

The Hartington City Council met in regular session on April 13, 2026, at City Hall, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Notice of the time and place of the meeting was given in advance by posting.

Present were Mayor Becker; Councilmembers 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., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council then considered approval of the minutes of the March 23, 2026, meeting and March Treasurer Report. A motion to approve the minutes and Treasurer report was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call was taken: Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Becker presented the Complex Maintenance Agreement with X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping for the Complex. Clerk Schulte stated this was the same amount of \$10,200 from June 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026 as last year. A motion to approve the Complex Maintenance Agreement with X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call was taken: Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Becker presented the City Cemetery mowing agreement with Miller Heine and Parker Leise in the amount of \$2,000.00 per month, noting a slight increase from the previous year. The agreement term is from May 1, 2026 to October 1, 2026. A motion to approve the City Cemetery mowing agreement with Miller Heine and Parker Leise was made by Councilman Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The Council addressed the resignation of Eric and Alicia Kloster from the Ambulance Squad due to career changes. A motion to accept the resignation of Eric and Alicia Kloster was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Kathol – yes; Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The Council expressed its appreciation and gratitude for their service to the volunteer ambulance department.

Mayor Becker introduced the Annual TIF Report. Clerk Schulte stated this is prepared each year by Brandon Baller. The report shows the current TIF project is Cobblestone. There is no redevelopment projects paid in full or approved by the governing body in the previous calendar year and 16% of the city has been designated as blighted.

Mayor and Council reviewed the Hartington Public Library 2025 Year in Review provided by Library Director Tami Anderson. The library had 50,358 in total circulation, 210 programs, 1,703 patrons, added 981 new materials and many other great contributions to the library and the City of Hartington.

The March 2026 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was reviewed. A total of 412.75 hours were patrolled, including 2.50 hours of school traffic enforcement. Calls for service included: 1 assault, 1 disturbance, 1 suspicious activity, 1 trespass, and 1 animal complaint. Traffic stops resulted in 1 verbal warning, 5 written warnings, and 1 citation. No arrests were made.

Mayor Becker introduced and signed the Arbor Day Proclamation which declared April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Hartington.

Department Reports were as follows:

Park – Councilman Kathol: Reported that cement work and a street pour have been completed to eliminate the sharp turn and realign the road, improving access for delivery trucks to the clubhouse; the road is now open. He stated that he has been in contact with Kale Haberer regarding plans to work with an engineer on a large bat stop project. He also noted the need for proper electrical installation at the old bathroom facility for the batting cage. Additionally, repairs to the chain link fence around the baseball field are planned. Park employees have been seeding and cleaning out flower beds. The shelter house still requires re-siding, new doors, and possible painting.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: Painting is pending suitable weather conditions.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Reported on matters related to the complex, including plans for Dan Kathol to replace twelve trees—nine on the west side of the practice field and three on the opposite side— with funding assistance from an NRD grant. He also acknowledged the Hartington-Newcastle Public School shop class for constructing a new ticket booth and extended thanks to Laverle Heimes for relocating the structure with his telehandler at no cost. Regarding the track replacement project, he is working on getting a couple bids for the replacement of the track. Sudbeck outlined one bid that proposed rubber surface replacement estimated at \$140,000.00, along with approximately \$17,000.00 for milling and disposal, for a total project cost of approximately \$155,000.00. He concluded by reporting that all is well at the Auditorium.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: Absent

General – Mayor Becker: Nothing

Legal Counsel – Nikki Brandt: Requested an update regarding the potential interlocal agreement with the schools for the track replacement project. The Council indicated that, at this time, neither school is interested in entering into an interlocal agreement for the project, which had previously been estimated at approximately \$700,000.00 for asphalt or \$1,000,000.00 for concrete.

Clerk – Schulte: Reported on several administrative matters, including renewed contracts with Black Hills Energy at \$0.768 per therm (down from \$0.811) and the Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance renewal, which reflects a 15% increase compared to the typical industry average of approximately 32%. She also reported an opportunity through the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department to receive two shade structures for cancer prevention at no cost to the City. Additionally, she noted the inclusion of alcohol prohibition clauses in rental agreements for City-owned properties, aligning with existing ordinances. Schulte further recommended implementing the use of liability waivers for non-standard or third-party use of City facilities to reduce potential negligence exposure and protect the City from liability arising from activities not directly operated or supervised by City personnel.

Public Comments: Rob Dump, Cedar County News, inquired whether the current track discussion differed from previously considered plans. Councilman Sudbeck stated the current proposal is the most cost-effective option, with an estimated lifespan of five to ten years, compared to prior options of approximately \$700,000.00 for asphalt and \$1,000,000.00 for concrete. Dump also inquired about the State Audit report related to the Skylon project. Mayor Becker and Council members highlighted the project's value, noting 19 weddings booked over the next 18 months and a positive economic impact on local businesses. The facility is operating near break-even, with utility costs under \$1,000.00 per month

and rental revenue of approximately \$2,000.00 per month with two events. The Council clarified that the original bond was \$1.6 million, not \$1 million as referenced by critics, and noted additional necessary work not included in the original contract, including power and sewer connections, dirt work, and long-term parking lot development. Council members expressed frustration with anonymous criticism and stated that concerns should be directed to the City Council rather than to Roger Wortman, who assisted in financing the project.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: Total: \$1,214.04

FP Finance Program - \$115.98, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$228.14, Hartelco - \$193.33, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, Reynolds & Brandt - \$500.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company - \$176.59

Streets: Total: \$16,294.72

Bank of Hartington - \$266.66, Black Hills Energy - \$356.72, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska - \$2,097.50, Carhart Lumber Co. - \$20.83, Colonial Life - \$40.83, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil - \$1,143.23, Fischer Feed & Supply - \$142.20, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$825.38, Grossenburg Implement - \$1,903.52, Hartelco - \$105.39, Hartington Ace Hardware - \$37.97, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. - \$190.76, Leise Concrete - \$4,637.50, Menards, Inc. - \$382.69, Nebraska Public Power District - \$3,971.01, U.S. Cellular - \$172.45

Water: Total: \$4,218.68

Burnell's Foodtown - \$9.64, Cedar-Knox Public Power Dist. - \$1,615.44, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$748.52, Hartington Shopper - \$118.26, Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory - \$1,216.00, Nebraska Public Power District - \$374.53, One Call Concepts, Inc. - \$7.32, Peitz Service - \$128.97

Sewer: Total: \$6,769.73

Black Hills Energy - \$125.20, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$671.51, Hartelco - \$66.60, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. - \$552.12, Hartington Shopper - \$118.27, Midwest Laboratories, Inc. - \$1,389.35, Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment - \$150.00, Nebraska Public Power District - \$3,629.36, Olson's Pest Technicians - \$60.00, One Call Concepts, Inc. - \$7.32

Sanitation: Total: \$9,390.54

K Allington - \$61.75, Bank of Hartington - \$83.33, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska - \$1,048.75, Colonial Life - \$194.49, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil - \$752.64, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$415.40, Hartington Shopper - \$118.27, L.P. Gill, Inc. - \$6,563.55, U.S. Cellular - \$82.36, A Wortmann - \$70.00

Fire: Total: \$121,657.40

Black Hills Energy - \$154.80, Ed. M. Feld Equipment Co., Inc - \$120,695.50, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil - \$165.87, Hartelco - \$47.15, Hartington Shopper - \$269.00, Jerry's Service - \$88.39, Keith's Package Liquor - \$65.94, NP Mart 24 - \$28.54, Nebraska Public Power District - \$142.21

Ambulance: Total: \$1,427.92

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital - \$74.21, Ambill Associates, LLC - \$770.00, Black Hills Energy - \$154.80, Burnell's Foodtown - \$77.98, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil - \$58.22, Hartelco - \$47.15, Nebraska Public Power District - \$105.37, U.S. Cellular - \$140.19

Cemetery: Total: \$59.63

Cedar Knox Rural Water - \$59.63

Recreation: Total: \$73.68

Nebraska Public Power District - \$73.68

Pool: Total: \$3,285.52

Art Kathol Appliance, Inc. - \$3,059.05, Black Hills Energy - \$48.84, C Climer - \$125.00, Nebraska Public Power District - \$52.63

Parks: Total: \$522.05

Grossenburg Implement - \$112.11, Jerry's Service - \$29.96, Nebraska Public Power District - \$329.98, Wiechelman's Repair Shop - \$50.00

Complex: Total: \$426.47

Nebraska Public Power District - \$89.47, Plumbing & Electric - \$337.00

Library: Total: \$6,139.46

Bank of Hartington - \$333.34, Black Hills Energy - \$339.68, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska - \$4,299.88, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$734.44, Hartelco - \$162.89, Hometown Leasing - \$53.90, Nebraska Public Power District - \$215.33

City Hall: Total: \$2,099.59

Black Hills Energy - \$64.87, Colonial Life - \$210.27, D & J Variety - \$119.84, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$210.22, Hartington Ace Hardware - \$26.98, Hometown Leasing - \$62.05, Krier Technologies, LLC - \$1,083.75, Nebraska Public Power District - \$246.15, U.S. Cellular - \$75.46

Auditorium: Total: \$1,146.80

Appear - \$79.10, Black Hills Energy - \$873.45, Hartington Ace Hardware - \$17.99, Nebraska Public Power District - \$96.26, X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping - \$80.00

Economic Development: Total: \$1,350.81

Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$405.74, Hartelco - \$55.80, Hometown Leasing - \$31.02, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, Reynolds & Brandt - \$147.00, Krier Technologies, LLC - \$711.25

Transfer Station: Total: \$3,268.55

Cedar-Knox Public Power Dist. - \$260.03, Deere Credit, Inc. - \$730.02, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC - \$39.60, Gill Hauling, Inc. - \$1,088.17, Hartelco - \$47.50, Jerry's Service - \$943.23, Olson's Pest Technicians - \$80.00, Pomp's Tire Service, Inc - \$80.00

Veterans Memorial: Total: \$146.68

Nebraska Public Power District - \$66.68, X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping - \$80.00

Skylon Event Center: Total: \$921.86

Black Hills Energy - \$421.30, Nebraska Public Power District - \$290.97, Plumbing & Electric - \$147.64, U.S. Cellular - \$61.95

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is April 27, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by, Casey Schulte, City Clerk-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Casey Schulte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.