

CITY OF HERMANTOWN

City Council Meeting

Monday, August 18, 2025

6:30 PM Central

MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Present

Councilor John Geissler: Present

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Present

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Present

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Absent

CITY STAFF: John Mulder, City Administrator; Alissa McClure, City Clerk; Joe Wicklund, Assistant City Administrator; City Engineer; Gunnar Johnson, City Attorney

VISITORS: 39

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

- A. Public Hearing on a proposed assessment for the construction of Road Improvement District No. 541 & 542 (Hermantown Road & Bridge 7724)

This public hearing opened at 6:48 p.m. and closed at 7:07 p.m. with the following comments from the public:

Nathan & Rebecca Gilbertson of 5854 Hermantown Road: Stated that their property receives no special benefit from the project and requested removal of the assessment. They expressed concern about a potential conflict of interest with the City's appraiser, questioned the valuation methods used, and noted that road improvements would not impact their homeowners' insurance or property value.

Paul Pearson of 5382 Hermantown Road: Stated that the assessment is unconstitutional, as road maintenance is not a special assessment and is instead a violation of the Minnesota Constitution.

Rachel Lantto of 5319 Hermantown Road: Expressed concern that the application of the assessment amount is not equitable. She stated that her property does not benefit

from the road improvements and that the assessment would present a financial hardship.

Mike Lofald of 5524 Hermantown Road: Commented that the road was in need of repair and that the work should have been done years ago. He questioned why a fund had not been established to cover such inevitable repairs, noting that all who use the road will enjoy the benefits of the project.

Dennis Lofald of 5464 Hermantown Road: Stated that the quality of the road work completed is unacceptable.

Jonathan Thornton of 5869 Hermantown Road: Thanked the Council for their work, noting that it is a difficult responsibility. He stated that he has 34 years of experience in real estate and, in his professional opinion, the change from a bumpy paved road to a smooth paved road does not create a special benefit. He urged the Council to find an alternative method to finance such projects in the future.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Correspondence 25-113 through 25-117 placed on file

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. **2026 Preliminary General Fund Budget**

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

8. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

9. **MOTIONS**

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Minutes** - Approval or correction of August 4, 2025 City Council Continuation Minutes

B. **Accounts Payable** - Approve general city warrants from August 1, 2025 through August 15, 2025 in the amount of \$1,637,141.47

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

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Absent

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

11. **ORDINANCES**

12. **RESOLUTIONS**

A. **2025-130 Resolution Approving Wage Rates For Part Time Employees In 2025**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2025-130 Resolution Approving Wage Rates For Part Time Employees In 2025. This motion, made by Councilor Hjelle and seconded by Councilor Geissler, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Absent

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

B. **2025-125 Resolution Approving Final Pay Request To Northland Constructors For Road Improvement District No. 541 & 542 In The Amount Of \$248,364.47**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to approve 2025-125 Resolution Approving Final Pay Request To Northland Constructors For Road Improvement District No. 541 & 542 In The Amount Of \$248,364.47. This motion, made by Councilor Geissler and seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, Carried.

Councilor John Geissler: Yea

Councilor Andy Hjelle: Yea

Councilor Brian LeBlanc: Yea

Councilor Joseph Peterson: Absent

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

13. **CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Motion to close the meeting of the Hermantown City Council pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § Section 13D.05 Subd. 3 (a) to discuss the City Administrator's performance evaluation. Following this closed session, the Hermantown City Council will reconvene in an open session.

(motion, roll call)

Motion to recess at 7:20 p.m. Motion to close the meeting of the Hermantown City Council pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § Section 13D.05 Subd. 3 (a) to discuss the City Administrator's performance evaluation. This motion, made by Councilor Geissler and seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, Carried.

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

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to reconvene into open sessions at 8:14 p.m. 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:	Absent
Mayor Wayne Boucher:	Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

14. **RECESS**

Motion to recess at 8:15 p.m. 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:	Absent

Mayor Wayne Boucher: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk