

## **Minutes for the April 9th, 2026 Regular Mercer City Meeting Mercer City Hall at 7:00 pm CDT**

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

Present: Mayor Thomsen, Council Members Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, Dan Gardiner, Randy Zinke

Auditor: Kathrin Volochenko

A quorum was established.

### **Minutes:**

Mayor Thomsen read the minutes from the April 9th 2026 regular meeting.

Council Member Lorenz asked for an amendment to the minutes to change the name from “Brownfield to Brownfields” and from “Brownfield inspection and demolition grant(s)” to “assessment and clean-up grant” and was noted by Auditor Volochenko. Council Member Volochenko made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Council Member Lorenz seconded, ayes all, M/C.

### **Financials & Bills List:**

Mayor Thomsen presented the completed 2026 Balance Sheet Standard, Year to Date & Month to Date Profit & Loss (P&L) reports.

Mayor Thomsen presented the current bills list.

The Waste Management driver took dash cam pictures of 3 pickups on 4/6/2026 that will be charged \$25.00 each for trash container “overages”. Council Member Lorenz stated that a notice should be sent to everyone. Auditor Volochenko said that perhaps Ann of McLean Sheridan Rural Water District could add something on the billing postcard. Discussion followed and ending with Auditor Volochenko stating that a call will be made to Waste Management for an explanation.

Council Member Lorenz moved to approve the entire financials and bills list as presented, Council Member Gardiner seconded, roll call vote results were; Council Member Gardiner “aye”, Council Member Volochenko “aye”, Council Member Lorenz “aye”, Council Member Zinke “aye”, M/C.

Auditor Volochenko presented the topic of Evolv/Gov card charging the city \$49.99 since December. Discussion followed with Erika stating that there is another payment option with a platform called N’Court that doesn’t charge the city. Auditor Volochenko will check into that and apparently Evolv, Inc. is stating on their website that “You may qualify for no cost processing!”

Auditor will check into that as well.

### **Water/Wastewater Business:**

Mayor Thomsen began by discussing the April 3<sup>rd</sup> power loss/loss of water pressure/precautionary boil order and the fact that we need a generator. Discussion followed with Ken stating that he could contact his electrician to get a quote. Council Member Gardiner made a motion to get Perry Strand of Bens Electric to give a quote, Council Member Lorenz seconded, roll call vote results were; Council Member Gardiner “aye”, Council Member Volochenko “aye”, Council Member Lorenz “aye”, Council Member Zinke “aye”, M/C.

Mayor Thomsen presented the April 2026 water usage & various account reports.

**Park Report:** Council Member Lorenz stated that there was no report.

**New Community Center Project Report:**

Council Member Zinke stated that a new gaming fund request from the Turtle Lake and New Salem American Legions was turned in.

Mayor Thomsen talked about working on getting a sign made to show donations for the New MCC project:

**Old Business:**

**2026 City Election:** Auditor Volochenko state that the paperwork needed to get the ballots printed by the county was hand carried to the County Auditor, the sample ballot was then proof read and signed by Auditor Volochenko; therefore the pre-election process is complete. The Auditor also mentioned that the petitions that were turned in were one for Mayor (Ken Thomsen) and two for the Council Members (Dan Gardiner, Gary Volochenko).

**Old MCC:** Council Member Lorenz stated that the application for the Brownsfields Grant was approved for the assessment within a week of being submitted and it will take about 3-4 months to get a contractor to get the building inspected.

**New Business:**

Motor to Mercer Car Show, June 20th: Raffle Permit request for a 50/50 Raffle, also same permissions as last year are requested for blocking off Main St. and to use any extra trash bins and city road barrier signs. Council Member Volochenko made a motion to give the Motor to Mercer Car Show a permit, Council Member Gardiner seconded, ayes all, nays none, M/C.

St Olaf-Lutheran & the LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) Calendar Raffle: Mayor Thomsen asked for a motion to approve the request. Council Member Lorenz made the motion to give a permit for the calendar raffle, Council Member Volochenko seconded, ayes all, nays none, M/C.

Drainage issue according to Larry Metzger; Letter and map: Ken Thomsen the discussion included maybe putting another culvert. Auditor Volochenko added that the letter was found in older papers during the sorting process.

Street Graveling: Council Member Volochenko said there are a few spots that need gravel and added that he would like permission to just order the gravel when the time is right.

USA Flags: Mayor Thomsen began by saying that since this is the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and continued that there are six flags in the back room and that we have 11 mounting brackets throughout the town we need to order 6 more flags, had talked to Vickie of the Turtle Lake American Legion and that all we need is to get the poles and Vickie will give us the flags. We need to buy 6 poles at about \$15.00 each. Council Member Volochenko moved to buy the flag poles, Council Member Lorenz seconded, ayes all, nays none, M/C

NDLC Spring Conference (3-18, 19-2026) Report: Auditor Volochenko, Council Member Volochenko, Council Member Lorenz gave reports on the two day conference that was held in Dickinson.

NDRWSA (North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association) Training (3-26-2026) Report: Auditor Volochenko reported that there was some sponsorship involved so no registration fee. The Auditor recommended that everyone should go to these trainings at some point.

Water & Waste Water Test Prep. (3-30-2026): Auditor Volochenko attended and it's a prep class that focuses on water & wastewater math that's held the day before the certification testing. However a person can attend for the practice.

NDIRF HR Collaborative Conference (two days) to be held in Bismarck on April 22& 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mayor Thomsen stated it's just a FYI for anyone that's interested.

Grass Cutting: Council Member Zinke talked about that he will be working out of town, and that someone else will need to do the cutting. Council member Gardiner said he could mow this season. Some maintenance will need to be done for both the 3-point and zero turn mowers.

NDIRF Annual Meeting Notice; May 7th 2026 beginning at 9:30 am at the North Dakota Heritage Center, all city officials are welcome.

Bi-Annual Lagoon Discharge Monitoring Report submitted 3-31-2026: Auditor Volochenko mentioned that Keith Hegney (NDRWA) has the city "penciled in" to test #1 cell sometime in May.

Fire Hydrant Water Leak Fixed 3-23-2026: Mayor Thomsen said that the hydrant by the pump house was leaking on Sunday morning so he called Ward Heidbreder of NDRWSA (North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association) circuit rider to work on the hydrant. Mayor Thomsen ordered more replacement hydrant parts to have on hand.

Lead & Copper Survey: Auditor Volochenko stated that we now have the spreadsheet to input the survey results as the responses that were returned to the city in 2024, were never received by NDDEQ and the Auditor never found them in the office. So the survey will need to be sent out again to all households that are connected to the Mercer City water system. Auditor Volochenko asked Council Member Zinke for the phone number for the carpet cleaner as the Auditor never received any information from Karen. Council Member Zinke said he'll make sure it gets done.

**Public Comment:**

No speaker cards were turned into the Auditor; therefore there was no public comment.

With no further business to discuss Mayor Thomsen asked for a motion to adjourn, Council Member Volochenko made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Gardiner seconded, "ayes" all, M/C Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm CDT.