

LAKOTA CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

February 2nd, 2026

The Lakota City Council held its regular meeting on February 2nd, 2026, at the City Hall. Mayor Bill Solberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All Council Members were present, except Member Vasichек who was absent. Member Fahey attended via speaker phone. City Attorney Jayme Tenneson, City Auditor Amie Vasichек and City Supt. Josh Ulland were in attendance. Dean Helstrom (Bolton and Menk), Kelly Peters and Roger Keating were in the audience.

The council stood and conducted the pledge of allegiance.

Member Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6th, 2025, regular meeting, seconded by Member Haugland. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Solberg recognized Dean Helstrom from Bolton and Menk. Mr. Helstrom stated he was in attendance to observe.

Mayor Solberg recognized Roger Keating. Mr. Keating stated he has a concern with the children playing in the street and he is concerned with the traffic going by.

Mr. Keating stated he would like to thank the city for doing good trash pickup and street maintenance.

Mr. Peters was in attendance to observe.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supt. Ulland stated he has not received new bids for the Valley Gutter project. Member Nelson stated he would reach out the Troy Bullis tomorrow.

Auditor Vasichек provided ideas for naming the sheds of the Market Village. No action taken.

Member Haugland stated the CC committee met earlier today about the CC lease agreement.

Member Haugland stated the school representatives are offering the city 2 options for the lease agreement of the community center and the land lease for the childcare. Member Haugland stated the 1st option is to agree to a 3 year lease for the community center for \$20,000/year; of that take \$10,000 and put into the joint maintenance fund each year with the city matching those funds; and leave the child care land lease at \$1/year for a 3 year term with the school continuing to pay or payoff the street specials – OR – renew the current community center lease agreement of \$27,500/year for a 3 year term; of that take \$13,750 and put the joint maintenance fund each year with the city matching those funds; increase the child care land lease at a rate to be determined.

Member Haugland stated the school representatives stated they are only utilizing the community center 90 days of the year and based on a \$200/day rental they feel the \$20,000/year is an appropriate offer. Auditor Vasichек questioned how the 90 days were calculated as the shared community calendar states more days of use than 90. Mr. Peters stated he provided a ballpark figure of 90 days.

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Mayor Solberg questioned why the previous offer of splitting the expenses of the community center equally with the school was not an option anymore. Mayor Solberg stated he does not agree with the community center and the childcare land lease to be lumped together as they are 2 separate entities.

Member Fahey stated he does not feel the offer is enough as expenses continue to increase for the facility and using the facility for just 90 days isn't in the contract.

Auditor Vasichek reviewed the community center financials with the council of the 2025 shared expenses with the school along with the expenses the city pays fully. Joint Paid Expenses: \$21,256.01 City Paid Expenses: \$37,216.68. Auditor Vasichek indicated taking out the school lease payments, the community center had received \$3,025 in other rent revenue for 2025.

Auditor Vasichek provided a street special assessment summary for the land the city is leasing from the school for the Lakota Child Care Center. The lease agreement provides 70' frontage feet for the LCCC of the Lakota School property totaling 436' frontage feet.

LCCC – 70ft - \$5,258.40
School – 366ft. - \$27,493.92
Total – 436ft. - \$32,752.32

Payments made to date on the street assessment:

LCCC

Principal Paid: \$1,577.52
Interest Paid: \$828.20

School

Principal Paid: \$8,248.20
Interest Paid: \$4,330.29

Combined Total Paid: \$14,984.21

Member Nelson made a motion to approve the proposed 3-year community center lease agreement with the Lakota School for a \$20,000/year lease with the terms specified and to keep the land lease from the Lakota School for the Lakota Child Care Center at \$1/year for a 3-year term, seconded by Member Matejcek. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor except Member Fahey who opposed. Motion carried.

Supt. Ulland stated he has not received updated estimates from Ferguson Waterworks.

No response received from the state regarding the request to reduce speed on Hwy 2. Attorney Tenneson will reach out to see if the request has been reviewed.

Mayor Solberg requested the council to discuss employee wages for 2026. There was discussion on COLA and new hires.

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Member Ferguson made a motion to provide a 3.5% pay increase for all permanent employees who have been employed for over 1 year, seconded by Member Nelson. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

2026 Approved Wages

Josh Ulland - \$84,623.05 annual

Amie Vasichек - \$57,400.83 annual

Willaim Ross - \$25.74/hr.

David Ogren - \$23/hr.

Nancy Skogen - \$21.27/hr.

Hayley Ross - \$18,688.32 annual

NEW BUSINESS

Jayme Tenneson stated he has sent out a proposal for the floodplain ordinance for the council to review with hope that it will be approved at the March meeting.

Auditor Vasichек stated NC Extension Agent Traci Trostad has requested for a plat of land to start a community garden. Auditor Vasichек stated Mrs. Trostad and others will maintain the garden, but we should provide access to water.

Member Ferguson made a motion to allow for a community garden run by the Nelson County Extension Office at the city property at 3rd St East and A Ave East, seconded by Member Matejcek. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Auditor Vasichек stated the ND Department of Commerce is opening a second round for Destination Development Grants since \$4 million in the first round was turned back. Auditor Vasichек requested ideas to apply to the funds.

Member Nelson made a motion to apply to the Destination Development Grants for a RV Park, seconded by Member Ferguson. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Member Nelson stated he would suggest increasing the golf cart storage fee by \$25/cart for 2026. This would make the annual fee for gas carts - \$175 and electrical carts - \$200.

Member Nelson made a motion to make the golf cart storage fee \$175/gas carts and \$200/electric carts for 2026, seconded by Member Matejcek. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Tenneson will research and provide a waiver for all golf cart owners to sign releasing liability from the city.

Member Nelson requested to leave the corporate sponsorship for the golf course the same at \$300.

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Auditor Vasichек stated the Spark Home development is moving forward and the CHDO has received HIF approval to the project. Auditor Vasichек requested approval to have a surveyor crew from Widseth in Grand Forks to split the lot into 2 parcels so they can be sold separately to the CHDO. Auditor Vasichек received an estimate from Widseth for the work not to exceed \$1,700.

Member Fahey made a motion to have Widseth survey Lot 2 of Block 1 of Sundeen's Second Addition and not to exceed \$1,700, seconded by Member Ferguson. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Auditor Vasichек stated The Bins Coffee & Spirits has applied for the 2026 liquor license but will not need to activate it until May 2026.

Member Matejcek made a motion to approve the 2026 Liquor License for the Bins Coffee & Spirits at a prorated rate effective May 1, 2026, seconded by Member Fahey. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Supt. Ulland stated the circulating equipment for the water tower has expired and will need to be replaced. A quote from IXOM watercare is \$9,574 and \$18,429 for the company to deliver and install it. Supt. Ulland stated he can install it so the city can save money by just purchasing the mixer.

Member Nelson made a motion to approve the quote from IXOM for a submersible electric mixer for the water tower of \$9,574, seconded by Member Matejcek. On a roll call vote, all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Supt. Ulland's provided the council with a verbal report.

Supt. Ulland stated well #2 was serviced and they were unable to pull the pump out. Their Wells suggested drilling a new well. Mayor Solberg requested an estimated prior to approval.

ENGINEER REPORT

No report provided.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The monthly sheriff's report was provided to the council for review.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Member Nelson stated the property Nelson Electric is on is currently zoned residential and would like to know the steps to have it zoned commercial. Attorney Tenneson stated he will work on that.

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MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Solberg had nothing to report.

AUDITOR REPORT

Auditor Vasichek' s written report was provided and attached with minutes.

Auditor Vasichek stated she has scheduled a meeting with American Waterworks to review the library basement and provide a quote on February 10th if anyone is able to attend.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Tenneson did not have anything additional to report.

After reviewing the bills and vouchers, a motion was made by Member Nelson to pay all the bills presented for payment and those bills paid prior to the meeting. Member Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion carried, on roll call vote of 5-0.

701 Tax Solutions	\$	10,200.00
ABM Equipment	\$	69.46
Acme Tools	\$	484.99
Advanced Business Methods	\$	261.64
Auto Valve	\$	386.94
BCBS	\$	12,564.07
Computer Express	\$	499.95
Dacotah Paper	\$	250.11
Dept. of Environmental	\$	111.94
EFTPS	\$	1,901.63
EFTPS	\$	1,970.16
Elan	\$	668.00

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Farmers Union Oil	\$ 14,752.05
GF Utility Billing	\$ 169.00
Hawkins	\$ 633.37
Hoffarth, Anthony	\$ 200.00
Interstate Billing	\$ 80.88
Knife River	\$ 628,546.83
Lake Region Pest	\$ 435.00
Lakota American	\$ 74.88
Lakota Auto	\$ 114.38
Lakota Drug	\$ 1,104.23
Lakota Hardware	\$ 911.95
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$ 370.00
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$ 739.15
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$ 9,870.43
Lakota Sanitation	\$ 11,545.31
Mead & Hunt	\$ 143,385.00
MRES	\$ 87,257.26
NDPERS	\$ 3,221.27
NC Sheriff	\$ 3,415.00
NC Treasurer	\$ 20,761.58
Nelson Electrical	\$ 142.29
Nodak	\$ 1,680.35
ND Telephone	\$ 49.64
Polar	\$ 1,524.86
Quill	\$ 231.98
Renewed State	\$ 1,855.64

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Rock Creek Clubhouse	\$	243.57
Sateren, Lorne	\$	700.00
Schuh, Kenneth	\$	300.00
United Laboratories	\$	1,018.45
Verizon	\$	126.57
Vestis	\$	74.82
City Salaries	\$	11,477.23
City Salaries	\$	<u>12,098.24</u>
TOTAL	\$	988,480.10

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd, 2026, at 6:00pm.

Member Fahey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Nelson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

Bill Solberg, Mayor

Amie Vasichek, Auditor