

LAKOTA CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

January 6th, 2026

The Lakota City Council held its regular meeting on January 6, 2026, at the City Hall. Mayor Bill Solberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All Council Members were present, except Members Nelson and Ferguson who were absent. Member Fahey attended via speaker phone. City Attorney Jayme Tenneson, City Auditor Amie Vasichек and City Supt. Josh Ulland were in attendance. No audience members.

The council stood and conducted the pledge of allegiance.

Member Haugland made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1st, 2025, regular meeting, seconded by Member Matejcek. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Member Matejcek made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1st, 2025, special meeting, seconded by Member Vasichек. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No audience present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supt. Ulland had no update on the valley gutter project.

Lakota Market Village naming was tabled to next month.

Auditor Vasichек has not been able to coordinate winter activities at the golf course yet.

Members Haugland and Vasichек reviewed their proposal for the child care land lease agreement as it has expired with the Lakota School District. Their suggestion is to reimburse the school district for special assessments already paid relating to the land leased for the child care and to payoff the remaining balance associated with that land. Member Haugland stated this would make the school whole again as the specials were not a factor when the lease agreement was originally established. Member Vasichек stated this will help negotiations with the School and to continue to keep the child care lease and the community center lease separate. Auditor Vasichек suggested if the specials were to be paid off for the leased land, to offer the term of the lease agreement for the term remaining on the special assessments, which should be 13-14 years.

Member Vasichек stated the school committee will be calculating how many days of use the school has used at the community center annually and provided it during negotiations.

Attorney Tenneson entered the meeting at 6:11pm.

Mayor Solberg stated the school board meeting is on January 14, 2026. Haugland and Vasichек stated the relationship with the school has been going well and they are confident an agreement can be reached soon.

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NEW BUSINESS

Supt. Ulland provided the council with the pricing from Tantalus for AMI meter reading system. Supt. Ulland stated he does not feel it is financially feasible at this time to pursue this system and would suggest continuing with the cloud based system Ferguson Waterworks was converting to. Unfortunately, Ferguson Waterworks has not supplied the city with a price to review. Discussion is tabled until an estimate is presented.

Attorney Tenneson stated he has a letter for the mayor to sign requesting the hwy district to reduce the speed going by Lakota on Hwy 2. The council suggested have Attorney Tenneson also sign the letter.

Auditor Vasichек requested the council to review employee evaluations and wages for 2026, and make recommendations. The 2026 COLA is at 2.8%. Auditor Vasichек provided the council with a spreadsheet showing the financial impact of a 2.8% COLA increase for all permanent employees and the golf course groundskeeper.

Member Vasichек suggested tabling the conversation until all council members are present, as he will continue to abstain from the discussion and vote.

Auditor Vasichек provided an update on the clinic proposal and the Rural Catalyst grant application. Award and denial announcements will be on Friday, February 6th, 2026. If there is remaining funding, another round could open on March 2nd, 2026. Auditor Vasichек will update the council as she receives news.

Auditor Vasichек stated employee Ross has requested a stipend for use of his personal cell phone. Auditor Vasichек stated the council has denied requests in the past due to the city offering a cell phone for all full time employees. Auditor Vasichек questioned if the council wanted to consider this request.

Attorney Tenneson stated if the city paid a stipend for a personal cell phone that phone could be subject to open records requests. The council concluded to not pay a stipend for a personal cell phone as a city one has been offered.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

Supt. Ulland stated he has taken and passed the level 2 water operator test.

ENGINEER REPORT

No report provided.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

COUNCIL REPORTS

Member Matejcek stated he has been asked about the policy for cars on the street during snow removal. Supt. Ulland stated he would reach out to the specific individual to see if they would move the vehicle to their yard instead of on the street.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Solberg stated the individual who recently purchased the old Johnson Store has had a change in employment and is interested in selling this property to the city for what he paid - \$25,000. Mayor Solberg stated he told the individual he would bring it to the council. Member Vasichек stated he does not see the city getting involved in the building across the street. No action taken.

AUDITOR REPORT

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

Auditor Vasichек stated she received notification that the tree removal and planting grant for the city park has been awarded for \$25,000, making it a summer project. Auditor Vasichек stated the plan is to remove approximately 19 ash trees from one section of the park and plant 25 trees of various varieties in their place.

Auditor Vasichек stated she has received the approval notice from HIF to build a twin home in Lakota via CHDO. This project is anticipated to start this summer.

Auditor Vasichек stated she had a call with Claire Vigessa regarding the 2nd round of TA funding and is hopeful to hear news mid-January.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Tenneson didn't have anything additional to report.

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After reviewing the bills and vouchers, a motion was made by Member Haugland to pay all the bills presented for payment and those bills paid prior to the meeting. Member Matejcek seconded the motion. Motion carried, on roll call vote of 4-0.

Acme Tools	\$	76.95
Advanced Business Methods	\$	261.64
BCBS	\$	8,051.92
Bolton & Menk	\$	5,459.00
Computer Express	\$	600.00
City of Lakota	\$	100.00
Dept. of Environmental	\$	493.81
Display Sales Company	\$	7,737.00
EFTPS	\$	2,015.70
EFTPS	\$	2,294.61
Elan	\$	2,111.50
Farmers Union Oil	\$	39,518.56
GF Utility Billing	\$	144.00
Hawkins	\$	593.20
Interstate Power	\$	2,071.55
Lakota American	\$	434.90
Lakota Auto	\$	381.23
Lakota Farm Service	\$	16,443.02
Lakota Hardware	\$	521.86
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$	370.00
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$	700.95
Lakota Municipal Utilities	\$	8,061.43
Lakota Sanitation	\$	11,683.51

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Menards	\$	626.88
MARC	\$	6,457.89
Miller Repair	\$	1,278.49
MRES	\$	60,299.30
MMUA	\$	1,211.25
Nationwide	\$	290.00
NDPERS	\$	6,153.52
NC Sheriff	\$	3,415.00
Neonlink	\$	90.80
Nodak	\$	646.51
ND One Call	\$	15.00
ND Telephone	\$	49.71
North-Holt Electric	\$	64,621.89
Office of State Tax	\$	22.37
Polar	\$	2,918.66
Powerplan	\$	1,750.00
Quill	\$	130.48
Renewed State	\$	1,400.00
Rysavy, Terry	\$	1,250.00
The Bins	\$	2,500.00
United Laboratories	\$	316.85
Vasichek, Amie	\$	119.96
Verizon	\$	126.57
Vestis	\$	74.82
Witzel	\$	5,810.00
City Salaries	\$	12,035.42

