Procurement Policy

EFT Policy

A motion was made to approve both the Procurement Policy and the EFT Policy.

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

d. Approve hiring Landon Ryan as a full-time police officer.

A motion was made to approve hiring Landon Ryan as a full-time Police Officer.

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

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

e. The CD's maturity date is May 21, 2026. Clerk suggests transferring the full amount into the MM account.

A motion was made to roll the 12-month CD into the Money Market account.

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

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

f. City Hall was asked if the city would consider having Rental/VRBO regulations/ordinance.

City Hall received a call asking if the city had a Rental/VRBO ordinance. They were told the city does not have one. It was then asked if we would consider having an ordinance or regulations of some kind.

Mayor Lange explained that the County has an ordinance regulating Rental/VRBO. After a lengthy discussion, Clerk Meyer will look into how other cities do this and bring it back to the council.

g. Approve April Council pay.

A motion was made to approve the April council pay.

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

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

9. Upcoming Meetings

- a. May 13th - Water Treatment Plant Meeting 10 am Fire Hall
- May 14th - 17th - City Clean-up (dumpsters at city hall)
- May 16th - Taco Bar 5pm - 7 pm at the Fire Hall
- May 19th - Aitkin Roundtable Talks 1 pm in Aitkin
- May 25th - Memorial Day Services 11:30 am Veteran's Park
- June 9th - Water Treatment Plant Open House 4 - 5:30 pm
- June 9th - Regular Council Meeting 6 pm

10. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm

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

Dave Lange, Mayor

Tami Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer