

HERON LAKE CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

Attended by: Glenn Kuhnau, Marlys Olson, Andrew Rasche, Bridgit Preston, Mark Haberman, Lance Baumann, Shelley Pohlman, John Haberman, Zach Schumacher, Chad Diemer, Tereasa Lesch, Holly Boldt, Wayne Rasche, Lee Sinclair

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Rasche

APPROVE AGENDA

- **Any additions**

Add an update for Southwest Broadband

- **Approve meeting minutes from August 13, 2025**

Make correction on Motion for Resolution 2025-16. Add Council Member Kuhnau as the second for the vote. **Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2025 meeting with the above change. Seconded by Council Member Baumann.**

Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **Approve meeting minutes from Special Meeting on August 18, 2025**

Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2025. Special Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Beacon Update – Lee Sinclair**

Lee Sinclair from Beacon was here to discuss the reader needed for utility readings. He and another gentleman went around town to check our signal strength. AT&T was the strongest signal throughout except by the Community Center. Through discussion, we found out that there will be a new Verizon Tower to be put up East of town. Suggestion by Sinclair was to replace the meters that we have currently with ones that will be cellular as the old one breaks down.

- **gWorks Update** – no real update – we have until December 31, 2025. Still having issues
- **Banyon Update** – Having John from Computer Lodge to install the Banyon program to our computers
- **BioEnergy – Industrial Well** – Nothing to report. May remove from agenda.
- **Senior Room Parking Lot Door – Cement Sinking** – reviewed a quote from Beltline Concrete for \$10,420. That amount not only covered the repair of the sinking cement slab, but also the alley approach with part of sidewalk and storm structure which is caving in.
- **Update on the Police Chief**

No applications received – did put the ad on P.O.S.T. until the end of December 2025.

- **Luke Ewald DVHHS & Brandi Ostgaard MNRAAA**

- **Age Friendly Community Projects**
- **Survey done 8/31/2025**
- **Next meeting 9/10/2025 @ 2:00 pm**

255 surveys went out. Currently, collecting the surveys. Brandi is collecting all the information from those returned surveys.

- **Library Roof -**

Received a quote from Bargaen for repair of the library roof. The quote was for two different roofs – flat roof or a pitched roof. Discussion continued. Requesting more quotes to compare with.

- **Public Works Applicants**

Had another interview last evening was requesting \$28/hr with a need of 40 hours. Discussion on previous interviews. **Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to hire Josh Eigenberg at \$19 dollars an hour for average 20 hours a week. Seconded by Council Member Haberman. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.** Clerk is to send out letters for the applicants.

- **Increase of Postage and Utility Billing**

- **Encourage Email Billing?**

Discussion on the cost of stamps. Council decided table.

- **Apartment 522 – Refrigerator**

New refrigerator has been put in Apartment 522.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Zoning Permit – Tereasa Lesch – 712 2nd Ave**

Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to approve the zoning permit for 712 2nd Avenue. Seconded by Council Member Kuhnau. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **Resolution 2025-18 Ambulance Donation**

Motion made by Council Member Kuhnau to accept the \$200 from the Loren Marschel family for the Heron Lake Ambulance. Seconded by Council Member Baumann. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **2025 LGA Payment – Shelley**

Deputy Clerk discussed the way that the LGA has been disbursed in the past. After talking with our accountant, she said the best practice is to come before the council and get a motion from the council as to how it is to be allocated. Deputy Clerk is requesting to split up the LGA in regards to the budget. **Motion made by Mayor Rasche and seconded by Council Member Kuhnau to allocate July's payment as based on the budget. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.**

- **Preliminary Levy**

Per protocol, we are to present a Preliminary Levy to the County of Jackson County by September 30, 2025. With the lowered LGA funding that we will be receiving for 2026, we set out proposed Preliminary Levy at a 10% increase. Reminder with the 10%, we can always go down but cannot increase the proposed levy. **Motion made by Council Member Kuhnau to accepted the Proposed Preliminary Levy. Seconded by Council Member Haberman. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.**

- **Farm Land – Cash Rent**

Motion made by Council Member Baumann to continue with the cash rent for our land at \$226/acre for Nick Carlson. Seconded by Council Member Kuhnau. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed. Clerk will get the signatures.

- **Closed Point of Dispensing Planning**

Information presented about this new program put on by the Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services for emergency situations in the event of terrorism like bioterrorism. With this planning the City of Heron Lake would be a Point of Dispensing for medicine or medical supplies for a select group of people. This was tabled after some discussion and needing more information.

- **Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances**

Discussion on updating our ordinances with Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances. Was brought before the council before. Decided to table with a need of more information.

- **Civil Defense**

Since the retirement of Chief Fauglid, the City of Heron Lake has been without Civil Defense personnel. Discussion on who. Will be brought up at the Fire Dept meeting in September. Tabled.

- **Revolving Loan Fund New Member**

Mayor Rasche made a motion to accept Dan Jensen as a new member of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Seconded by Council Member Schumacher. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.

- **Minnesota Paid Leave - @88%?**

Discussion on the Minnesota Paid Leave Act that is to take effect on January 1, 2026. Tabled until more information is provided.

- **Goodshred**

Presented a quote from GoodShred. They are a company that will come in and take items to shred. Will have a box in the City Office and will be removed as scheduled with the Security Bank. **Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to approve the contract with GoodShred. Seconded by Council Member Kuhnau. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.** Discussion on the boxes at the old municipal building from the hospital. A call went out to the Minnesota Historical Society to see if they can help us.

LIQUOR STORE – MONTHLY UPDATE – BRIDGIT PRESTON, MANAGER

- **Incident**

Manager told about the incident that occurred on August 31st.

- **Different Package for Small Parties –**

Requesting another contract for the big Hall when it is rented for small parties. We have changed the contract with the changes requested about alcohol, but we need to figure out some way to include the bar employees with the contract. Figure out how to come ahead with the small parties with the bar included.

- **Letter for Patron Banned**

Talk with Sheriff Haken about drafting a letter.

AMBULANCE – MONTHLY REPORT – JOE LIEPOLD, DIRECTOR

- **Closed Point of Dispensing Planning**

Director not available.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT – CHAD DIEMER, FIRE CHIEF

Fire Prevention starts October 5. Next week will meet with MNPS for a table top training for a large scale emergency. Demo with Lakefield Department on the 15th. BioEnergy got a visit from MPCA.

PUBLIC WORKS – MONTHLY REPORT – JOHN HABERMAN, PUBLIC WORKS

Ted is working. Gifted with some unfinished business. 2024 Lead & Copper has not been completed. Will be flushing hydrants soon.

- **City Water Line to 89794 380th Ave**

Resident wanting to be hooked up to city water. Approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000.

- **Water Works –**

Fulda received a grant for someone to go around and get all the information for the copper/lead. Discussion on maybe increase base rate.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

- **Jackson County Report**

- **Sheriff Shawn Haken**

No report.

CLAIMS

- **Review Claims**

Motion made by Council Member Schumacher to pay the claims presented. Seconded by Council Member Haberman. Vote on the motion: Aye - Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann. Nay – none. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **MN DEED – RLF, Falcon Development, Council & Robyn from SWRD for Work Session.**
 - **September 17th @ 5:30 pm**
- **Next Council Meeting – October 1, 2025 @ 7:00 pm**
- **2026 LGA Amount for Heron Lake is \$252,989 down \$5,980.00.**

Submitted by: _____

Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: _____

Rasche, Kuhnau, Schumacher, Haberman, Baumann