Minutes
Regular City of Hoyt Lakes Council Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, July 14, 2026
5:30 pm

1. **ROLL CALL – Meeting called to order by Mayor Scott at 5:30 pm.**
   Councilors in attendance: ☒Grams ☒Jarvela ☒Eckman ☒Mathison ☒Mayor Scott
   ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Snetsinger. Directors: Snetsinger, Peterson, and City Attorney Lewicki

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   *Consent Agenda: asterisked items are routine, non-controversial, and/or have been discussed at a previous Council meeting. These items will be approved in one motion unless discussion is requested in which case the item will be considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

   Moved by Jarvela; Supported by Eckman to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES ***
   - 4.1 Regular City Council Meeting - June 23, 2026
   - 4.2 Public Forum – June 23, 2026

5. **CORRESPONDENCE ***
   - 5.1 Blight Status Report
   - 5.2 Public Library Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026
   - 5.3 Colby Ridge Homeowners June 18th Meeting Minutes
   - 5.4 Iron Range Economic Alliance June 17th Meeting Minutes
   - 5.5 MEYH Concessions Annual Financial Report

6. **FINANCIALS-***
   Approval for Payments – Claims
   - 6.1 Disbursements - $471,891.85
   - 6.2 Payroll - $214,497.25
     - 6.2.1 Payroll - $188,188.45
     - 6.2.2 Benefits - $26,308.80
     - 6.2.3 Insurance $78,710.50

7. **GUESTS/CITIZEN FORUM**
   Resident Greg Knutson discussed the resolution of a blight ticket he had received and also expressed frustration over the customer service, or lack of, that he has received from Frontier for his phone and internet over the past seven months.

8. **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

   Recreation Director Peterson – The irrigation system at the Golf Course isn't working correctly and needs to discuss the purchase of an unbudgeted part, which has a five-week backorder, to fix it. Discussion of the departments 2026 budget and prioritizing currently budgeted items to see if anything could be held off to pay for this. Peterson will continue to work on the system until the part arrives. He also reported he is continuing to work with SEH on punch list items at the Arena.

Motion by Jarvela; Supported by Grams to add Item 10.5 MTI Quote for Golf Course Sprinkler System VFD to the meeting agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Works Director Snetsinger – Starting to work on projects for Water Carnival. They have brushed both sides of the bike trail to the Campground and plan on doing the trail to the Golf Course and in town after Water Carnival. There is a company in town exercising water valves; inoperable valves will be repaired after Water Carnival but before winter. There is also a company in town, MPL, replacing gas lines in the Viking and Lakeview area.

City Attorney Joel Lewicki – No report

9. REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilor Grams – Contacted the Youth-in-Action and Brownfields group to ensure they have updated contact information as there hasn't been communication or meetings yet this year. The Chamber continues to donate to local organizations and school groups; their fiscal year for May 31st shows they have given out $50,000.

Councilor Jarvela – Has had conversations with people about a possible data center being built by the mine. Many don't know there are laws that exclude some companies from building near the mines as they would need to possibly exclude the mineral rights of and use of the mine for mining other things. He asks residents to contact him for discussion and input as this could help our tax base, jobs, etc.

Councilor Eckman – The ERPD has a new Officer and has sold the former Chief's truck to Aurora. Arts & Crafts are getting ready for the Water Carnival parade.

Councilor Mathison – Questioned why the resignation letter of an EMT wasn't approved at the last regular meeting and if it was due to nepotism maybe we should re-visit the policy for the future. City Attorney Lewicki clarified the delay in approval was not due to nepotism but instead because two of the three Councilors at the meeting were employees in the EMS Department; as such, it is recommended they don't approve resignations due to the possibility of personal gain. In regard to a data center, Mathison reported centers generally overpay electric companies to ensure power which can result in resident pricing going down.

Mayor Scott – No report

10. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 EMT Lisa Wippler Resignation

Motion by Mathison; Supported by Grams to accept the resignation of Lisa Wippler from the EMS Department. Scott and Eckman abstained, motion carried.

11. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Fisherman's Point 2027 Seasonal Site Rates

Council discussed the rate increase history over the past 3 years for seasonal sites at Fisherman's Point Campground and interest in having monthly sites for 2027.

Motion by Eckman; Supported by Jarvela to approve the 2027 Fisherman's Point Seasonal Site rates with no change in prices. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Grams; Supported by Eckman to direct City Hall staff to make the addition of monthly sites for budget time. All in favor, motion carried.

10.2 Recommendation to Hire Lauren Prophet as Firefighter/EMT and Abby Larson as EMT.

10.2a Motion by Grams; Supported by Jarvela to approve the hiring of Lauren Prophet as a Firefighter/EMT pending completion of pre-employment testing including physical, drug testing, and background check. Scott and Eckman abstained, motion carried.

10.2b Motion by Mathison; Supported by Grams Jarvela to approve the hiring of Abby Larson as an EMT pending completion of pre-employment testing including physical, drug testing, and background check. Scott and Eckman abstained, motion carried.

10.3 EMT Lisa Goert Resignation

Motion by Jarvela; Supported Mathison by to accept the resignation of Lisa Goerdt from the EMS Department. Scott and Eckman abstained, motion carried.

10.4 August 11th Council Meeting Day Change Due to Primary Election

Motion by Jarvela; Supported by Mathison to change the date of the August 11th Council meeting to Wednesday, August 12th at 5:30 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

10.5 Approved quote from MTI for $8,271.07 for the purchase of a VFD for the Golf Course Sprinkler System.

Motion by Grams; Supported by Eckman approved the purchase of a VFD for the Golf Course sprinkler system from MTI in the amount of $8,271.07. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Grams; Supported by Jarvela for adjournment. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Next Council Meetings:
Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:00 pm – Public Forum
Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm – Regular Meeting

Brennan Scott, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy Snetsinger, Deputy Clerk