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

Staff Present: Tess Skiles (Clerk), Aarin Reinarz (Bar Manager)
Others Present: None
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 Montgomery to accept the July 8th, 2026 Agenda with the addition of "campground stumps" to the administrative portion. Seconded by Councilor VanBeusekom. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion Carried.

3. Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the June 10th, 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

4. Wage Discussion
   *Mayor Olson proposed a 5% wage increase for full-time employees to start for 2027. It was decided to wait to make any decisions until the next quarterly budget is presented at the October council meeting. Clerk will be getting numbers together on what wages will look like with that increase.

5. Aarin Reinarz (Bar Manager)
   *Aarin presented reports showing the month-to-date and year-to-date sales – sales are up about $3K from last June, and about $16K from last year to date. Off-sale is down a bit, but Aarin plans to conduct a pricing review of all inventory to ensure margins are correct.
   *Also plans to evaluate current inventory and get more of the popular products in and move the slow-selling products out.
   *Plans to look at distributors' catalogs to make sure we are getting the best prices on products.
   *Will be gradually raising prices on some products, specifically Busch Light 24-packs, which are bringing in only 0.99 cents profit.
   *Proposed changing Sunday hours to 12pm-7pm. Believes it will boost sales due to the bar being busier in the evenings, and the hour 11am-12pm is generally very slow on sales.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to change Sunday Muni hours from 11am-6pm to 12pm-6pm off-sale and 12pm-7pm on-sale effective July 19th, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

*Discussed different advertising options
*Aarin proposed the building gets re-keyed. Many past employees still have keys to the building. Aarin will be requesting quotes from multiple places.
*Cooler was frozen over this week, and Aarin called Baker Heating & AC to come check it out. They refilled freon and coolant today. Aarin will be stopping in the morning to make sure the cooler is thawed and working again.
*Discussed better drink chip procedure, like assigning specific dollar amounts to the chips and using as a "coupon" to keep track of inventory more efficiently.
*Discussed customer complaints made on behalf of a part-time bartender, Lynn Hunt. Decided to schedule a special meeting with a closed portion for an employee evaluation on July 21st at 6 pm. Clerk will be issuing her a formal letter and confirming her attendance.

6. Administrative:
*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the final pay application from Gladden Construction for the Obstruction Removal project. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*Motion made by Councilor Montgomery to add Aarin Reinarz as bank signer on the Municipal Liquor Store bank account and the Lottery bank account, and remove Angel Stradtmann as bank signer from the same bank accounts. Seconded by Councilor VanBeusekom. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*Clerk proposed changing City Hall office hours on Mondays from 8am-4pm to 8am-12pm due to childcare conflicts.
*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to change City Hall office hours on Mondays to 8am-12pm, with Tuesday-Thursdays remaining at 8am-4pm. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Abstain: Lindley. Motion carried.
*Discussed the westernmost portion of Main St. Pete requested that the clerk relay the proposal to post no parking signs on both sides of the road to help with efficient maintenance of the road. Council agreed to pursue writing up an ordinance with the assistance of the city attorney.
*Pete requested that the clerk relay an update on the vaporizer for the propane tank that was discussed at the last meeting. It was discovered that it's not only well past its 7-10 year life span, but it is also non-compliant and will need replacement ASAP. Northern Star co-op proposed a lease agreement for the city to pay an annual fee for the new vaporizer, which will be installed with a new propane tank. Pete will have numbers and pricing next meeting.
*Discussed grinding down stumps at campground. Councilor Montgomery offered to grind them at no cost to the city and suggested having DAC help with clean up if possible. Otherwise it will be the city's responsibility to clean up.
*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to have Merritt Montgomery grind the stumps at the campground after Pete helps with located any electrical wiring that may conflict with the process. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*Councilor VanBeusekom offered to help with updating the signage at the campground to help keep everything in one place and making the payment/reservation process simpler.

7. Financials:
*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the city's monthly financial reports. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve claim #'s 12,035-12,092 and Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk/Treasurer