

**July 10, 2025**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Mercer City Hall - 7:00pm**

Mayor Lori Stute opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Members Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, and Erika Lorenz were present. Randy Zinke was absent.

Council additions to agenda:

- MCC building
- Garbage collection complaints
- City web site
- Kathy Schon

Gary Volochenko made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections, from the May 15, 2025, meeting, Barb Stute seconded. Stute, Volochenko, and Lorenz all voted aye. The motion carried.

Council additions to agenda: MCC property sale

Minutes from June 12, 2025

Gary Volochenko made a motion to approve the June 12, 2025, minutes, Barb Stute seconded. Stute, Volochenko, and Lorenz votes aye. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

Mayor Stute has contacted Eide Bailey regarding auditing 2018 and the last two years. Eide Bailey said it will take them a bit of time to consult their team and put together a cost estimate. The same team will perform all three audit. They will also help the city fix the financials.

Bills to be Paid:

Barb Stute made a motion to pay the bills as presented, the motion died for lack of a second.

Gary Volochenko moved to approved the bills, with the exception of the Drain Man being paid what he previously estimated, Erika Lorenz seconded. Stute, Lorenz and Volochenko voted aye. The motion carried.

Water Bills:

Mayor Stute has contacted Ward Heidbreder and he is still working on borrowing Wing's equipment. She also asked what it would cost for the city to purchase its own equipment and she hasn't gotten an estimate. Many of the accounts listed on the unread meters list

should not be on the list as the properties are vacant lots. Kathy Schon suggested that the city address the Mclean Sheridan Rural Water Board to get help with these issues.

Park Report: Erika Lorenz stated the committee has not met. The \$216 bill for TactaCam is for the park and the committee will issue a check to reimburse the city.

Community Center Project Report: No report

### Old Business

Provide Sewer to all occupied properties in city limits:

The Drian Man is waiting for a part for the pump. The pump he received was broken. There is a T in the line for other homes to be connected to the line.

Erika Lorenz made a motion to remove the Drain Man's bill from the bills to be paid, Gary Volochenko seconded. Stute, Volochenko and Lorenz voted aye. The motion carried.

Auditor position advertisement in newspaper:

Mayor Stute said the ad has been sent to the paper and it should be in the next edition.

MCC building sale:

Erika Lorenz asked if the city attorney has done the paperwork to sell the MCC and the property. No.

City web site:

Katherin Volochenko stated the site was up and running June 27. The domain name is mercercity.nd.org. She said there is a welcome page, city government, the community center project committee with its members, the Mercer Memorial Park Committee and its members, volunteer fire department, the Motor to Mercer Car Show, our veterans, and "Mercer Then," churches, businesses, a calendar, and the site has ways to contact the city. The city meeting minutes are hyperlinked for the last two years.

### New Business

Garbage collection complaints:

Erika Lorenz said she has received several complaints regarding residential garbage totes not being collected. She has called and emailed Waste Management several times. One resident has been missed four times since May.

Erika Lorenz made a motion to credit Hausauer's \$37.50 for the missed garbage pickup, Barb Stute seconded, Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko and Erika Lorenz voted aye. The motion carried.

Kathy Schon

Is the city using the League of Cities attorney? No, the city attorney is Jim Wilson from Garrison. Kathy requests a copy of the estimate for the mold remediation for the MCC. She expressed concerns about how the new sewer services were installed. How many active accounts does the city have? There are 68 active users. Kathy strongly encourages the council to check and follow its ordinances.

Gary Volochenko made a motion to adjourn, Barb Stute seconded. Stute, Volochenko and Lorenz voted aye. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

## Bills

1. Drain Man Inc. - \$ 19,144
2. Ottertail - \$
3. Visa - \$216.00 (TactaCam)
4. Waste Management - \$1,190.25
5. WRT - \$187.97
6. McLean Sheridan Rural Water - \$1,625.09 (water \$1,380.85 & billing \$244.24)
7. Nordak North Publications - \$212.92
8. Randy Zinke - \$99.43 (mower parts blades and deflector)
9. North Dakota League of Cities - \$248.00 (city dues)
10. Randy Zinke - \$69.26 (board pay)
11. Gary Volochenko - \$69.26 (board pay)
12. Barb Stute - \$69.26 (board pay)
13. Erika Lorenze - \$69.26 (board pay)
14. Lori Stute - \$462 (Mayor pay)