

Minutes for the February 12th, 2026 Regular Mercer City Meeting Mercer City Hall at 7:00 pm CST

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

Present: 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 January 8th 2026 regular meeting. Council Member Lorenz made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Council Member Volochenko seconded, ayes all, M/C.

Financials:

Auditor Volochenko presented the completed 2026 Balance Sheet Standard, Year to Date & Month to Date Profit & Loss (P&L) reports. Auditor Volochenko also presented the January bank statements with the attached reconciliation summaries showing all un-cleared deposits.

Mayor Thomsen introduced Mary Jameson of the Midwest Assistance Program (MAP).

Ms. Jamerson talked about the services that MAP provides, and went on to explain the USDA Water and Sewer Loan 2025 financials.

Council Member Volochenko moved to approved all of the financials as presented,

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.

Bills:

Mayor Thomsen presented the bills that need to be paid. Council Member Gardiner made a motion to approve the bills as presented, 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.

Water Reports:

Mayor Thomsen presented the water usage & various account reports. There was some discussion about the unread meters and why. Auditor Volochenko mentioned that more stage 1 water testing sites should be added to the roster on a rotational basis for more diversified results, the general consensus was to "yes" go ahead and do so once individual permission was granted.

Park Report:

Council Member Lorenz reported on the last park board meeting and presented the minutes.

Council Member Lorenz went on to talk about the sharing of lawn mowing duties, needing to get the outhouse pumped as it was never previously cleaned. The security camera subscription renews in June or July of each year for about \$225.00 and is charged to the City credit card.

Auditor Volochenko added the she was able to log into the security camera website and found that they only accept credit or debit cards, no ACH payments from a bank account, so will just need to leave things the way they are. Council Member Lorenz talked about the committee wanting do some fund raisers for the coming summer as the committee is planning to make some park improvements. Committee also is planning to apply for an AARP grant to install a sidewalk to the second shelter, replace the flooring in one of the shelters and some other work.

New Community Center Project Report:

Council Member Zinke and Karen Zinke gave a report on the committee planning progress. First informational gathering was held on January 30th. Second meeting is scheduled for February the 13th at 6:30 pm in the city hall. This gathering is more to get the informational letter composed to be sent out to community.

Old Business:

1. Mayor Thomsen turned the floor over to Mary Jamerson of MAP for the presentation on the Emergency Response Program (ERP) booklets what we need to know in how to respond.
2. Mayor Thomsen talked about the Municipal Infrastructure Fund allowed expenses, "That fund is only for infrastructure and cannot be used for equipment." As per the email response to Auditor Volochenkos' query
3. Mayor Thomsen went down the list of completed quarterlies and required reports.
 - a. 4th Qtr. 2025 Federal 941- sent 1-14-2026
 - b. 4th Qtr. 2025 WSI report & fee - filed 1-17-2026
 - c. 4th Qtr 2025 Job Service & fee - filed (amended) 1-17-2026
 - d. ND DEQ Distribution System Disinfectant Residual Summary - sent 1/5/2026
 - e. End of Year Water Usage Report to ND Dept of Water Resources – final report as ground water permit had been cancelled as of 11-21-2025, sent via email 1-21-2026 to NDDWR (ND Dept of Water Resources)

New Business:

1. Mayor Thomsen mentioned that the City Auditor must "on or before March 1 of each year; The City Auditor submits to the governing board an annual financial statement showing revenues, expenditures, transfers and fund balances of the city for the year ended December 31. (NDCC 40-16-04)"
2. Mayor Thomsen mentioned that "by March 1 of each year - City Auditor shall publish the financial statement for the preceding year showing the receipts and disbursements on account of each fund in the official newspaper. (NDCC 40-16-05)" Therefore Auditor Volochenko will insure that the all 2025 financials (balance sheet & P&Ls) shall be published in the official city newspaper; Central McLean News – Journal; in the last issue of February 2026.
3. Mayor Thomsen mentioned "by March 9 - Thirty days before the filing deadline for candidates' names to be printed on the ballot (April 6, 2026), an official notice of this deadline must be published in the official newspaper (even-numbered years). (NDCC 40-21-02)"
4. Auditor Volochenko talked about the NDIRF Announcement letter; new coverage is available for sewer back-up and water main breaks. Will fill out the form to request a quote.

5. Auditor Volochenko reported on the Waste Water Management Safety Meeting that was held on January 20th 8030-1500 Beulah Civic Center.
6. Council Member Gardiner & Auditor Volochenko reported on the Pipeline Safety Meeting that was held on February 4th at the Bismarck Eagles
7. Auditor Volochenko reported on the PC Matic anti-virus orientation via Google Meets on February 5th.

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 8:40 pm CST.