

The Hartington City Council met for a regular meeting on February 9th, 2026 at City Hall beginning at 5:00 P.M. Notice of time and place of the regular meeting was given in advance notice by posting.

Present were Mayor Becker, Councilman Bartling, Kathol, and Sudbeck; City Clerk-Treasurer Schulte, and Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt. Councilman Christensen was absent.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council then moved to approve the minutes of the January 26th meeting and the January Treasures Report. A motion to approve the minutes of the January 26th meeting and the January Treasures Report was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Rod Fisher and several neighboring residents expressed concerns regarding a vacant property located at 609 North Broadway, noting that it has become an eyesore and a potential safety hazard. Mayor Becker reported that the property is currently in foreclosure proceedings and will be offered for sale. The foreclosure process requires four weeks of publication in the local newspaper prior to the Sheriff's auction. The City agreed that the property has become an eyesore, and Council members indicated that if the property is not properly maintained following the Sheriff's sale, the City will proceed with nuisance and abatement actions. This process would include Board of Health inspections and a 60-day notice period for required corrective action by the new property owner.

Mayor Becker introduced a building permit application for Trent Jansen to construct a garage on the south side of his property and to extend the front of his residence by six feet. Councilman Kathol made a motion to approve the building permit, which was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Next Mayor Becker introduced an amended liquor license for Skylon Ballroom, LLC, specifically for a beer garden/outdoor area. Councilman Bartling made a motion to approve the amended liquor license, which was seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker introduced the appointment of Frank Herbolsheimer to the Park Board. A motion to appoint Frank Herbolsheimer to the Park Board was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Sudbeck introduced Resolution 20260209 – Master Fee Schedule. A motion to approve Resolution 20260209 was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker introduced the Cash Rent Farm Lease Agreement the City has with Darin Pick for the land by the Transfer Station. He stated the rate is the same as last year and has been the rate for the past couple years. A motion to approve the Cash Rent Farm Lease Agreement with Darin Pick was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the maturity of CD's. The Council decided to transfer a total of \$70,000 from the Combined Savings Account, allocating \$50,000 to the Sewer CD and \$20,000 to the Alltell CD. Clerk Schulte reported that the Ambulance, Library, and Economic Development departments elected to roll over their existing CDs without additional funds. Councilman Bartling made a motion to transfer \$70,000 from the Combined Savings Account and allocate \$50,000 to the Sewer CD and \$20,000 to the Alltell CD. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Discussion of fluoride water treatment revealed that the city cannot opt out of fluoridation requirements due to missing the one-year deadline after reaching 1,000 population. State law requires continued fluoridation until regulations change.

Mayor Becker introduced and signed the Problem Gambling Awareness Month Proclamation determining the month of March, 2026 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City of Hartington.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: nothing

Pool – Councilman Bartling: Reported the pool is in the process of accepting application at the pool and will be hiring lifeguards soon.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Reported he will be working on track repairs at the complex to possibly accommodate Class C and Class D district meets scheduled for May. Everything at the auditorium appear to be running smoothly, and pickleball activities have increased.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: absent

General – Mayor Becker: nothing

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: Reported that the city's name will be removed from an FAA compliance complaint, matter following receipt of a dismissal notice.

Clerk Schulte: nothing

No public comments were received.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General:

FP Finance Program, 257.77, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 148.92, Hartelco, 202.66, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, Reynolds & Brandt, 1,130.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company, 455.29

Streets:

Bank of Hartington, 2620.22, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska, 2,097.50, Carhart Lumber Company, 3.89, Colonial Life, 27.22, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil, 617.70, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 618.53, Grossenburg Implement, 1,750.00, Hartelco, 105.50, Hartington Ace Hardware, 22.96, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc., 125.24, Midwest Service & Sales, Inc, 523.15, National Sign Company, LLC, 1,635.00, U.S. Cellular, 172.45, Wiechelman's Repair Shop, 190.32

Water:

Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 374.92, Hartington Shopper, 118.26, NEB Public Health Environmental Laboratory, 592.00, One Call Concepts, Inc., 4.08, Peitz Service, 114.84

Sewer:

Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 337.10, Hartelco, 66.60, Hartington Shopper, 118.27, Mayer Sign, Inc., 530.00, One Call Concepts, Inc., 4.08

Sanitation:

Bank of Hartington, 83.33, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska, 1,048.75, Colonial Life, 129.66, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil, 550.53, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 303.40, Hartington Shopper, 118.27, U.S. Cellular, 82.36

Fire:

Garvin's CB Shop, 620.00, Hartelco, 47.19, Hartington Shopper, 303.95, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping, 262.50

Police:

Cedar County Sheriff, 14,220.04

Ambulance:

Bound Tree Medical, LLC, 1,112.81, Burnell's Foodtown, 144.60, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil, 207.97, Hartelco, 47.19, U.S. Cellular, 140.19, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping, 262.50

Cemetery:

Cedar Knox Rural Water, 59.63

Pool:

Hartington Shopper, 188.00

Parks:

Hartington Tree, 10,000.00

Library:

Bank of Hartington, 333.34, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska, 4299.88, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 471.00, Hartelco, 163.00, Hartington Ace Hardware, 6.99, Hometown Leasing, 48.90

City Hall:

Burnell's Foodtown, 12.00, Colonial Life, 140.18, D Fischer, 150.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 109.70, Hometown Leasing, 62.05, U.S. Cellular, 75.46

Auditorium:

Appeara, 76.44

Economic Development:

Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 274.06, Hartelco, 51.29, Hometown Leasing, 31.02

Transfer Station:

Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, 31.07, Gill Hauling, Inc., 964.09, Hartelco, 47.58, Hartington Shopper, 244.90

Skylon Event Center:

Overhead Door Company, 577.00, U.S. Cellular, 61.95

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is February 23rd, 2026.

Submitted By

Casey Schulte
City Clerk-Treasurer