

CITY OF HERMANTOWN

City Council Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2026

6:30 PM Central

MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Present

Councilor John Geissler: Present

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Present

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Present

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Present

CITY STAFF: John Mulder, City Administrator; Eric Johnson; Community Development Director; Joe Wicklund, Assistant City Administrator; Jim Crace, Director of Public Safety; Zach Graves, Fire Chief; Trish Crego, Utility & Infrastructure Director; Gunnar Johnson, City Attorney

VISITORS: 45

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
5. **PUBLIC HEARING**

A. Public Hearing on the petition to vacate Williams Drive

This public hearing opened at 6:30 p.m. and closed at 6:32 p.m. with no public comment.

A. 2026-73 Resolution Authorizing And Directing Mayor And City Clerk To Execute An Acceptance Of Utility Easement Agreement To The City Of Hermantown From MCB Development LLC

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-73 Resolution Authorizing And Directing Mayor And City Clerk To Execute An Acceptance Of Utility Easement Agreement To The City Of Hermantown From MCB Development LLC. This motion, made by Councilor Peterson and seconded by Councilor Hjelle, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

B. **2026-74 Resolution Authorizing And Directing Mayor And City Clerk To Execute An Acceptance Of Right-Of Way Easement For Williams Drive To The City Of Hermantown From MCB Development LLC**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-74 Resolution Authorizing And Directing Mayor And City Clerk To Execute An Acceptance Of Right-Of Way Easement For Williams Drive To The City Of Hermantown From MCB Development LLC. This motion, made by Councilor LeBlanc and seconded by Councilor Geissler, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

C. **2026-75 Resolution Vacating Williams Drive Off Of Ugstad Road Upon Petition Of The Majority Of Abutting Owners**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-75 Resolution Vacating Williams Drive Off Of Ugstad Road Upon Petition Of The Majority Of Abutting Owners. This motion, made by Councilor Geissler and seconded by Councilor Peterson, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Correspondence 26-337 through 26-347 placed on file

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. **2027 Payroll Budget**

Kevin Orme, Director of Finance & Administration
(Pre-Agenda Only)

B. **Charter Commission Update**

John Mulder, City Administrator
(Pre-Agenda Only)

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gail Paulus, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She shared her experience with construction data centers in Texas.

Richard Davis, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. He questioned the Mayor on potential future data center projects in Hermantown.

Miranda McKay Chambers, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She shared concern about working with tech companies like Google and the operational life span of data centers.

Susan Anderson, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She asked Council when is enough development enough and questioned what the goal of increasing development and population in Hermantown.

Sarah Loflad, Hermantown, MN – Spoke about the Hermantown charter petition. She shared that it brings an opportunity for the residents to work together and engage with the city.

Tom Bates, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. He emphasized for the need of longer life span computer processors, setting up a fund with Google regarding clean up and restoration of the site once they are done, and a town hall meeting.

Virginia Lord, Superior, WI – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She shared a presentation regarding data centers and deciding for the seven generations of the future.

Tim Resberg, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. He asked questions to the Council regarding property value, effects on the aquifer, electricity fees, pollution control, and runoff. He expressed concern that a contract with the labor unions has not happened.

Dawn LaPointe, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She shared a list of concerns and deficiencies in the draft development and tax abatement agreements. She emphasized that the proposed agreements represent a significant transfer of risk from a wealthy developer to local taxpayers in Hermantown's small community.

Ashely Anderson, Duluth, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She expressed concerns regarding Council's capacity to make these decisions and maintaining infrastructure once it is turned over to the city.

Susan Relf, Duluth, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She shared concerns for potential harms of AI being an inherent risk of the project.

Derek Strom, Hemantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. He told Council he will be filling for removal of Council members and filed a complaint form with the IRS.

Bob Kohlmeier, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. He shared concerns regarding the draft AUAR.

Tom Thompson, Brimson, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. He shared that he traveled to support the community efforts and expressed that this project impacts not just Hermantown but all of northeastern Minnesota.

Emma Richtman, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She emphasized the need for a city-wide moratorium on hyperscale data centers until the true scope and scale of technology is known. She also emphasized the need for good faith legislation and outlined what that could look like. She spoke about similarities of what is happening in Little Rock Arkansas and Hermantown.

Clarissa Ek, Solway Township, Hermantown, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. She shared concerns in regards changes to their current way of life as someone who would live next to the proposed data center.

Jim Klukkert, Duluth, MN – Spoke in opposition of the proposed data center project. He shared that it is the citizen's duty to tear down government who does not preserve the rights to life, liberty, and happiness.

9. **MOTIONS**

- A. Motion to approve the following liquor license renewal application(s) effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 contingent upon complete applications being received, successful background checks and license fees being paid in full:

AAD Shrine | 5152 Miller Trunk Hwy | On Sale Intoxicating/Dance/Sunday
Famous Dave's | 4135 Richard Ave, Ste 101 | On Sale Intoxicating/Sunday
Do North Pizzeria | 5116 Miller Trunk Hwy | Wine & Strong Beer/Sunday

*McKenzie's Bar & Grill | 5094 Miller Trunk Hwy | On Sale Intoxicating/Sunday
Adolph Store | 3706 Midway Road | Off Sale Intoxicating
China Star | 4227 Haines Road | Wine & Strong Beer
Maya Authentic Mexican | 4702 Miller Trunk Hwy | On-Sale Intoxicating/Sunday
Beacon Sports Bar | 5044 Hermantown Rd | On Sale Intoxicating/Dance/Sunday
Kwik Trip #216 | 4805 Miller Trunk Hwy | 3.2 Off Sale
Kwik Trip #220 | 4978 Miller Trunk Hwy | 3.2 Off Sale
Kwik Trip #572 | 4145 Haines Rd | 3.2 Off Sale
Holiday/Circle K | 4795 Miller Trunk Hwy | 3.2 Off-Sale
The Social House | 4897 Miller Trunk Hwy #100 | On Sale Intoxicating/Sunday
Outback Steakhouse | 4255 Haines Road | On Sale Intoxicating/Sunday
Foster's Bar & Grill | 4676 W Arrowhead Rd | On Sale Intoxicating/Sunday
Valentini's | 4960 Miller Trunk Hwy | On Sale Intoxicating
Sammy's Pizza | 4310 Menard Dr | Wine & Strong Beer/Sunday
Sam's Club #6320 | 4743 Maple Grove Rd | Off Sale Intoxicating
Skyline Social & Games | 4894 Miller Trunk Hwy | On Sale Intoxicating/Sunday
The King of Creams | 4140 Richard Ave #400 | Wine & Strong Beer
*MN CStore | 4221 Haines Road | 3.2 Off Sale
Walmart #1757 | 4740 Mall Drive | 3.2 Off Sale

**Contingent upon all paperwork and payment being received
(motion, roll call)*

Motion to approve the liquor license renewal application(s) effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 contingent upon complete applications being received, successful background checks and license fees being paid in full. This motion made by Councilor Geissler and seconded by Councilor Peterson, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea
Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea
Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea
Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea
Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

- B. Motion to approve the Temporary Service Area Expansion Application and Dance Permit for the Beacon Sports Bar for Summerfest on July 17th & 18th, 2026 with proposed hours of sale from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve or deny the Temporary Service Area Expansion Application and Dance Permit for the Beacon Sports Bar for Summerfest on July 17th & 18th, 2026 with proposed hours of sale from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. This motion made by Councilor Peterson and seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Minutes** - Approval or correction of June 1, 2026 City Council Continuation Minutes

B. **Accounts Payable** - Approve general city warrants from June 1, 2026 through June 15, 2026 in the amount of \$649,418.01

Motion to the approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Councilor Hjelle and seconded by Councilor Peterson, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

11. **RESOLUTIONS**

A. **2026-67 Resolution Establishing An Absentee Ballot Board For The 2026 Primary And General Elections**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-67 Resolution Establishing An Absentee Ballot Board For The 2026 Primary And General Elections. This motion, made by Councilor Geissler and seconded by Councilor Hjelle, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

B. 2026-68 Resolution Approving A Grant Application For Radio's Between FEMA And The City Of Hermantown And Authorizing And Directing The Mayor And City Clerk To Execute And Deliver Such Grant Application On Behalf Of The City Of Hermantown

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-68 Resolution Approving A Grant Application For Radio's Between FEMA And The City Of Hermantown And Authorizing And Directing The Mayor And City Clerk To Execute And Deliver Such Grant Application On Behalf Of The City Of Hermantown. This motion, made by Councilor LeBlanc and seconded by Councilor Peterson, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

C. 2026-69 Resolution Adopting Performance Measures

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-69 Resolution Adopting Performance Measures. This motion, made by Councilor Geissler and seconded by Councilor Hjelle, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

D. **2026-70 Resolution Approving Reliable Insurance Agency As City Insurance Broker**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-70 Resolution Approving Reliable Insurance Agency As City Insurance Broker. This motion, made by Councilor LeBlanc and seconded by Councilor Peterson Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Abstain

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1

E. **2026-71 Resolution Amending Final Assessment Roll For Road Improvement District No. 541 & 542 (Hermantown Road & Bridge And Old Midway Road)**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-71 Resolution Amending Final Assessment Roll For Road Improvement District No. 541 & 542 (Hermantown Road & Bridge And Old Midway Road). This motion, made by Councilor Peterson and seconded by Councilor Geissler, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

F. **2026-72 Resolution Authorizing The Director Of Finance & Administration To Make The Necessary Transfers For Debt Service For Road Improvement District No. 541 & 542**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2026-72 Resolution Authorizing The Director Of Finance & Administration To Make The Necessary Transfers For Debt Service For Road Improvement District No. 541 & 542. This motion, made by Councilor LeBlanc and seconded by Councilor Peterson, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

12. **RECESS**

Motion to recess at 7:52 p.m. This motion, made by Councilor LeBlanc and seconded by Councilor Peterson, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Yea

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk