

CENTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 9th, 2025
Meeting called to order by Mayor John Lee at 7:00 p.m.
Council members present: Troy Hatzenbihler, Eric Casson, Lisa Gusewelle, and RaShell Simenson City Auditor.
Casson moved the motion to approve the agenda with the change of adding the discussion of Cathy Thomas place of residence, Moss and Heinze side walk issue, and storm sewer culvert between Eric Casson and Monte Fischer's place of residents to the public works maintenance report seconded by Gusewelle, all voting aye, motion carried.
Gusewelle moved to approve Tax Equalization meeting minutes and city council meeting minutes seconded by Casson; all voting aye, motion carried.
Treasurer Report
Casson moved to approve the claims on hand, seconded by Hatzenbihler; all voting aye, motion carried.
All Pest Control \$141, Vestis \$562.53, Security First Bank \$1514.11, Marco \$264.10, Oliver County Sheriff \$13,295.25, Kevin Walters. \$51.62, CB Accounting \$4,100, Coca-Cola \$140.00, Rud Oil and Propane \$2,682.41, Titan Machinery \$1,893.55, S&M Lawn Service \$460, Freedom Trucking \$777.60, Auto Value \$434.33, Roto-Rooter \$760.00, Runnings \$120.59, Menards \$517.15, Donoan & Kaffar \$1,677, Mandan Plumbing and Heating \$3,004.52, Recreation Supply Company \$634.06, Cooling and Heating \$630.66, Pyramide USA \$1,620, ND Dept of Health \$27, One Call \$27, Center Republican \$788.62, Dakota Supply Group \$76.37, Sletten Excavating \$6,280.00,
Gusewelle moved to approve check register from May, seconded by Hatzenbihler; all voting aye, motion carried.
Gusewelle moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motion carried.
CB Accounting Report- Sherri Neis discussed she is currently working on back pay for two employees and all bank accounts are reconciled to date. Discussed an option on how a council member can be present to process payroll when the city auditor is out of the office.
Publics Works Maintenance Report – Reuther brought two bids for the repair of the street sweeper, Center Machine Inc. in the amount of \$7,301 and Freedom Trucking in the amount of \$17,972.12. Gusewelle moved the motion to approve the bid from Center Machine Inc. in the amount \$7,301, Seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motion carried.
Reuther discussed there is a water leak in the Civic Centers Boiler, he is going to begin calling to obtain bids for repairs. Council asked to check in with our insurance to see if they would cover anything, and what would it cost change from coal heat to propane heat in the civic center.
Reuther provided a bid from S&M for spraying weeds around the city for the amount of \$1,650. Gusewelle moved the motion to approve the bid from S&M in the amount of \$1,650 for spraying of weeds around the city, seconded by Casson, one voting aye, two voting nae, motion failed.
Council discussed having Reuther revisit and inspect the ditch near Cathy Thomas's residence. The purpose of the inspection is to assess the areas that require mowing and identify any necessary dirt removal.
Reuther discussed that the council needs to relook at the side walk by Moss's and Heinze's side walk that was damaged when water lines were repaired two years ago. Casson moved the motion to get bids to repair the side walk in front of Moss and Heinze's resident, seconded by Gusewelle, all voting aye, motioned carried.
Discussed the storm drain located between the properties of Casson and Monte Fischer was discussed. It was noted that the drain appears to be in need of attention. The city will be responsible for inspecting and cleaning out the storm drain to ensure proper function.
Reuther updated the Council on the week-end water repair and the low water pressure issue earlier in the day. He discovered the South Water Tower was still in use, and removal of a pressure release valve caused the North Tower to stop filling and

the South Tower to flood. Reuther has shut down the South Tower. The council discussed contacting Rural Water and Moore Engineering to check for leaks and assess decommissioning of the South Tower.
Pool Manger Report- Kraft discussed it was brought to her attention during a health inspection the pool would need to purchase new changing tables for the restrooms. Auditor Simenson also mentioned it would be beneficial by purchasing changing tables for the Civic Center. Gusewelle moved the motion to purchase 4 white changing tables for the civic center and 2 white changing tables for the pool, seconded by Hatzenbihler, all voting nae, motion failed.
Casson moved the motion to purchase six black baby changing commercial grade tables upon approval of our insurance, seconded by Gusewelle, all voting aye, motion carried
Kraft informed the Council of a power loss to the main pool pumps at the end of May. The issue was inspected and repaired by Ryan Wrobbel of Empower Electric. Kraft noted that a phase monitor needs to be purchased to prevent similar issues in the future. Empower Electric provided a bid of \$510.50 for this. Kraft received a bid of \$214 from Empower Electric to repair two ballasts and replace two light bulbs. She suggested that, since both bids are under \$1,000, having an emergency repair allowance would be beneficial to address such issues promptly without delay. Gusewelle moved the motion to approve Empower Electric bid for \$214 to replace the ballasts, two light bulbs and labor, seconded by Casson, two voting aye, one voting nae, motion carried.
Kraft informed the Council that the school will be removing asbestos-containing flooring in the pool office between July 14th–18th. Due to health concerns, she recommended closing the pool during that time. She also noted that a locksmith will need to repair the boiler room lock before the removal dates. Gusewelle moved the motion to have the pool closed July 14th-18th, seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motioned approved.
Casson moved the motion to get the boiler room lock fixed, seconded by Gusewelle, all voting aye, motioned carried.
Personal Appearance
Sheriff Hilliard presented the Calls for Service report and informed the Council that two officers will be assigned to cover the Old Settlers event. He noted that it is standard procedure to pay the related invoice promptly. Hilliard also addressed a recent public safety concern: an incident involving an older male driving an older white Cadillac who attempted to lure two minor females into his vehicle. The girls did not enter the vehicle and were able to flee the scene safely.
Sharon Rud appeared for the Center Community Club requesting the renewal of the gaming permit for OC Saloon. Hatzenbihler moved to approve gaming site authorization for Center Community Club to conduct gaming at OC Saloon, seconded by Gusewelle; all voting aye, motion carried.
Chase Schlafman appeared for the decision to cap the lines to the previous water treatment. Auditor Simenson stated that the city can use the Prairie Dog funds for this project. Schlafman inquired about the water line hookup fee for the building once the sewer lines are capped. Casson moved the motion to accept Sletten Excavating bid in the amount of \$24,660 to start Chase Schlafman's capping of the old water treatment plant that the city is responsible for after Old Settlers weekend, seconded by Gusewelle, all voting aye, motion carried.
Janet Erhardt appeared before the council to express her concerns regarding water drainage from the south side of her property, which she fears could lead to erosion of her driveway. The council directed Reuther to first take a water sample to determine if any chemicals are present that might indicate a water leak. Reuther also suggested cutting a notch in the curb to redirect the flow of water. The council agreed to proceed with this solution.
Cheryl Hanggi, of 123 Lincoln Ave N, addressed the council regarding a city sewer backup that occurred in mid-May during heavy rainfall, causing extensive damage to her basement. She noted there will be

significant repair and cleaning costs.
Mark Thompson, of 124 Lincoln Ave N, appeared for Cheryl's support and emphasized that this has happened to his place of residents and has been an ongoing issue, caused by tree roots growing into the sewer lines.
The council advised Cheryl to submit her cleaning and repair bills to the city and to contact her insurance provider. Casson stated he would contact AJ Tuck, the city engineer, to assess the problem and help develop a solution.
Katie Frank appeared to request the council to allow her to teach morning and night Pilate Classes in the Civic Center. Council suggested to have the classes Racquet ball court and get a Fit-4-Life key card, and she could store her equipment in the down stares furnace room Casson motion to approve Katie to rent the Racquet Ball court for the \$5 Fit-4-Life card and to charge \$3.00 for the Racquet ball fee, work with the city auditor for storage, seconded by Hatzenbihler, all voting nae, motioned failed.
Casson moved the motion to allow Katie to rent the Racquet Ball Court for \$3 per person and a \$5 Fit-4-Life Card per month, and to discuss with the RaShell or Keith or Lisa as the Facility Director on any cage, cabinet or anything other than that what she will need for storage, and if she puts anything else in the gym she will need to discuss with the Fit-4-Life people, seconded by Gusewelle, all voting aye, motion carried.
Lacy Yunker appeared to the council requesting to have Wolfie's Old Settlers Beer Gardens for Friday and Saturday. Gusewelle moved the motion to approve Wolfie's Old Settlers Beer Garden for Friday June 13th and Saturday June 14th, seconded by Hatzenbihler, all voting aye, motion carried.
Old Business
Auditor Simenson updated the council on the Council that she had contacted three collection agencies and received a response only from the Credit Bureau of Bismarck. They stated their fee is 30% of the amount collected, increasing to 40% if their attorney is needed. The Council agreed to wait for responses from the remaining two agencies and tabled the discussion until further information is available.
Auditor Simenson reported that she received a call earlier that day from the State Treasurer. The company responsible for the accounting error has resolved the issue, and the City is now required to repay the \$2 million received in January. A second erroneous deposit of \$303,729.89 was also identified and will need to be repaid back in the future as the company fixes their error. Simenson inquired about repayment options, including the possibility of a payment plan. The State Treasurer will provide additional information to assist with the repayment process. Hatzenbihler mentioned to move the amount into the CD that the
New Business
Gusewelle moved the motion to allow RaShell Simenson and Keith Reuther to attend the ND Rural Water Systems 2025 Leadership Retreat, seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motion carried.
Gusewelle arranged a presentation from Text2Gov, a government communications service. The company outlined the services they could provide the city, including emergency notifications, community outreach, and general city notifications via text messaging for an annual cost of \$2,000 to the city. Gusewelle motion to approve the Text2Gov for \$2000 annual cost, seconded by Casson, tow voting nae, one voting aye, motion failed.
2024 Consumer Confidence Water Report is available at the city office, post office, bank, court house, city official website, Facebook, and will be published in the Center Republican.
Next Meeting date: 7 p.m. Monday, July 7th, 2025.
Mayor Lee adjourned meeting at 10:00 p.m.

John Lee, Mayor
RaShell Simenson, City Auditor
(06-19-2025)

From the Front Pages

McLEAN COUNTY Independent

www.nordaknorth.com Established May 19, 1905 McLean County's Official Newspaper

DOUGLAS MAN SUSTAINS FATAL INJURIES IN SIDE-BY-SIDE ACCIDENT

On Thursday at approximately 8:39 a.m. a 2022 John Deere side by side driven by Gorlyn Wohlk, of Douglas, was traveling westbound on 359th Ave SW.

A 2014 Kenworth cement truck attempted to pass the side by side at the same time Wohlk began to make a left turn in front of the cement truck.

The side by side was struck by the cement truck and came to rest in the north ditch.

The cement truck tipped on its side and slid on the roadway blocking both lanes of traffic.

Wohlk sustained fatal injuries as a result of the crash.

Central McLean News-Journal

UNDERWOOD SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Two people who filed for two open seats on the Underwood school board election have been re-elected.

According to unofficial results from Business Manager Jessica Hoffert, Brent Charging and Amanda Haseleu have been re-elected to their board of education seats.

Each candidate received 22 votes during the June 9 election.

Charging will represent the city of Riverdale seat, while Haseleu will represent the rural seat.

Three write-in candidates also received votes.

For the City of Riverdale position, Rob Holm received five write-in votes, while Clay Haraseth received one write-in vote.

For the rural position, Ryan Utley received six write-in votes.



PICKIN' AND GRINNIN'

Under the sprawling cottonwood trees along the Missouri River, mandolins, fiddles and banjos will again echo through Cross Ranch State Park as the Missouri River Bluegrass Festival celebrates its 33rd annual gathering.

The festival has been a cornerstone of North Dakota's music scene for over three decades, fostering community, tradition and a deep appreciation for bluegrass music.

BEULAH BEACON

BEULAH, NORTH DAKOTA, 58523

NEW MINING DEAL TO CREATE MINERALS FACILITY IN BEULAH, POTENTIAL FOR 150 NEW JOBS IN AREA

A newly signed deal between Westmoreland Mining and Talon Metals has created a unique partnership that could result in 150 new jobs in the area within the next few years.

On Wednesday, May 28, Talon Metals, a Toronto Stock Exchange-listed base metals company based in Tamarack, Minn., and Westmoreland Mining, headquartered in Colorado, held a signing ceremony at the Beulah Civic Center, which allowed Talon to secure an approximately 256-acre portion of the former Westmoreland coal mine site in North Dakota, about four miles from the city of Beulah, creating what will be known as the Beulah Minerals Processing Facility.

Center Republican

119TH ANNUAL OLD SETTLERS DAYS HONORS KAUTZMAN, SKAGERS, JOHNSONS AND STAIGLES

The 119th Annual Old Settlers Days event will be held Friday, June 13, through Sunday, June 15 in the community of Center. Each year the event announces Old Settlers honorees, those who are longtime residents who are at least 80 years old during the calendar year, or have an ancestor that was born in Oliver County before 1944.

This year's honorees are Chuck and Jane Staigle, Bobby and Phyllis Skager, Dave and Linda Johnson and Old Settlers Days' longtime committee member Jean Kautzman.

Hazen Star

TIMES OF TROUBLE, TIMES OF TRIUMPH: KRUCKENBERG COMPLETES BIG BEND 'TRILOGY'

Following years of research, source checking and double-checking, intensive writing, editing and production, Larry Kruckenberg's third book on the history of Big Bend Country was released last month.

"Let's All Join Hands" covers the history of Big Bend Country (named for the great southward bend of the Missouri River, where the Garrison Dam now is, and comprising much of Mercer and McLean counties and parts of surrounding areas as well). It documents the troubles faced by German immigrants in the World War I and post-World War I years, as well as the prosperity that arrived in the 1920s prior to and up until the Stock Market Crash of 1929.

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