

CITY OF GAASTRA MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING: March 12, 2026

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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Richard Holm at 4:30 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mari Kay McNamara, Tony Holm, Chris Cain

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Linda Lindberg

ALSO PRESENT: Debbie Tusa, Manager/Clerk; Ethan Amerson, Public Works; Lisa Coates, Polich Tousignant Law Office Robb Anderson, GEI

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2026 was reviewed. Moved by T Holm to accept the Regular Meeting minutes with support by Cain. **Passed Unanimously**

ACKNOWLEDGE THE PUBLIC:

Zach Hautala, Executive Director Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance, talked about the 1st newsletter sent out, called the Iron Advantage. The chamber picked it back up after being stopped during the Covid period.

It has highlights of new and existing members. There are upcoming events, opportunities going on, links to the Chamber website. The monthly newsletter can be distributed by email to anyone that would like it.

Mr Alfrejd brought up Nowicki Road. Mayor Holm discussed the work he would like to have scheduled this spring. Until the snow melts & the water dries up, it is limited as to what the City can do.

CASH BALANCE REPORT:

Moved by Mayor Holm and supported by McNamara to accept the Cash Balance Report. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Moved by McNamara and supported by Cain to pay the accounts payables due & accept the bills paid. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

MANAGERS REPORT:

-February was busy collecting 2025 property taxes before being turned over delinquent to the County.

-There has been no response regarding the grant request make to the State for Financial Consulting.

-Scott Kenney was in the Hall for a day balancing the 1st half of the fiscal year. All went well.

-McCoy and Sourcewell paperwork were processed submitted and closed.

-The election computer is being run and updated as required.

-The County Clerk will be conducting Election classes for the Clerks and workers. As I know more information, I will post it.

-The advertising for an Auditor has been posted.

-The 'for sale' ads were put in the paper for the Backhoe and 2 Fuel Tanks.

-I have been doing on-line election webinars as scheduled.

-The petitions for the Mayor and Commissioner terms expiring will be available in early April with a deadline of April 21st to be turned into the office.

-Iron River City will be holding the Early Voting requirements for the August and November election. Gaastra Hall will be closed on days I will be assigned and required to be at IR City Hall for the day.

-Ashley Schober resigned as the Gaastra Representative for the West Iron District Library. Charles Jackson will fill the position.

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- There was one water shut off during the month of February. After the bill & penalties were paid, the water was turned back on.
- A service call will be needed for one of the office printers

Ethan went over the Public Works report:

A water meter was replaced at a residence. The meter has been turned off for a couple of years prior to new owners moving in.

Water samples and required pumping reports have been submitted to EGLE. The annual cross connection report and the annual service line report are due by March 31st & are being worked on. The small heater that installed in the pit area of the water tower was utilized to maintain a 40 degree temperature during the frigid temps.

Work will need to be done at the Booster Station.

There was quite a bit of snow during February and a few warmer days created water runoff.

Clearing of the storm drains were completed.

The sand stockpile is getting low and hoping to have enough for the balance of this winter.

As the budget allows, a new underslung cylinder will be needed to be purchased for the snow plow.

Ethan requested a fuel tank with a transfer pump. McNamara motioned to approved up to \$1200 for a purchase of a fuel tank with support from T Holm. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.** Ethan will research different resources and purchase one.

Motioned by T Holm to accept the manager's & public works report and supported by McNamara. **Passed Unanimously.**

ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

The assessor's report was reviewed. Moved by McNamara to pay the assessor's bill and supported by Cain. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

FUEL TANK BID; BACKHOE BID:

McNamara motioned to open the sealed bids with support from Cain.

There were three bids submitted for the purchase of the back hoe. Each was opened and discussed. T Holm motioned to accept the bid from Kerry Kirkpatrick in the amount of \$16,551.50 with support from Cain. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

There was one bid submitted for the Fuel Tank. The bid was opened and discussed.

The bid received was for the purchase of the (2) Fuel Tanks. McNamara motioned to accept the bid of \$1020.00/each to Olsen Beef Farm with support from Cain. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

Mayor Holm motioned for the sale of the Fuel Tank and Backhoe to be put into a money market with support from McNamara. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

GEI:

Robb, GEI, discussed the treasury call with himself & Debbie. The liftstation amendment request for a generator has been denied under grant number 210130-23. Treasury did offer Gaastra to modify the current FY 26 Wellhouse Improvement application. The \$54,000 will be awarded with no guarantee of additional grant funding for the project. Debbie will send an email to treasury stating the City agrees to lapse the remaining grant money from the '23 grant and roll it over to the '25 grant application.

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OLD BUSINESS:

The recreation grant was discussed. Due to the cost of the City's portion of the previous discussion of a pavilion, a meeting will take place to discuss additional options.

The revised date will be posted when scheduled.

Highline is taking over the Fiber Optic installation from AEG. Paperwork was submitted from Highline. Andersen & the board discussed the paperwork and procedures requested. Andersen will revise the letter and submit to the board for review to proceed. Work with Highline will not begin until this summer, the earliest. Actual times have not been confirmed.

SOLAR PANEL SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Amerson researched the Solar Panel Speed Limit signs, The approximate price is \$3,000.00 per sign. No action was taken at this time.

LEGAL REPORT

Coates stated the final lot on Willow had its closing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amerson stated the procedure he will do to remove the Fuel Tanks and use the area as outdoor storage.

T Holm asked about parking for the baseball and soccer field. Cain requested metal stakes being installed along the survey lines. Amerson will install them.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, it was motioned by T Holm with support from McNamara to adjourn at 5:20 pm. **Passed Unanimously.**

Richard Holm, Mayor

Debbie Tusa, Clerk