

## HERON LAKE CITY COUNCIL

July 9, 2025

7:00 PM

### REGULAR MEETING

Attended by: Marlys Olson, Glenn Kuhnau, Andrew Rasche, Joe Liepold, Kevin Leopold, Mark Haberman, Mitch Ferguson, John Hay, Mark Haberman, Lance Baumann, John Haberman;

Absent: Zach Schumacher

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Rasche.

### APPROVE AGENDA

- **Any additions:** Council Member Kuhnau requested to add Southwest Broadband on the agenda for an update. **Motion made by Council Member Haberman to approve the agenda with the Southwest Broadband addition. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye – Rasche, Kuhnau, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – no one. Motion passed.**
- **Approve meeting minutes from June 4, 2025**
- **Motion made by Council Member Baumann to approve the meeting minutes of 6/4/2025. Seconded by Council Member Kuhnau. Vote on the motion: Aye – Rasche, Kuhnau, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – no one. Motion passed.**

### OLD BUSINESS

- **gWorks Update** – issues have been continuing. Questioned neighboring towns on what utility program they were using. The majority use Banyon. Will set up time to get information on Banyon.
- **Website Update** – Have a meeting set up to show us information on ADL compliance and how to put items in the website to keep the compliance.
- **BioEnergy – Industrial Well** – no updates
- **Senior Room Parking Lot Door – Cement Sinking** – Have not gotten any bids
- **Beacon Update** – Beacon is waiting for gWorks to send a route sheet to see if all is correct.
- **Update on the Police Chief** – No applications received. Continue advertising and increase the salary to \$70,000 to \$90,000.
- **Luke Ewald DVHHS & Brandi Ostgaard MNRAAA**
  - **Age Friendly Community Projects**  
Have a meeting set up with Brandi on 7/16 with interested community members.

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Bolten & Menk – Water Tower** – Getting information together for replacing our water tower. Legislation has passed to give PFA some money. Trying to get 80% funding. Submitted a request for funding, not back yet – probably not back until September with more information. Water tower is to get inspected this year.
- **Nena's Loan Application – Revolving Loan Fund**  
An application from Nena's was presented to the RFL Committee and the committee recommends to the Council to approve this application. The \$30,000 will be for a food truck. They are looking at doing catering and more bakery items as well as doing the food truck on days off of the restaurant. They are willing to add a 2016 Grand Caravan worth \$10,000 as collateral. Discussion on depreciation of the Caravan. **Motion made by Council Member Kuhnau to allocate \$30,000 from the City of Heron Lake revolving loan fund to Nena's for the purchase of a food truck. The loan will have an interest rate of 2% and a 7-year amortization period. The collateral for the loan will include the food trailer,**

and personal guarantees will be provided by Yolanda Barahona and Carlos Barahona. The City of Heron Lake will hold a third position lien, following two other entities in the first and second positions, with Nena's building also serving as collateral. Council Member Haberman seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Aye – Rasche, Kuhnau, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – no one. Motion passed.

- **Roof Quote for the HL Library**

Have bids but they are not alike so cannot make a decision. Public Works is to get bids from the three – Birons, Barga & Paton that are the same - pitch roof, flat roof, & whole patch. He is also to have Brewster Lumber come over and do computer image of the roof for measurements, etc.

- **Resolution 2025-10 Zoning Variance**

Resolution #2025-10 Variance has been denied by the Zoning Board – siting that they want to keep it available for someone to build a house on. Discussion on the size of the building and if there will be a 30% rear yard and 10 feet from rear lot line. Discussion on selling the lot or continue to mow and continue to pay the taxes. Discussion on like buildings along this street. Discussion on changing zone from residential to industrial. **Motion made by Council Member Baumann to accept the zoning variance. There was no second made. Motion failed.** More discussion continued. It will be a shed with 16' sidewalls, 50' wide and 70' long. Doors will be toward 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. **Motion made by Council Member Baumann to accept the zoning variance. Seconded by Council Member Haberman. Vote on the motion: Aye – Baumann, Haberman. Nay – Kuhnau. Mayor Rasche abstained. Motion passed.**

- **Zoning Permit – Scott Frericks – 312 11<sup>th</sup> Street**

- Discussion on having siding match the house – like residential material. **Motion made by Council Member Haberman to accept the Zoning Permit Request for 311 11<sup>th</sup> St contingent on the siding match with residential material. Seconded by Council Member Kuhnau. Vote on the motion: Aye – Rasche, Kuhnau, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – no one. Motion passed.**

- **Methodist Church/School**

Discovered that we do not have a meter in the fellowship hall where most of the water is used. When the fellowship hall was attached to the church, so was the water and sewer. So, discussion on how to bill. Will start billing them for two sewer base rates and one water base rate and per water usage.

#### **LIQUOR STORE – MONTHLY UPDATE – BRIDGIT PRESTON, MANAGER**

- **Security Systems**

Liquor Store manager not in attendance. She did report that the security system is going good – having no issues.

#### **AMBULANCE – MONTHLY REPORT – JOE LIEPOLD, DIRECTOR**

Had the ambulance in the Heron Lake and Okabena parades. Arial Svoboda has passed the NREMT testing. 13 calls last month mostly medical, some trauma. Rear brakes have been replaced.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT – CHAD DIEMER, FIRE CHIEF**

- Requesting to add Mitchell Ferguson to the account at Runnings due to availability. Jason Leopold turned in his resignation to retire on 7/6/2025. Started in April 1999. **Motion made by Council Member Haberman to accept the resignation/retirement of Jason Leopold. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye – Rasche, Kuhnau, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – no one. Motion passed.** Had live burn training with

Okabena in Okabena in June. Had issues with Engine 1 (2002 truck) keeping RPM's. Overhaul on the pump \$8100, Shaft -\$1200, Primer - \$3600. Discussion on moving the Fire Relief fund to State Funding. Will have a Fire Relief Meeting on July 8. **Motion made by Council Member Haberman to move Fire Relief Association to State Funding. Seconded by Council Member Kuhnau. Vote on the motion: Aye – Rasche, Kuhnau, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – no one. Motion passed.**

#### **PEOPLESERVICE – MONTHLY REPORT - JOE LIEPOLD, OPERATOR**

Flushed all the hydrants the month of June. Let run for 7-10 minutes. 9<sup>th</sup> St NW & 1st Ave hydrant would not shut off. MRW coming in with more tools to repair hydrant on 7/22. Fire hall hydrant discussion. Question if the city would like to repair the insides, replace the hydrant at \$4500 + \$2000 labor or run as is with only letting the fire department use. Council requested for more bids with isolation valve.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS – MONTHLY REPORT – JOHN HABERMAN, PUBLIC WORKS**

Schwalbach's is coming to check the boiler at the library. When we seal coat this year, the safe school zone will be covered and Jackson County will not remark it this fall – will wait till spring. Mower needs to go to Worthington for repairs. Ash Borer is in the city park. Will have some trees taken down this fall. Apartment 526 has the original air conditioner – had issue with over the holiday. Last year we had issues also. Question if the City should look at replacing the next time it has issues. Replace next time it has issues.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT**

- **Jackson County Report**

- **Sheriff Shawn Haken**

Wants ordinances sent for them to review. Discussion on public nuisance & junk vehicles and how often they can be done.

#### **CLAIMS**

- **Review Claims**

- **Motion made by Council Member Baumann to pay the claims presented. Seconded by Council Member Haberman. Vote on the motion: Aye – Rasche, Kuhnau, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – no one. Motion passed.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Next Council Meeting – August 6, 2025 @ 7:00 pm**
  - Council Member Haberman will not be here for that meeting.
- Auditor will be here July 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.