MINUTES
Northome City Council
Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 2026
6:00 pm
Northome City Hall

Staff Present: Tess Skiles (clerk), Pete Bender (Public Works), Angel Stradtmann (Bar Manager)
Others Present: Jerry Bolin (Karvakko)
Present: Mayor Karen Olson, Jamie Skoe, Danci Lindley, Merritt Montgomery, Cole VanBeusekom
Not Present: None

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 Montgomery to accept the January 14th, 2026, Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Skoe. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion Carried.

3. Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the December 17th, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

4. Council Organization
   *Motion was made by Councilor Montgomery to approve the Council Organization as follows, Bear Country Chronicles as the newspaper, Deerwood Bank as the depository, Fuller & Wallner as the attorney, Karvakko Engineering as the engineer, Brady Martz as the auditor, Danci Lindley as the senior council member, and the regular council meetings will be held the second Wednesday of every month at 6 pm. Seconded by Councilor Skoe. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to remove Morgan Skiles as a bank signatory from all bank accounts, leaving Tess Skiles, Karen Olson, and Jamie Skoe as bank signatories. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

5. Karvakko
   *Council can give any input on the campground bathrooms to Pete, and he will relay to Jerry.
   *The Obstruction Removal project at the airport should be wrapped up. Gladden has been working this week.
   *Final quotes for the Lift Station should be presented next month.
   *USDA approved reimbursement of the previously approved $1,500 for engineer fees on the Lift Station

*ALP is going to determine the project time on Ryan Good's hangar – MnDOT will need to review ALP ASAP.

6. Angel Stradtmann (Bar Manager)
*Keeping the Lottery vending machine. Currently don't make much for profit; about $6,000 since 2019, but it doesn't cost the city anything to have it. Locals use it, and Angel recommended we continue to provide it. The clerk already did a background check for the new lottery officer requirement, so everything should be in place for this year's renewal.
*Up $22,084 in sales from last year. Sundays and Holidays brought in $18,215.
*Raised cigarette prices to $15. Also raised pizza prices, some off-sale, and other miscellaneous items.
*Pizza taxes are fixed.
*Our pull-tab rental from Ridge Runners snowmobile club is up $7,300 from last year. Very good gambling year.
*Horse/Pig races are not doing well on Thursdays, but did really well when they did them during the last meat-raffle – will be trying this Friday to see how it goes.
*Chad's Meat Wagon will be coming to every meat-raffle until further notice – sells really well.
*Bingo is not going well through the school at Northome. People with Blackduck Youth Bowling might be in line to call. About 6 people are scheduled to attend training, will have more updates later. Joanie with the Northome School and Angel will figure out scheduling.
*Been brainstorming about doing a Poker Run, would be through 5 bars in the area, but checking into legalities before making any official plans for this.
*Also talked about doing different special occasion/themed Bingo nights like Turkey Bingo, Purse Bingo, Gun Bingo, etc.
*Would like to schedule a work session to discuss a new manager, as Angel will be retiring this year. The clerk will send out an email with suggested dates, and go from there.
*Motion made by Councilor Lindley to discontinue employee discounts on cigarettes as of January 15th, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery. VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*Would like to revisit discounts in general at some point.

7. Pete Bender (Public Works)
*Replaced the plow truck battery, running good.
*Red Lake Watershed inquired about funding stormwater projects for the city with a possible 90-95% local match. Pete suggested to the council to improve the culvert that is north of the intersection of 4th Street and Lake Street. It was agreed that Pete can proceed with communication with them about this opportunity.
*Suggested updating the Bobcat at some point in the near future, as it hasn't been running the best this winter – been going through a lot of hydraulic fluid and does need work on it.
*Work on possibly sending out a letter of intent to the Blandin Foundation for a public works building grant. The clerk will be looking more into this, needs to be submitted by this Friday.

8. Administrative
*A letter of intent was submitted to the Blandin Foundation for a grant for building repairs on the Library.
*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to deny Resolution 2026-01 for the City Fee Schedule, waiving the 6% increase in water and sewer rates. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*The clerk presented a proposal for increasing the council members' and the mayor's wages. See attachment for options presented. Everyone agreed to have the clerk look further into the ordinance

process and the appropriate timeframe of getting these changed, and council seemed to favor Option #2 - $50/meeting and $60/meeting for the mayor.
*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the Koochiching County Road Maintenance Agreement, with the only change being a language clarification regarding how we receive payments (2 payments of $1,010 in one lump sum, annually). Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*Clerk will be talking with the insurance company to check if the city is covered for plowing the county roads.

9. Financials:
*Motion made by Councilor Lindley to approve the city's monthly financial reports. Seconded by Councilor VanBeusekom. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*Motion made by Councilor Lindley to approve the 2025 & 2026 claim #'s 11,749-11,771 and expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Skoe. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

These are the official minutes of the January 14th, 2025, Northome City Council Meeting.

Karen Olson
Mayor

Attest: Lisa Skoe
City Clerk/Treasurer

Proposal for Council Member Wage Increase

Suggested account distribution (Currently, wages all come out of the General Fund):

*General Fund: 40%

*Muni: 40%

*Laundromat: 6.6%

*Water: 6.7%

*Sewer: 6.7%

Based on 2025 wages – *total of all 5 council members (Mayor $30/meeting)*:

*Current: $1,190 all from general at $20/meeting, **NOT INCLUDING** special meetings.

Suggestions based on 2025 wages – *total of all 5 council members (Mayor $30/meeting)*:

***Option 1:** $20/meeting, **INCLUDING** special meetings (6 special meetings in 2025)

$1,470

General: $588

Muni: $588

Laundromat: $97.02

Water: $98.49

Sewer $98.49

***Option 2:** $50/meeting, **NOT INCLUDING** special meetings *(Mayor $60/meeting)*

$2,810 (2025)	All 12 meetings: $3,120
General: $1,124	$1,248
Muni: $1,124	$1,248
Laundromat: $185.46	$205.92
Water: $188.27	$209.04
Sewer: $188.27	$209.04

415.11 SECOND TO FOURTH CLASS CITIES; GOVERNING BODY SALARIES.

Subdivision 1. **Set by ordinance.** Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law, charter, or ordinance, the governing body of any statutory or home rule charter city of the second, third or fourth class may by ordinance fix their own salaries as members of such governing body, and the salary of the chief elected executive officer of such city, in such amount as they deem reasonable.

Subd. 2. **After next election.** No change in salary shall take effect until after the next succeeding municipal election.

Subd. 3. **Temporary reductions.** Notwithstanding subdivision 2 or a charter provision to the contrary, the governing body may enact an ordinance to take effect before the next succeeding municipal election that reduces the salaries of the members of the governing body. The ordinance shall be in effect for 12 months, unless another period of time is specified in the ordinance, after which the salary of the members reverts to the salary in effect immediately before the ordinance was enacted.

History: *Ex1967 c 42 s 1,2; 1976 c 44 s 34; 2009 c 152 s 17*