

## **Minutes for the March 12th, 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 February 12th 2026 regular meeting. Council Member Lorenz made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Council Member Volochenko seconded, ayes all, M/C.

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

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 February bank statements with the attached reconciliation summaries. Auditor Volochenko mentioned that there were a couple of fund (ledger) adjustments after the previous reconciliation that did affect the reconciliation results. Discussion also included Mayor Thomsen placing values on the city fixed assets that will be added to the balance sheet.

Mayor Thomsen presented the current bills list.

Council Member Lorenz moved to approved all of the financials and bills list as presented, Council Member Zinke 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 February water usage & various account reports. Auditor Volochenko mentioned that permission was granted to add more stage one testing sites and those they were emailed to ND DEQ to be added to the rotation.

Auditor Volochenko gave a report on the McLean Sheridan Rural Water District Board Meeting that was held on February the 17<sup>th</sup> at the MSWRD office.

Mayor Thomsen talked about the ND Rural Water Systems Training to be held at the Bismarck Public Works on March the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Auditor Volochenko found two different addresses for accounts that changed ownership; Ann of MSRWD that does our billing was instructed to send the March bills to those new owners and will see if they "bounce back" via returned USPS mail to the city.

### **Park Report:**

Council Member Lorenz reported that the park board had applied for an AARP grant for about \$7000.00 and will know in May if they are awarded or not.

### **New Community Center Project Report:**

Mayor Thomsen talked about what the committee has done so far.

Mayor Thomsen asked for a motion to subscribe to the Grant Finder platform through the ND League of Cities. Council Member Gardiner moved to subscribe the Grant Finder platform, Council Member Volochenko seconded, roll call vote; Council Member Gardiner "aye", Council Member Volochenko "aye", Council Member Lorenz "aye", Council Member Zinke "aye", M/C

Council Member Zinke talked about the Brownfield inspection and demolition grant(s) and that an inspection crew can come in, assess, and issue a report. Discussions included that the city should sell it and give the profits to the New MCC Committee. Council Member Zinke made a motion to fill out the Brownfield grant application, Council member Volochenko seconded, roll call vote, Council Member Gardiner “aye”, Council Member Volochenko “aye”, Council Member Lorenz “aye”, Council Member Zinke “aye”, M/C

**City Office Organization Update:** Auditor Volochenko gave a brief report on the paper sorting and file organization to date, when on to mention that the IRS requires seven year retention for income and expense receipts.

**Old Business:**

1. New NDIRF coverage available questionnaire. Auditor Volochenko stated that the survey for a premium quote was filled out and sent back, however NDIRF needs hard answers and not the “not sure” responses that I had given on a few questions. Will need to do more research and resubmit in order to get an accurate quote.
2. Received a confirmation letter from USDA for the loan payment account changes.

**New Business:**

1. Auditor Volochenko has begun work on the 2027 Annual Budget.
2. Received a FYI email on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from the McLean County Land Mapping Office that the parcel owned by the Co-op Elevator of McClusky was split into two parcels.
3. There was discussion about splitting the cost to get the city hall carpet cleaned. Randy suggested a company in Turtle Lake, Prairie Carpet Cleaning.
4. Auditor Volochenko talked about getting lagoon cell #1 tested for sludge depth and get a water sample to take to Bismarck for testing. Based on what Auditor Volochenko learned at the Waste Water O&M Training at Beulah in February.
5. Auditor Volochenko talked about the NDIRF “Conferment of Benefits” letter. It stated that they had some very large claims and that they would not be sending out any conferment of benefits in 2026.
6. There was discussion to revisit the Mayoral authority to sign grants.

**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 Gardiner made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Lorenz seconded, “ayes” all, M/C Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm CDT.