

MINUTES OF THE TRAER CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of Traer, Iowa met in regular session on **Monday, July 7th 2025** at 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Hall.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with Council Members Mennenga, Kennedy, Erhardt, Holst and Rund present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Holden requested to make a change to the agenda, moving the option tax conversation ahead of the TMU board discussion. MOTION by Kennedy, seconded by Rund, that the agenda, and the change suggested by Holden is approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

VISTORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tina Jones quick spoke about wanting to have some people in uniform at the Winding Stairs Festival to promote the Civil War Reenactment coming up this fall. She was advised she'd need to talk with the WSF committee.

Ron Anderson who lives at the corner of 1st and Taylor Street was in to discuss the sidewalk going in on his property, he understood it was due to ADA compliance but just wanted to know what that would do for his parking pad on his property.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Rund, seconded by Erhardt, that the minutes of the June 2nd meeting are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

MOTION by Holst, seconded by Mennenga, that the June Checks (#32043-32118) and 3ACH Payments (32620251, 62620252, 62620253) totaling \$431,873.43 are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

BEER & LIQUOR LICENSES

MOTION by Erhardt, seconded by Kennedy, to approve a beer/liquor licenses for Lucky Wife Wine Slushies, Winding Stairs Festival and Hometown Foods. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

FY26 OPTION TAX

The council reviewed and discussed the requests submitted for FY26 Option Tax Funding. 14 organizations/groups submitted applications for funding with requests totaling \$166,700. The council has budgeted \$120,000 to be awarded, so some cuts needed to be made. The council also continues to focus on comments made by the State Auditor's Office and are continuing to be mindful of the way these funds are being allocated.

MOTION by Kennedy, seconded by Rund, to approve awarding \$5,000 to Redhawk Youth Sports, \$15,000 to the Winding Stairs Festival Committee, \$5,000 to the Traer Chamber of Commerce, \$1,000 to the Civil War Reenactment committee, \$9,000 to North Tama Athletics, \$7,500 to Pied Piper Daycare, \$25,000 to the Traer Fire Department, \$20,000 to the Traer Museum, \$25,000 to the Polish Up Taylor Park Committee, \$5,000 to the Traer Theatre and \$2,500 to the Traer Food Pantry. Total amount awarded is \$120,000. Motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

TMU BOARD APPOINTMENT/DISCUSSION

Recently the TMU Board had 3 members resign. One due to taking the open GM position within TMU and 2 others for the handling and/or treatment they felt they received during the GM hiring process. Those seats are Mayor appointed and council approved. An advertisement was placed to fill the 3 open seats and 5 applications had been received. Having received the applications the council wonders if it's time to start having more formal interviews for these positions. They aren't sure they are ready to appoint anyone at the moment without further conversation about why an applicant may be seeking a seat. Holst believes that the TMU Board needs more "diversity" and needs to be a better representation of our community. Kennedy agreed with Holst and also feels we need to get women back on the board but after receiving the resignation letters and them being published in the North Tama telegraph, Kennedy is worried women may be less apt to apply with the 2 board members still currently holding seats. Mayor Holden, very upset with the way things went down, would like to see the 2 current members removed from their seats. City Attorney Lechtenberg, who was also present at this meeting, reminded the council and Mayor that the Mayor does have the power to remove members from seats. Formal dismissal letters would need to be sent and a public hearing would need to be held, if that is a path in which the Mayor chose to take. Holden confirmed he wants to proceed with removal of the 2 members. He gave Lechtenberg the go ahead to move forward with drafting formal letters. The council will now be looking to appoint 5 members to the TMU Board. Council will look to advertise once again, while still keeping the 5 applications they've already received.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

The council discussed annual cost of living raises for the public works and ambulance staff. MOTION by Holst, seconded by Kennedy to approve the budgeted 3% cost of living raise to employees (Cooper, Kahler, Kennedy, Dvorak and McCoy). New hourly pay rates are as follows: Cooper \$33.76, Kahler \$26.39, Kennedy, \$29.17, Dvorak \$23.69, and McCoy \$26.78. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

PETE HOLDEN, MAYOR
HALEY BLAINE, CITY CLERK

TRAER CHECK REGISTER JULY 2025

ACES	Computer Service	2,459.00
ADAPCO	Chemical	2,497.20
Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.	Legal Services	13,038.42
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Library Supplies	684.02
AMBER SCOTT	Refund	50.00
AMERICAN BUSINESS PHONES	Support	568.93
AMY VAZQUEZ	Library Hours	500.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	Library Books	409.18
Bauch & Lechtenburg Law Office	Legal Services	292.50
Blue Cross & Blue Shield	Insurance	4,869.33
BOUND TREE MEDICAL L.L.C.	Ambulance Supplies	249.00
BRANDON GAGE	Refund	50.00
CADEN STUART	Refund	50.00
CARRICO AQUATIC RESOURCES, INC	Pool Product	2,064.83
CAS JOHNSON	Reimbursement	102.50
CHAMPION ENTERPRISES, LLC	Repairs/Service	152.20
CHICK STUDIOS	Reimbursement	1,546.25
CHRIS COOPER	Reimbursement	50.00
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	Publications	18.98
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	Publications	48.74
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	Publications	52.33
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	Publications	101.57
COOLEY SANITATION LLC	Garbage	11,071.88
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	Parts/Supplies	7,836.00
DENNIS GRUCHOW	Refund	50.00
DES MOINES REGISTER	Library Subscription	389.03
DONNA DEBOEF	Reimbursement	295.87
FAITH PALUMBO	Refund	50.00
HATCH GRADING & CONTRACTING	Street Projects	30,548.77
Ingram Library Services	Library Books	317.90
IOWA GEMT PAYMENT PROGRAM	Dues	924.40
JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PROT.	Dues	904.26
JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD	Library Supplies	488.99
KCL GROUP BENEFITS	Life Insurance	165.18
KIEFER AQUATICS	Parts/Supplies	840.00
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	Parts/Supplies	1,798.73
MARK KEEFER	Refund	100.00
MASTERCARD	Misc. Supplies	2,752.93
MERCYONE WATERLOO	Ambulance Drugs	123.54
MICROBAC LABORATORIES, INC	Testing	21.50
NAPA AUTO PARTS	Parts/Supplies	284.28
PERFECT CIRCLE, LLC	Brick Work	550.00
PHYSICIAN'S CLAIMS COMPANY	Ambulance Billing	1,959.11
PRECISION LAWN CARE	Park Mowing/Trimming	1,375.00
PRECISION LAWN CARE	Property Clean-Up	8,640.00
RACHEL KERN	Cleaning Hours	641.37

REDHAWK YOUTH SPORTS	Option Tax Funds	5,000.00
RHONDA HIMSCHOOT	Refund	100.00
SCHENDEL PEST CONTROL	Pest Control	58.21
SHAUN KENNEDY	Reimbursement	23.76
SINCLAIR	Fuel	923.21
STOREY KENWORTHY	Office Supply	101.38
Stryker Sales Corporation	Batteries	3,715.50
SUPERIOR WELDING	Oxygen	88.52
TAMA CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE	Contract Hours	14,390.00
TAMA CO. SOLID WASTE COMISSION	Clean-Up Fees	980.10
Traer Fire Dept.	Reimbursement	3,192.17
Traer Fire Dept.	Reimbursement	3,268.00
TRAER LIONS CLUB	Park Flags	500.00
TRAER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	Utilities	6,915.14
TRAER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	Office Services	9,000.00
Traer Theatre Inc.	Library Passes	30.00
TRISH KENNEDY	Reimbursement	97.50
U.S. CELLULAR	Phones	84.04
U.S. CELLULAR	Cameras	125.59
UMB BANK, N.A.**	Fees	250.00
UMB BANK, N.A.**	Fees	300.00
UMB BANK, N.A.**	Fees	600.00
UNITYPOINT HEALTH AT WORK	Office Visit	440.00
VEENSTRA & KIMM INC.	Engineering	13,502.80
WENDY BLOCKER	Refund	100.00
WEX BANK	Fuel	278.93
WHANNEL'S HARDWARE	Misc. Supplies	97.62
WINDING STAIRS FESTIVAL	Option Tax Funds	15,000.00
WINDSTREAM	Phones	80.43
WINDSTREAM	Phones	543.41
**Denotes ACH Payment		181770.03

JUNE 2025 REVENUES

GENERAL FUND	\$2,172,374
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$24,757
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$8,873
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$0
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	\$2,206,004

JUNE 2025 DISBURSEMENTS

GENERAL FUND	\$110,294
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$17,926
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$29,338
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$4,940
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	\$162,498

JUNE 2025 FUND BALANCES

GENERAL FUND	\$1,668,456
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$528,773
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$0
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$1,945,382
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	\$4,142,611