MINUTES
Northome City Council
Meeting Minutes
September 9th, 2026
6:00 pm
Northome City Hall

Staff Present: Tess Skiles (Clerk), Aarin Reinarz (Bar Manager), Pete Bender (Public Works)
Others Present: Jerry Bolin (Karvakko), Joe Bender (Northern Star Cooperative), Dalton Lindley (Northern Star Cooperative)
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 Lindley to accept the September 9th, 2026 Agenda with the addition of the Thurlby Easement and Fiscal Sponsor discussion for the Kootasca Senior Citizen Group to be added under Administrative. 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 minutes from the August 12th Regular Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

4. Karvakko
   *Presented the Clear Zone Acquisition Plan proposal from Karvakko. Need the CZAP to get future funding from the state. CZAP is a plan to purchase clear zone areas from adjoining landowners in the future; the city will be able to split parcels rather than buying entire parcels.
   *Motion made by Councilor Montgomery to accept the CZAP Report proposal from Karvakko. Seconded by Councilor VanBeusekom. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Tie Down Expansion project should be starting this fall; clerk will be receiving grant amendment document to sign soon.
   *Disk & Level - waiting for NAR proposal
   *Waiting for plumbing permit from the state to start campground bathhouse.

5. Northern Star Cooperative (Joe Bender and Dalton Lindley)
   *3 proposals were presented for the vaporizer: option 1 is paying full price up front, option 2 is paying $2,451.69 per year with a $2,500 down payment and 3% interest, and option 3 is a $2,500 down payment and adding $0.39 to the normal price of propane until reaching $14,710.14 plus 3% interest.

*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to proceed with option 2. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

6. Pete Bender (Public Works)
   *Need a new city pickup truck with a plow. Suggested looking for a ¾ ton, around the year 2020, and checking with Kelliher Auto. Jerry Bolin is forwarding the clerk a community facilities loan and grant program that the USDA offers to look into.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to have Pete proceed with finding a new city pickup truck with a plow with a $40,000 cap goal. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to make a more concrete plan for the city garage. Seconded by Councilor Skoe. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom.
   *Possible box blade for the blue tractor is available. Pete will check into price.
   *Mayor Olson made the suggestion to start thinking about what to do with the 230 acres that the city owns south of town.

7. Aarin Reinarz
   *Got lids for the ice bins
   *Removed staples from the front of the building from old banners and talked with Nei about getting new ones.
   *Pepsi installed a new gun for more mixers – redbull, lemonade, cranberry juice, and orange juice
   *No more Paul Bunyan TV September 27th; looking at the best streaming options for sports and other popular events
   * Up almost $20,000 in sales; off-sale is down, and tobacco is down
   *Interviewed a new employee, Gina, losing 2 employees for the Fall/Winter season. Motion made by Councilor Montgomery to hire Gina Krstinovski. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Previously discussed employee has been found not ringing in many food items for personal consumption; has been allowed to explain in a meeting with the manager and the Mayor who were told that the employee had been forgetting to pay for items. Did not receive a write-up that was agreed upon at the July 21st special council meeting due to no official motion being made. Aarin recommended termination based on this infraction, amongst other verbal complaints received from customers and employees.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to terminate Lynn Hunt effective her next shift, which is tomorrow, September 10th. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

8. Administrative
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve Resolution 2026-08 for No Parking Signage on the west end of Main Street and Jones Street. Seconded by Councilor Skoe. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, VanBeusekom. Voting No: Montgomery. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve Resolution 2026-09 for the 2026 Preliminary Tax Levy, collectible in 2027. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor Montgomery to approve the 2026-2027 Northome First Responders Contract for $2,500. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the update to the Personnel Policy with the addition of the grounds for immediate termination under the Disciplinary Action section. Seconded

by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

*Motion made by Councilor Montgomery to approve the MN Dept. of Health grant #2 for the lift station project. Seconded by Councilor Skoe. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

*Presented two audit proposals, one from Hoffman, Phillip, & Martell, and one from Lakes Area CPAS. Motion made by Councilor Skoe to approve the proposal from Hoffman, Phillip, & Martell for $18,000 per year for a three-year contract. Seconded by Councilor Lindley. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

*Scheduled a special meeting for CEDA presentation on October 13th at 9 am

*Rescheduled the regular November council meeting for November 4th at 6 pm due to regular meeting landing on a federal holiday.

*Linda Gibeau with the Blandin Foundation contacted the clerk to request that it be presented to council the question of whether the city could become a fiscal sponsor for the Kootasca Senior Center to receive a potential grant for $25,000. The council decided it is not in the best interest of the city at this time and would also need advisement from auditors. The council hopes the Senior Center can find another fiscal sponsor.

*Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to proceed with only the Easement from HWY 71 to Thurlby's property, and no sale of the previously discussed land. Seconded by Councilor Montgomery. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.

9. Financials:
   *Motion made by Councilor VanBeusekom to approve the city's monthly financial reports. Seconded by Councilor Skoe. Voting Yes: Olson, Skoe, Lindley, Montgomery, VanBeusekom. Voting No: None. Motion carried.
   *Motion made by Councilor Lindley to approve claim #'s 12,156-12,191 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 8:11 p.m.

These are the official minutes of the September 9th, 2026 Northome City Council Meeting.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk/Treasurer