

**Minutes**  
**Public Forum of the Hoyt Lakes City Council**  
**Hoyt Lakes City Hall Council Chambers**  
**Monday, March 24, 2025**  
**5:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Scott, Councilors Grams, Jarvela, Eckman, Mathison.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Public Utilities Director Berndt, City Attorney Lewicki, Deputy Clerk Snetsinger.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott at 5:00 p.m. He summarized the agenda topic was discussion of the East Range Water Board & city water, but first asked if there were other topics residents wanted to address.

Residents in attendance shared and discussed concerns on topics including:

- Blight – Concerns regarding Blight Enforcement in town. Some feel the town is looking worse due to blight and worry this could hinder new people and businesses moving to Hoyt Lakes. Due to the possibility of retaliation, residents are worried about putting their name on a blight concern form or email, questioning if their names are kept private. Residents would like the Blight Officer to attend Council meetings monthly to give status reports like other city staff. This would allow residents to know who the Blight Officer is, better understand the process, and see how complicated and long the process can be.

What is the fee schedule for blight & do residents who get multiple tickets pay a higher fine each time they are sited due to non-compliance? Would increasing this fee make the resident clean up the property? Is there a way to have the offenders clean up their own mess so it doesn't cost the city money?

Is there a way to find out why people are reoffending and if they complete a hardship form, they could get help with clean up? Councilor Grams brought up the volunteer committee that use to help people who called city hall; they were able to help a lot of residents in town.

Residents questioned if people are allowed to park in their front yards, if there was a limit on the number of vehicles, and if non-running vehicles are towed. Non-running vehicles and vehicles without current tabs initiate the Blight Officer to send letters and start the process.

It was asked if the city has an impound lot for the towed blight vehicles. There isn't, vehicles are kept at the property of the tow company. Residents have to pay applicable fees in full before they can get their property back.

- Dogs running loose - There is resident frustration as it always seems to be the same dogs running loose. They question the follow through of the Animal Control Officer. Is anything being done to the resident whose dog keeps running loose? Again, they fear retaliation if they try to talk to neighbors about the issue. Councilor Mathison let residents know they can call the police for dog issues if they are unable to get ahold of the Animal Control Officer. The police then inform the Animal Control the dog/cat is at the pound.

- Burning Garbage – Residents were asked to call the East Range Police Department when neighbors are burning garbage in their yard. Council recommended residents call 911 for issues instead of leaving messages on the police voicemail as this will not initiate a call and staff are not at the department 24x7.
- Trees cut down along Kennedy by the lighted ballfield – This is part of the project with St. Louis County. These trees were cut down to make way for a sidewalk on that side of the street and will be planted towards the end of the project.
- Boase School – Councilor Jarvela spoke to a representative at St. Louis County and was informed they are in the process of taking bids to have the school demolished. The County has some grant monies to help with the process and hope to start tearing the building down later this year. He would like to see housing developed on this block in the future.
- Residents were reminded to use the city website with ordinance and general questions, as there is a lot of information available online. They also were encouraged to call city hall with questions.

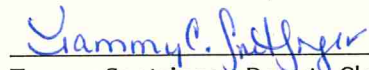
#### ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Jarvela supported by Mathison to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**  
Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Brennan Scott, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy Snetsinger, Deputy Clerk