

City Council Meeting
May 12, 2026

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center/Zoom with the following members present: Mayor Sitzler, Council: Harris, Day, Kelly, D Hollingsworth & J Hollingsworth. Employees present: Chad Raatz, Matt O'Brien, Fallon Kelly and Zasha Johnson.

Engineer Report: Josh Roehrich presented an updated schedule for the water plant improvements, well demo will take place in June, the remainder of the work will be completed in the fall. He submitted a change order that was needed due to need to replace membranes for RO skid and an additional valve replacement. D Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve change order #1, carried. Day moved, Kelly second to approve Moore invoice 8855 for work on the project, carried. Invoice 8854 from Moore was submitted for technical assistance at the water plant. J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve invoice, carried. The bid for the sanitary manhole replacement was awkward to Naastad Brothers, with work scheduled for July. Moore invoice 9099 for work on the project was presented, D Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve invoice, carried. The Highway 1 Connectivity study is being finalized and will be presented at the June meeting.

Minutes, Auditor and Court Reports: J Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve minutes with spelling error and special event permit corrected, carried. Day moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve police report, carried. Kelly moved, J Hollingsworth second to approve auditor reports, carried.

Building Permits: Day moved, Harris second to approve building permit for Lot 9 & 10 Block 15 Original Plat, Apartments, carried. Kelly moved, Harris second to approve building permit for Lot 6 Block 1 Reko's 2nd Addition, Concrete driveway and curb cutting, carried.

Gaming Site Authorization: Harris moved, Day second to approve gaming site as listed, carried.

1. Oakes American Legion Club – The Legion Sportsbar

Game of Chance Permits: J Hollingsworth moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve game of chance permits as listed, carried.

1. Stronger Together – Raffle
2. Live Like Bobby – Cow Pie Bingo
3. Bear Creek Roughriders – Raffle

Special Event Permit: Day moved, Harris second to approve special event permit as listed, carried.

1. Harvest Inn – Beer Garden at Hockenberry Car Show

Bills: J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve bills, carried.

Aflac	591.64	Agtegra	33.02
American Welding	81.33	Avid Hawk	200.00
Aqua Pure	2762.40	Bear Creek Flying Service	1347.50
Bear Creek Roughriders	5000.00	City of Fargo	42.00
Computer Express	44.99	Corner C Store	21.89
Dakota Improvement	3480.00	Dakota Valley Electric	646.00
DRN	995.45	Dakota Supply Group	150.09
Economy Propane	1013.85	Fabian Pest Control	210.00
Information Technology	175.85	Kustom Machine	194.97
Maguire Iron	3000.00	MDH Construction	472.50
Michael Todd Industrial Supply	3124.49	Midwest Pest Control	138.00

Moore Engineering	632.50	Napa	38.82
OEI	10,143.94	One Call Concepts	21.00
ND Comm Corrections	269.50	NDPERS INS	23,184.94
NDPERS-Retirement	9603.73	Oakes Times	410.04
Oakes Truck & Trailer	1660.99	Otter Tail Power	10,761.52
Praskas	541.11	Rod's Cleaning	80.00
Starion Bank	2,407.04	Sweets & Stories	96.88
Tornado Stop	3605.69	Verizon	478.17
Visa Credit Card-City	559.85	Visa-library	922.04
Vistos	305.04	Waste Management	8719.84
Zacks Repair	168.00		
Payroll Taxes	15352.41	Salaries	66,762.59

Visitors: Jeremy Rham from Ottetail Power presented copies of the Franchise Renewal agreement. It is a 20-year agreement last signed in 2006. J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve 1st reading of the agreement, pending attorney review, carried. Resident Tiffany Vold spoke about the noise nuisance in their neighborhood caused by the idling railroad engines that sometimes occur for multiple days at a time. She has contacted numerous individuals from the railroad and at the state level of leadership with no real success. City Attorney discussed that railroads are federally run and quiet zone projects are incredibly expensive to pursue. Vold mentioned a ND Infrastructure Grant that may be used to construct a noise barrier, with the possibility of RRVW being a co-sponsor, Johnson will look into this grant. D Hollingsworth mentioned that there was talk of the staging being moved out of city limits, will follow any update on this move.

Committee Reports: Johnson will order a sound system for meetings and try it out. Mayor asked Johnson to work with city attorney to write a letter regarding ordinances for campers in town, especially on residential lots to distribute to the community. Harris would like to look at updating ordinances to limit liquor licenses based on population, possibly one license for every 300 people in town, with the current 6 being allowed until population changes. Also, make a requirement to have electronic ID readers in each business. Kelly pointed out how grass clippings blown into the street have already caused problems with drainage during rain events and would like to see further action taken on those individuals that continue to do it. How to meter and charge trailer parks more accurately for water usage was discussed. The billing amount average will be figured and brought to the next meeting along with quotes for individual meters being installed "cold-weather ready". The gym floor replacement was discussed and a quote was received from Total Home to replace the tile with a similar product. Would like to get more information on other options such as the sport court type of flooring. Also, try to obtain donations from local groups to help cover costs. Still looking for Grant options to update the stoplight timing control system. Clean-up day at the landfill was chaotic and busy, should have more help next time. J Hollingsworth is working with WSI on an ergonomics grant for some equipment for the public works department. Questions about how residential notifications on 14th Street would occur when the manhole work begins. It is a requirement for the contractor to provide notifications, but the city will also provide notice as soon as the schedule is confirmed. Property clean-up notices were discussed with city attorney stressing that we need to follow through and possibly only do a few properties at a time. Chief O'Brien will submit photos of some properties for the council to review and decide which to move forward with.

Unfinished Business: D Hollingsworth moved, J Hollingsworth second to approve the 2nd reading of the update to the Off Highway Vehicle Ordinance, carried. Council reviewed information on the NDIRF Sewer Back-up endorsement. Discussion was tabled until June meeting to gather further information.

New Business: Official Paper Designation, Kelly moved, Day second to designate the Oakes Times as the official newspaper for the city, carried. Sales Tax request was received from the D.A.R.E. program for \$500 to cover cost of year end field trip. D Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve request as presented, carried. Tourism tax request was received from Bear Creek Roughriders for \$5000. Kristina Sigaty was

present as representative and she gave information on cost of rodeo, attendance and the large reaching draw the rodeo has. J Hollingsworth moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve tourism tax request as presented, carried. Great Plains Oil submitted a notice to proceed with the next phase of their project, including the store and utility infrastructure, along with a request for any specific requirements that need to be addressed. The City Attorney sent a response asking for detailed plans and specs for the water and sewer infrastructure updates as required by City Ordinance.

Announcements & Correspondence:

The location of the June meeting will be moved to the Fire Department due to the Community Center being used as a voting location for the Primary Election.

Harris moved, J Hollingsworth second to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST _____

(minutes subject to correction and approval at the next regular meeting)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Zasha Johnson", is written over the "ATTEST" line and extends slightly to the right.