

Minutes for December 11, 2025 Regular Mercer City Meeting Mercer City Hall at 7:00 pm

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

Present: Council Members Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, Dan Gardiner,
Auditor: Kathrin Volochenko

Absent: Council Member Randy Zinke

Mayor Thomsen read the minutes from the November 13th 2025 regular meeting. After a few corrections, Council Member Lorenz made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections, Council Member Volochenko seconded, Ayes all, M/C

Mayor Thomsen read the minutes for the September 11th 2025 regular meeting. Council Member Gardiner moved to accept, Council Member Lorenz seconded, ayes all, M/C.

Mayor Thomsen presented the completed annual 2026 Water & Sewer Budget as stipulated by the USDA & Rural Development as part of the loan agreement. No approval vote was required.

Mayor Thomsen presented the year to date city financials. Kathrin noted that the Quicken report that's showing the account balances that those numbers are "real" and correct. Mayor Thomsen presented the Quick Books reports showing what Auditor Volochenko has compiled to date. The financials were only presented as a temporary update and that they are not a final presentation, Auditor Volochenko said that the 2025 accounting is almost complete and that January reports will be accurate, therefore no vote was taken.

Mayor Thomsen presented the bills that need to be paid. Council Member Lorenz made a motion to approve the bills as presented, Council member Volochenko seconded, roll call vote results: Council member Gardiner aye, Council Member Volochenko aye, Council Member Lorenz aye, M/C.

Mayor Thomsen presented the water usage & various account reports. There was some discussion about the unread meters. Tim from McLean Sheridan Rural Water had met with Auditor Volochenko and checked some of the meters. One needed to be activated, one showed an error and so was reset. Another was in a poor location in the basement.

Park Report: Council Member Lorenz presented the report and discussed the installation of the park Christmas lights and that it went very well.

New Community Center Project Report: Council Member Zinke wasn't present therefore no report was presented, however Mayor Thomsen presented a copy of the recorded deed for the property and the Ottertail Power easement map and contract to the board for review. Was also some discussion about the cost estimates for the new building.

Old Business:

Mayor Thomsen mentioned that the reimbursement funds were transferred out on 11/25/2025 from the New MCC Building Savings Acct. # 8304 to the General Bank Account #0709 for survey costs paid Ck# 021390 on 05/15/2025 to Moore Engineering, Inc.

Mayor Thomsen presented a membership confirmation letter from the League of Cities. Discussion included the benefits of membership.

New Business:

Mayor Thomsen presented the recently updated 2025 Emergency Response Plan (ERP) booklet. Auditor Volochenko said that Mary Jameson of the Midwest Assistance Program came and updated the Mercer ERP that will be good for five years.

Mayor Thomsen said that CD #5645 was renewed on December the 1st at a rate of 3.66% APY

Mayor Thomsen presented the NDIRF Blanket Bond was renewed for another two years. There is no extra charge or premium increase.

Auditor Volochenko said that the Gov Card monthly charge is \$19.95 x 12 = \$240.00 per year and that there are currently 7 different accounts that use this payment option.

Mayor Thomsen talked about the Bravera Online Bill pay option that charges \$5.00 for the first 20 remote bank checks or ACH payments generated per month, then .50 for each payment thereafter. This charge applies to all business checking accounts regardless of any other subscribed features.

Mayor Thomsen presented the 2026 election packet specifically for cities. Mayor Thomsen mentioned that the Mayoral position needs to be adjusted to coincide with the presidential election cycle. Auditor Volochenko said the county auditor is aware that it needs to be adjusted.

Council Member Lorenz mentioned that there is an auditor bond that the city may have to get that is specifically for the auditor. Auditor Volochenko will check into it. Auditor Volochenko presented the recorded document showing that the city no longer holds a groundwater permit.

Public Comment:

No guests were present; therefore there was no public comment.

Mayor Thomsen asked for a motion to adjourn, Council Member Volochenko made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Lorenz seconded, ayes all, M/C.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm CST.