

**City of Mercer Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
7:00 pm
Mercer City Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Thomsen at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, Randy Zinke, Dan Gardiner, and Mayor Ken Thomsen

Minutes from September 26, 2025, special meeting

Dan Gardiner made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2025, special meeting Randy Zinke seconded. Gardiner, Volochenko, Lorenz, and Zinke voted aye. The motion carried.

Financial Report- No report

Bills to be Paid

Erika Lorenz Made a motion to approve the bills as presented, Randy Zinke seconded. Gardiner, Volochenko, Lorenz, and Zinke voted aye. The motion carried.

Water Bills

Past due accounts were discussed.

Park Report

Account balances

Maintenance fund: \$5080.60

Project fund: \$5,695.42

The Park Committee recognized and thanked Willa Murray for all her hard work and dedication to the park. Willa has retired from the park.

Mercer Community Center Report

A saving account was opened for the new community center. A check will be given to the City to be deposited in the new account from the LLC group. Mayor Thomsen suggests that the effort now needs to be community driven. Mayor Thomsen suggested naming the new community center the Mercer Veteran's Memorial Center. It may help with the fund-raising effort. A \$50,000 matching grant was received from Garrison Diversion. Jim Wilson is working on the deed for the lot donated by the McClusky elevator.

Old Business

Curb stop repairs:

Mayor Thomsen stated the City will need to buy more parts for additional curb stops to have on hand.

Curb stop location app:

Erika Lorenz would like to revisit having access to an app that maps the curb stops and hydrants. At one time there was an app available through ND Rural Water for approximately \$100. She would like to see if that is still available. If so, sign up to be included in the app.

New Business

Tractor lease:

Mayor Thomsen said a letter of intent has been sent to John Deere to lease a tractor again this year.

Erika Lorenz made a motion to approve the lease of a tractor for October of 2025 to June 2026, Dan Gardiner seconded. Gardiner, Volochenko, and Zinke voted aye. The motion carried.

Auditor position:

Mayor Thomsen said that he has interviewed all four candidates for the position of Mercer City Auditor. His recommendation is that Katherein Volochenko be hired for the position.

Katherin Volochenko presented a proposal to the council and talked about her qualifications.

Dan Gardiner would prefer to hire Debbie Hausauer. Randy Zinke would prefer to hire Amy Ones.

Erika Lorenz made a motion to hire Katherin Volochenko for the position of City Auditor, Dan Gardiner seconded. Gardiner and Lorenz voted aye. Zinke voted nay. Volochenko abstained. The motion carried.

Erika Lorenz made a motion to add Katherin Volochenko to all bank accounts for the City of Mercer, Dan Gardiner seconded. Gardiner and Lorenz voted aye. Zinke voted nay.

Katherin Volochenko took the oath of office for the position of Auditor.

Snow removal:

Mayor Thomsen, Dan Gardiner, Gary Volochenko, and Randy Zinke will all help move snow.

Gary Volochenko made a motion to adjourn, Randy Zinke seconded. Gardiner, Volochenko, Lorenz, and Zinke. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Bills

1. Wild Prairie Solution (curb stop repairs) \$3360.50
2. Otter Tail - \$769.48
3. ND North Publications \$163.61
4. McLean Sheridan Rural Water \$1508.19 (September water billing and software charge)
5. WRT \$188.18
6. McLean Sheridan Rural Water \$1900.55 (Water usage)
7. McLean Sheridan Rural Water \$369.55(August billing and sampling)
7. ND Dept of Health (Testing) \$27
8. Waste Management \$1190.25