

City Council Meeting June 9, 2026

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

Public Hearing Zoning Amendments:

1. Conditional Use Request, Moore: this request was for temporary seasonal occupation of a recreational vehicle on a residential lot. Council was concerned about the possible increase in requests for such use if allowed. Also, noted that there is a specific zoning ordinance for campgrounds that would allow such occupation. Kelly moved, Day second to deny the request for conditional use, carried.
2. Conditional Use Request, Meehl & Seyer: this request was for permanent occupation of recreational vehicles on a residential lot. This request included a site plan and connection to city water and sewer infrastructure. Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to deny the request for conditional use, carried.

Engineer Report: Reber and Roehrich provided an update on water treatment plant improvements. We are currently down to one well and have moved up the installation schedule for the project. J Hollingsworth moved, Day second, to approve contractor's application for payment 1 for work completed and the purchase of the membranes, carried. All contracts for the manhole replacement have been executed. Raatz has been able to keep up with pumping as needed, contractors are still scheduled to be in town in late July. A draft of the connectivity study on highway 1 was sent to all committee members for review, pending any input from them a final draft will be presented to the council in July. Water metering at the east trailer park was discussed. There are several known issues in the area and multiple options for fixing this we're discussed. Another option presented was to bill all units based on average usage for such parks. Will continue to work with engineers and park owner to resolve the situation.

Minutes, Auditor and Police Reports: J Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve minutes, carried. Harris moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve police report, carried. Day moved, J Hollingsworth second to approve auditor reports, carried.

Gaming Site Authorization/Gaming Permit: D Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve raffle permit for the Oakes Archery Club, carried. Day moved, Harris second to approve gaming site authorization for the Hole in One Foundation at The Angry Beaver Lodge and Harvest Inn, carried.

Building Permit: J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve permits as presented, carried. Location of curb stop for the new home was questioned, will inspect tomorrow.

1. Remodel, Lot 8 & 9 Ex. N. 20' Of Lot 9 Blk 2 Baldwins Addn.
2. Deck, Lot 2 & N 1/2 Of Lot 3 Blk 28 Western Town Lots
3. Fence, Lots 1 & 2 & N 10' Lot 3 & Vac Alley Blk 3 Kootsika's Addn
4. New Home, Lots 7 & 8 Blk 23 Washburn's Addn

Special Event Permit: D Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve special event permit for Harvest Inn at The Edge, carried.

Annual Alcohol Licenses: Harris moved, Day second to approve special event permits as listed, carried.

1. Angry Beaver Lodge; On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor
2. The Last Shot; On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings

3. Shadow Lanes; On Sale for Beer Only plus Sunday Openings
4. Scoops Liquor; Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings
5. Harvest Inn, On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings
6. American Legion Sportsbar; On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings

Bills: Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve bills, carried.

Aflac	591.64	Advanced Business Methods	192.35
American Welding & Gas	39.41	Aqua Pure	9,258.64
Avid Hawk	200.00	Bear Creek Flying Service	804.05
Bobcat of Gwinner	19354.00	Chads Electric	142.50
City of Fargo	28.00	Computer Express	516.98
Corner C Store	95.02	Dakota Improvement	6140.94
Dakota Valley Electric	425.00	Darrick Nitschke	932.50
DRN	859.64	Economy Oil	1676.17
Fabian Pest Control	105.00	Hach Company	6152.17
Heritage Ins.	609.00	Information Tech	175.85
Interstate Power Systems	2088.69	Jones & Kelly Attys. At Law	892.74
Napa	113.88	ND One Call	18.00
NDPERS INS	23,192.98	NDPERS-Retirement	9,631.11
ND Rural Water	275.00	ND Sewage Pump Lift station	12565.00
Oakes Area Chamber	4300.00	OEI	13,579.04
Oakes Fire District	175.98	Oakes Times	676.64
Otter Tail Power	8,997.90	Pitney Bowes	313.97
Praska's	583.64	Rod's Cleaning	110.00
Starion Bank	2,407.04	Stryker Sales	260.68
Sweets & Stories	156.39	Tornado Stop	4089.96
Verizon	478.22	Visa Credit Card-City	2735.24
Visa Credit Card-library	637.30	Vistos	520.16
Waste Management	16117.29		
Payroll Taxes	15,509.89	Salaries	68,690.90

Visitors: J Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve tourism fund request from Oakes Chamber for summer concert series, carried. Council discussed uses of the tourism funds and the desire to use funds for more permanent options, not only one time/annual events.

Committee Reports: Kelly and J Hollingsworth we're notified of unauthorized use of a city hydrant to fill a bulk water truck. Raatz will get the information needed to bill the company appropriately. Discussed options to prevent this in the future. Harris expressed thanks for his time on the council and the opportunity to serve the city and its residents. He was able to work with many different people during his time and enjoyed his tenure. Mowing of a property in Burlwood is needed but the house is being sold so will continue to monitor the situation. Day also voiced thanks for his time served on the council and thanked everyone he worked with. He talked about tough projects that the council took on but were able to get through and leave the city better than before. He thanked city employees for all the hard work they do. Hernandez-Waite was thankful for his time on the council and stated that he learned a lot in the process. Chief O'Brien let the council know that Tim Jordan will once again be helping for Irrigation Days and also in the next few weeks when officers are out of town for training or time off. Raatz announced the hiring of Levi Nagel as a full-time employee, he is already working to learn things at the water plant as well as other areas around town. Raatz also presented the information for Jason Grzadzieleski, a certified water operator who is offering to contract with the city to be the licensed water operator in compliance with state requirements. He will also help teach the employees water operation and help with certification testing. Harris moved Kelly second to approve the contract pending a city attorney review, carried.

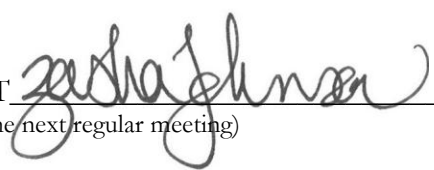
Johnson is seeking quotes for replacement of the air conditioner units in multiple offices and the meeting room at City Hall.

Unfinished Business: NDIRF Sewer coverage endorsement was discussed. D Hollingsworth moved, Day second to obtain the \$10,000/claim coverage, carried, Harris voting nay. Harris moved, Day second to approve the 2nd reading of the Ottertail Power Franchise Agreement, carried. Reviewed the properties that were presented as needing to be cleaned up or have junk items removed. Mayor Sitzler expressed his desire to begin with the removal of junk vehicles. The mayor's list along with properties on West Elm Avenue will be the first addressed, with others to follow. When city hall is informed about individuals blowing grass clippings into the street, a warning letter will be sent from the city first before escalating to a letter from the city attorney.

New Business: After earlier approving the renewal of existing alcohol licenses for the city, the council discussed their idea to limit the number of licenses available in the city. Kelly moved, Harris second to approve resolution for a moratorium on the issuance of any new alcohol licenses for two years while ordinances are updated, carried.

Announcements & Correspondence: Johnson updated the council on the process after the election votes were counted, she will update them as soon as the official count is received. City Attorney Fallon explained he has been in correspondence with attorneys for Great Plains Oil regarding their infrastructure plans including a private sewage disposal system.

Harris moved, Hernandez-Waite second to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM.

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