



City of Hill City Minutes

April Council Meeting

April 14, 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 was a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

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

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

3. Guest Speaker

a. Kristian Myers - National Insurance Brokers - renewal of City Insurance

Kristian Myers with National Brokers Agency was present to discuss the renewal of the city insurance. Myers informed the council that he sold his business, Woodland Insurance, but is still our agent just under National Insurance Brokers.

There is no premium increase this coming year. Myers talked about the liability coverage waiver. Historically, Hill City has always chosen to "Not Waive" the limits, thereby accepting the \$500,000 per person//per claim limit and the \$1,500,000 for all claimants for one incident. "Not Waiving" is less expensive as potential claims costs are lower.

There was a motion to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability coverage.

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

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

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve minutes of the March Regular Council Meeting
- b. Approve
Account Balances - Checking \$248,316.48, MM \$29,039.74, CD \$515,970.94
Claim's - 3/27 - 3/30 \$505.21, 4/3 \$1,153.50, 4/13 \$237,758.68
EFT's - 3/12 Sales Tax \$192.00, 3/23 Payroll \$9,466.22, 3/23 PERA \$2,135.00, Fed Taxes \$2,672.66, 3/31 State Withholding \$1,555.71, 4/3 Sales Tax \$233.00, 4/6 Payroll \$9,542.50, 4/7 PERA \$2,573.73, 4/7 Fed Tax \$2,850.39, 4/10 Campspot \$166.90,
Transfer - none
- c. Reports – Public Works, Fire, Police, Clerk
Maintenance
 - Fixed the PTO Shaft on the broom used to sweep the snow.
 - Made a call to Titan Machinery to come look at the backhoe. More information to follow.
Water
 - On going work with Bolton & Menk on the Water Treatment Plant.
 - Water treatment plant has been running for about a week and a half. We have been doing training. Seeing good results from the filter.
Sewer
 - There was a call out at the lodge lift station for a bad float.
Parks
 - Nothing to report
Airport
 - Working with Bolton & Menk on the Fencing project.
 - Had a meeting with the State on past grants.
Streets
 - They are holding up well.
Trail
 - Nothing to report
Fire
 - There were 9 medical/fire calls this past month.
 - Firefighter Joe Gillson is retiring April 30 with 51 years on the Department.
 - The Annual Fish Fry is April 18th
Clerk
 - Working with Bolton & Menk on multiple projects.
 - Working with CPAs 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
 - March 11th – Zoom Meeting Matt, 2026 Blandin Grant with Jessica
 - March 13th – Tree Board Meeting
 - March 25 – 27th – MCFOA Conference
 - March 31st – ARDC meeting in Aitkin
 - April 2nd – Airport Fence Bid Opening – Zoom
 - April 7th – Meeting with Jessica about the new sound system
 - April 8th – Sales Tax zoom meeting
- d. Approve Resolution 2026 - 4 Accepting Donations from Hill City Fire Relief Assoc. in the amount of \$300 and the Hill City Lion's Club in the amount of \$500.00 both for the Easter Event.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion made by Council Member Goodrich, Seconded by Council Member Benson.
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 had a busy month attending meetings and spent a few days at the water treatment plant.

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 approved last month.
- Worked through a grant amendment with SCDP to maximize the amount of grant the city is receiving.

Water Treatment Plant Project

- Water treatment plant start up.
- Began pushing treated water to the system towards the end of March.
 - Manganese levels were at 5 mg/L and are now down to 0.15 mg/L
- Assembled punch list
- Contractor to start remaining site work April 27th and plans to be done by end of May.

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 Bids received and the project is on the agenda recommending the award of the project.

There was discussion on when to host an open house for the water treatment plant. It was decided on June 9th 4 - 5:30 pm. There will be hot dogs and refreshments.

c. CEDA

Park and Rec

- MN DNR Outdoor Recreation was reviewed by CEDA grants department.
- Application was submitted on March 31st asking for \$80,887.
- Attended the Hill City Area Community Fund meeting on April 8th and asked for \$10,000 for the multicourt. It is awarded.

Veterans Commemoration Grant

- Stencils are in the works. We will need to pay for materials only.

Events Committee

- Attended events committee on April 1st.
- Working on the flyer for 4th of July.

Blandin

- Blandin awarded Hill City with \$100,000 to update city hall.
- Working on contacting contractors for estimates.

DNR Tree Grants

- Attended tree committee meeting on March 13th.
- Attended the Community Tree Report Viewer Training on March 27th.
- Contract for Community Tree Grant has come through.
- Organizing the community EAB Meeting on June 16th @ 6PM.

Other

- Attended the Lion's Club Meeting on March 11th.
- Attended the ARDC CEDS community conversation in Aitkin on March 31st.
- Met with Kerry from AVE to discuss a quote for the speaker system on Lake Avenue.

The Grand Rapids Players Club wants to come to Hill City and do a performance. There was discussion about when a good time would be. Jessica will work with them and pick a date.

d. Land Use Committee

There was one application submitted for a garage that was approved.

e. Events & Planning Committee

Easter Egg Hunt:

There was \$1500 in donations with a total of \$2200 used towards supplies including candy and bikes. They ended up giving away 20 bikes and over 2000 eggs were filled.

Taco Bar May 16th:

Food: Tami will pick up 40lbs of taco meat from Sandstrom's on the 15th. 320 Soft and hard shells, Lettuce, tomatoes, onions, sour cream and cheese, pink lemonade and water will be served.

Volunteers needed:

- 3-5 people at 3:00 pm Set up: Tables and chairs, prep food
- 4-5 people: 5 – 7 pm Servers
- 3-5 people: 7:00 pm Clean up
- Ask for donations of baked goods for the bake sale. Make sure the flyer is run in the newsletter in May. It was run in April. Jessica will send out an email and put a post on Facebook requesting volunteers. No need for paper supplies – plenty on hand.

4th of July:

- Sign up form is approved.
- Ginny will help sell buttons.
- Sawdust pile money buckets are out.
- Woodland bank will no longer allow a bucket at this location.
- Print off Taco Bar flyers and Sue will pick up to put around town. Print 10.
- Jessica will have a flyer for the events on the 4th of July done for the May 6th meeting at 5:00.

- f. Personnel Committee
The committee has not met.

Public Safety Director Saxton still looking for a new police officer. There are 2000 retirements a year and only 500 students graduated from police school. He doesn't want to hire the wrong person so will take time to find a good fit.

- g. Park Committee
The committee has not met.

Council Member Goodrich said we need to look at the fish cleaning house. She said the brick had shifted. Casper will get ahold of Seth Amundson about the plumbing.

7. Old Business

- a. Kessler House - 3' x 10' Planter Box cost \$500.00 for materials and \$300 for building and delivery for a total cost of \$800.00/box
There was discussion on how many planter boxes to purchase. A motion was made to purchase 3 planter boxes.

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

- b. The Watermain Improvements and Looping Project that was submitted last month was successfully submitted to the Appropriations Committee for consideration.

This was an FYI for the council to know that the project went to the appropriation committee.

8. New Business

- a. Fence Bids

Andrew went over the bids for phase one of the fence projects at the airport. The bids were Oberg Fence \$108,000.00, Fence-Co Inc \$118,275.00, Erickson Infrastructure \$222,665.00, and Lafrance Construction \$234,000.00. The engineer's estimate was \$208,520.00. After reviewing the bidder's proposals, the recommendation was to go with Oberg Fence.

There was a motion to go with the recommendation of Oberg Fence for \$108,000.00.

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

- b. Approve Pay Application #16 in the amount of \$156,388.00 to McGough Construction and Draw Request #16 in the amount of \$186,690.00.

There was a motion to approve the pay application to McGough Construction in the amount of \$156,388.00 and the draw request in the amount of \$186,690.00.

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

- c. Approve the Aitkin County Maintenance Agreement for County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 33 (Lake Ave) in the amount of \$3,987.83 effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

There was a motion to approve the maintenance agreement with Aitkin County for County State-Aid Highway No. 33 in the amount of \$3,987.83.

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

Mayor Lange would like an invoice sent to the County for 50% of the repair work that was done on Lake Ave earlier this year.

- d. Northland Portables quote for a Handicapped Restroom for the campground. The monthly cost is \$177.06 for monthly rental, weekly cleaning and extra cleaning - 2 times a week.

A motion was made to approve a Handicapped Restroom for the campground, for June – September.

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

- e. Quote for Street Sound System

We received a quote from AVE (Audio Video Electronics) to install a new Sound System on Lake Ave. There was discussion possible boring under Lake Ave and Main St, is not including in the estimate. There is \$30,000 budgeted with Blandin funds.

A motion was made to approve the sound system not to exceed \$30,000.

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

- f. LMC Annual Conference June 24 - 26 in Rochester.

The League of MN Cities Annual Conference is June 24 – 26 in Rochester. If anyone would like to go let Clerk Meyer know and she will get you registered. May 1st is the deadline for early registration.

- g. Keeping the old Minnesota State Flag vs the new Minnesota State Flag.

Mayor Lange informed the council that other areas have decided to keep the “old” version of the Minnesota Flag versus the “new” flag.

A motion was made to keep the “old” Minnesota flag. Clerk Meyer will write a resolution for the May meeting.

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

- h. Email from MN Dept of Health - Interim Inspection Summary for PWSID 1010011
FYI - MN Dept of Health did an inspection at the water treatment plant in March. There were a few items pointed out that needed to be fixed. The plant was not fully operational at the time of the inspection.

- i. Council Pay

A motion was made to approve the March 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. April 18th - 5 - 7 pm - Fire Dept Fish Fry
- April 21 - 1:00 pm - Roundtable Talks with Mark Jeffers at LLCC
- May 8th – 8:30 am DARE Graduation

10. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm.

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

Dave Lange, Mayor

Tami Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer