City Council Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.
Betty Hagel Memorial Civic Center

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kevin Hoffman.
Present: Becky Berg, Dean Windhorst, Kevin Hoffman, Brittany Hagen, Troy Hatzenbihler, City Auditor Cassie Smith, City Attorney Patrick Waters. Quorum declared met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Hatzenbihler moved and Berg seconded to remove personal appearance letter "f" from the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Hatzenbihler moved and Hagen seconded to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

No one signed up for public comment.

Berg moved and Hagen seconded to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2026 regular meeting, July 20, 2026 special meeting, and July 23, 2026 special meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the bill for T&M Tree Service now being the responsibility of the home owner.

Hatzenbihler moved and Hagen seconded to approve the claims list which includes All Pest Control $282; ND League of Cities $7,728.20; Menards $230.86; Center Machine Inc $724.04; MDU $489.76; Southwest Water Authority $17,721.53; Oliver County Sheriff's Department $13,827.10; Security First Bank $1,514.11; CB Accounting $4,100; Donovan & Kaffar, PLLP $4,247; Trans Trash $5,926.34; AT&T Mobility $281.71; Security First Agency of ND $14,687; Vestis $569.75; Titan Machinery $277.28; Security First Bank $2,522.88; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc $805.59; Marco $155.78; Eggers Electric Motor $1,813.03; Runnings Supply Inc. $83.96; Sletten Excavating $1,440; Quality Asphalt Repair, Inc $924; Moore Engineering Inc. $4,651.50; Fargo Glass & Paint Co $366; D&E Supply Co $856.91; North Dakota Rural Water $275; WRT $1,559.64; ND Department of Health $27; Rud Oil & Gas $6,943.36; Center Republican $1,106.61; and Wellabe $40.40. All in favor, motion carried.

Hagen moved and Hatzenbihler seconded to approve the check register from July. All in favor, motion carried.

Personal Appearances:
Alice Grinsteiner appeared on behalf of the Oliver County Fire Department to request that they not have to pay for water because that water may be used on fires within the city. Hatzenbihler moved and Windhorst seconded to table this discussion to the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Jayar Kindsvogel conveyed his position regarding the rate he is being charged for bulk water. Discussion was held. Berg moved and Hatzenbihler seconded to keep rates the same as all other commercial until water rates can be reviewed. All in favor, motion carried.

Catharine Thomas appeared to discuss the mowing and drainage of the ditch behind her house.

AJ Tuck provided the engineer's report and will put together a cost estimate for stubbing in water and sewer to two lots on the Lehmkuhl/ Lignite intersection. A proposal to put a water tank north of Applied Digital's data center was presented. Hatzenbihler moved and Hagen seconded to approve the proposed water system. All in favor, motion carried.

Hatzenbihler moved and Windhorst seconded to appoint Hatzenbihler and Berg to a subcommittee to figure out some details of this project with the city engineer. All in favor, motion carried.

Tyler Hamman from Base Electron gave an overview of a proposed project south of Applied Digital's data center.

Reports:
Keith provided an estimate of what tires could cost for the cat loader because he will likely need a couple before winter. Rubber cutting edges for the snow pusher were also discussed for budgeting purposes.

Shandy plans to put help wanted signs up at the Applied Digital work site and other places.

Sheriff Dave Hilliard requested to have the police portfolio re-assigned to a new portfolio holder. Mayor Hoffman reassigned the police portfolio to Windhorst.

Old Business:
Hatzenbihler will reach out to the Oliver County Fair Board to see if they would like to put the Lewis, Clark and Sakakawea statues at the fairgrounds. Other options were discussed if that is not acceptable. Hatzenbihler moved and Hagen seconded to table this discussion for the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was had regarding a password change policy when there is turnover in the office. Attorney Waters said he could draft one up.

Bulk water rates were discussed, and it was decided that we need to figure out a definition for "bulk water" and a way to differentiate between residential, commercial, industrial and bulk water, possibly by service line sizes or meter sizes.

Discussion was held regarding the Roughrider Electric Franchise Agreement. Hagen moved and Hatzenbihler seconded to table this discussion for the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:
Wolfie's Gaming Permit: Hagen moved and Windhorst seconded to approve an amended gaming license for Wolfie's to add "Twenty-One". All in favor, motion carried.

Cell phones and/or iPads were discussed for city employees and council members. Windhorst moved and Hatzenbihler seconded to table this discussion until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding an Owl 4+ to stream meetings like the county does. Hatzenbihler moved and Hagen seconded to order the Owl 4+ with a donation from Heartland Law Office if we don't have enough in the office supply fund to cover it. Roll call vote: Hatzenbihler – yes, Hagen – yes, Windhorst – yes, Berg – yes. Motion carried.

Mobile Home lot rent and past due notices were briefly discussed. Attorney Waters said the city needs to have an enforceable contract for lot rent, and he can draft one, given the proper information. An enforceable contract can also be drawn up for overdue water bills.

The preliminary budget was discussed. Hatzenbihler moved and Hagen seconded to approve the preliminary budget with a 3% increase across the board. All in favor, motion carried.

The public budget hearing was scheduled for September 8, 2026 at 5:30 PM. A special budget meeting was also scheduled for August 24, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

The Oliver County Business Association requested use of the Civic Center parking lot for an event on October 2, 2026. Hatzenbihler moved and Hagen seconded to allow the OCBA to use the parking lot, facilities and surrounding streets as needed. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting more frequently was decided against, unless a Special Meeting is needed.

Attorney Waters advised that the city is not able to legally make donations for the Oliver County Ambulance.

Information regarding the NDLC annual conference was dispersed to all council members. Hatzenbihler and Berg indicated they would like to be signed up.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Hoffman at 11:42 p.m.

_____ _____

Kevin Hoffman, Mayor Cassie Smith, City Auditor