MINUTES
Northome City Council
Meeting Minutes
April 8th, 2026
6:00 pm
Northome City Hall

Staff Present: Tess Skiles (clerk), Angel Stradtmann (Bar Manager)
Others Present: John Eggers (Project Graduate) Lynn Hunt (Bartender)
Present: Mayor Karen Olson, Danci Lindley, Merritt Montgomery, Cole VanBeusekom
Not Present: Jamie Skoe, Pete Bender (Public Works)

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Karen Olson. This meeting was recorded.

Open Forum- None

Agenda Items.....

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

2. Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to accept the April 8th, 2026, Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion Carried.

3. Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the March 11th, 2026, meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

4. John Eggers (Project Graduate)
   *It was amended to have John present before the Audit Report.
   *See attached for the graduation percentages at Northome School, as well as schools in the surrounding areas.
   *Requested assistance in finding a business in Northome that could join the Project Graduate alliance and sponsor Northome School. There would be no fee involved other than the potential to help fund literature in the future. They meet quarterly.

5. Audit Report
   *Amanda Scanson from BradyMartz attended a Zoom meeting with the council to present the audit findings.
   *See Audit report upon request
   *Current margin for the Muni is about 42%, and Amanda recommended it be raised by 1-2%. The state margin is about 27%.
   *The Muni made a profit of $29,859.
   *Tax is included in the gross profit.
   *Amanda welcomed council members and staff to come to her with any future questions they may have.

6. Angel Stradtmann (Bar Manager)
   *Sales up about 20% from last March.
   *Last cribbage tournament is next Saturday.
   *Bingo has been doing very well since Blackduck Youth Bowling started volunteering. Had a $1,700 day on the last Bingo night. 3 Bingos left.
   *The city will be reimbursing Angel for the Bluetooth speaker she had purchased for the Muni for sports games and events.
   *Angel has very low inventory for clothing, and will be ordering more.
   *Motion made by Mayor Olson to close the Muni on Easter, an unpaid holiday, and make this change in the personnel policy to approve next meeting. Seconded by Councilor VanBeusekom. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried

7. Administrative
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve Resolution 2026-04 to accept a library donation. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the proposal from Current Software for utility billing for a $7,300 implementation and annual fee, with a $6,000 annual fee thereafter. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Decided not to proceed with TextMyGov
   *Discussed the upcoming job interviews being subject to the Open Meeting Law. The clerk will be discussing this with the attorney tomorrow morning and following up with the council.

8. Financials
   *Quarterly budget was presented to the council for review
   *Motion made by Councilor Lindley to approve the city's monthly financial reports. Seconded by Councilor VanBeusekom. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the 2026 claim #'s 11,866-11,929 and expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Mayor Olson reported that the Library received a $100,000 grant from Blandin, which will be received in two payments, the first one expected in May and the second next year.

9. Motion made by Councilor Montgomery to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor VanBeusekom. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

These are the official minutes of the April 8th, 2026, Northome City Council Meeting.

Karen Olson
Mayor

Attest: Lisa Skilles
City Clerk/Treasurer

Area Graduation Rates
(Sources: Bemidji Pioneer: April 6, 2026, Source: MDE)

Total Minnesota Graduation Rate: 84.9% (2024 - 84.2%)
Native American Beltrami County: 41.7% (2024 - 40.2%)
White Students: 85.2% (82.9%)
Beltrami County - 67.2% (2024 - 64.4)
Dropout Rate (students who leave school before finishing 12 years): 13.7% (2024 - 16.1%)

Bemidji Area Schools Graduation Rate: 80.2% (2024 74.8%)

White Students in Bemidji: 86.7% (2024 82%)

Bemidji Area Schools Native American Graduation Rate: 59.8% (2024 53.1%)

Trek North Graduation Rate: 83.9%

Trek North Native Americans Graduation Rate: 87.9% (2024 94.6%)

Cass Lake - Bena Graduation Rate: 56.3% (2024 62.3%)

Red Lake Schools Graduation Rate: 19% (2024 22.2%)

Bug O Nay Ge Shig Graduation Rate: 76.5% (57.1% 2024)

Voyageurs Expedition Graduation Rate: 66.7% (2024 31.3%)

Kelliher Graduation Rate: 76.2% (79.3% 2024)

Clearbrook - Gonvick: 85% (80% 2024)

Blackduck Graduation Rate: 70.4% (88.6% 2024)

Northome Graduation Rate: 50% (same last year)

Mahnomen Graduation Rate: 84.2% (70-79% 2024)

Circle of Life Graduation Rate: 33%