

## CENTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 8th, 2025  
Meeting called to order by Mayor John Lee at 6:00 p.m.  
Council members present: Troy Hatzenbihler, Lisa Gusewelle, Eric Casson, Jennifer Gooss City Attorney and RaShell Simenson City Auditor.  
Gusewelle moved the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Casson; all voting aye, motion carried  
Gusewelle moved to approve previous meeting minutes seconded by Casson; all voting aye, motion carried.  
Treasurer Report  
Casson moved to approve the claims on hand, seconded by Gusewelle; all voting aye, motion carried.  
Dakota Supply Group \$60,710.67, Moore Engineering \$24,000,BND \$135,678.38 Sletten Excavating \$21,215.00, Titan Machinery \$669.85, Menards \$353.74, Dave’s Sales and Service \$44.50, Rud Oil and Gas \$1,671.70, D&E \$779.28, NDDOH Microbiology \$1,135.00, One Call Concepts \$12.85, All Pest \$141.00, Center Republican \$1,053.75, Vestis \$411.63, Security First Bank \$1,514.11, Oliver County Sheriffs \$13,295.25, Oliver County Auditor \$35,000 CB Accounting \$4,100, Marco \$264.10, Donovan & Kaffar \$3,423.60, Recreation Supply Company \$4,495.42, Hawkins Inc \$914.05, Oliver County Fair board \$200, A2Z Plumbing \$135, Robert Gibb & Sons INC \$1,060.29, Warrens Lock \$1,297, Weisz & Son INC \$700, Sensaphone \$299.40, Recreation Supply Company \$4,795.42, Quality Asphalt Repair INC \$14,208, Hach Company \$76.80, Roto Rooter \$1,610, Center Machine Shop \$8,499.63.  
Gusewelle moved to approve check register from August, seconded by Casson; all voting aye, motion carried.  
Gusewelle moved to approve the financial report for August, seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motion carried.  
CB Accounting Report- Sherri Neis reported that the 2026 Budget is complete and will be ready for review at the September 15th Budget meeting. The council also discussed the upcoming renewal of the CB Accounting contract, noting the need to clarify responsibilities and address a few concerns at the October meeting.  
Publics Works Maintenance Report – Reuther reported that he has been in contact with Trans Trash regarding a new idea to the city’s recycling. Rather than continuing to use the old recycling trailer, which fills up quickly, he proposed renting two 8-yard bins at a cost of \$150 per month. Hatzenbihler moved the motion to try the new dumpsters, seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motion carried. Reuther mentioned to the public, when disposing of recycling, it cannot be in any bags, it has to be loose.  
Reuther brought up the ongoing drainage issue with Janet Erhardt’s property again, that has already caused damaged to her driveway. The council discussed she should contact the company Sletten Excavating to look at the situation, city will also contact AJ Tuck from Moore Engineering to see what options there are to redirect the drainage.

Reuther updated the council that both CC Steel for relining the sewer on Lincoln Ave and Northern Plains for the new boiler are expected to be in the city the end of September but no dates have been provided. Reuther also mentioned during the water meter installations, there were a couple of water curb stop shut off valves that were not working. He explained after the water meter project is completed he will begin working on them.  
Pool Manager Report- Gusewelle presented the pool manager report, the pool passed its September Health Inspection with some updates. The pool will be closed September 11th and 16th for due to sports but the rest of September will be open at regular hours. Going into October the ours will remain 4pm-7pm Monday through Friday and 12:30pm to 5:30 pm Saturday and Sunday. This information is on the Pools Facebook page.  
Old Business  
Moore Engineering update- Auditor Simenson provided an update on the water storage improvements and downtown utility replacement. Moore Engineering is continuing work on the water model, preliminary engineering report, and asset inventory, with a full report expected at the October meeting. Council approval was requested for Invoice SIN004349. KLM Engineering has completed an inspection of the main water tower, and their report is also expected in October. Hatzenbihler moved the motion to approve Moore Engineering invoice SIN004349 in the amount \$16,000, seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motion carried.  
City Attorney Jennifer Gooss provided a memorandum pertaining to the street vacating for the Casson and Fischer properties, which includes a utility easement for the city. Both property owners will need to submit a letter to the city requesting the vacating.  
Gusewelle provided three bids, Carpet World Bismarck \$20,308.70, Imperial Flooring \$18,949.82 and Olson’s Carpet in the amount of \$14,515.50 for the remodeling of the bathroom and hallway to lobby floors. Hatzenbihler moved the motion to accepts Olson’s Carpet and Furniture for the total project of the kitchen, bathroom and hallway area, seconded by Casson, two voting aye, one abstained, motion carried. Gusewelle had no updates for the remodel of the big hall front doors, but she is currently researching companies that could help.  
Gusewelle moved the motion to pay the school for the half the Pool Office floor bill from Olson’s Carpet and Furniture in the amount of \$9,677.55, seconded by Casson, all voting aye, motion carried.  
Auditor Simenson reported that HydroCorp will return to the city September 15–17 to complete remaining water meter installations. Residents who still need installation must contact HydroCorp to reschedule by September 12. Failure to do so will result in water shut-off and a \$100 fee to restore service after the meter is installed. The council also discussed training a member on the

new water meter system as a backup.  
New Business  
Council discussed to create and put in place a Public Comment Policy.  
Casson addressed the council on concerning street topics.  
• Casson addressed concerns of the over growth of grass on residents’ properties and should be contacted to be mowed. Auditor Simenson requested to provide the addresses to her and letters will be mailed out.  
• Casson addressed the drainage of water to south side of the court house that it is causing damaged to a resident’s driveway, if there is a possibility the city could put in another drain to redirect the water to please try to.  
• Cason addressed that there is an issue with the sidewalk to the south of the court house and it should be looked at and who is responsible.  
• Casson addressed all the rundown buildings around town and asked if there is anything the city can do about them. Discussion led to since the property taxes are being paid and are up to date, the city cannot take any action, however these properties are being monitored.  
Hatzenbihler presented a bid from Silverhawk Construction in the amount of \$4,600 for repairing sidewalk damage in front of the Heinze and Moss properties. Gusewelle moved the motion to approve Silverhawk Construction bid for \$4,600 contingent this offer is still willing to give us seconded by Hatzenbihler, two voting aye, one voting nae, motion carried.  
Auditor Simenson addressed the council that the Golf Course Seasonal Worker, Hudson Casson, request to be retro paid for his last week of work to \$18 per hour. Discussion led to, to have Hudson come talk to the council.  
Fire Department is requesting to partially close Main St on October 8th from 3pm to 8pm for a meal. Gusewelle moved the motion to approve the partial closer of Main St. on October 8th between 3pm-8pm as long as it does not interfere with other businesses, seconded by Hatzenbihler, all voting aye, motion carried.  
Portfolios  
Gusewelle addressed the council there will be a Bike Night for children September 12th at 5pm at the Civic Center parking lot.  
• Gusewelle updated the council that the Kids Business Fair that was on September 6th, was a success. She received multiple positive remarks and all the young entrepreneurs benefited from this event. A spring Kids Business Fair is in the works.  
Hatzenbihler updated the council that the Lewis and Clark statues have been removed from Bismarck and are now in the city’s possession. A decision still needs to be made regarding their placement.  
Next Meeting date: 6 p.m. Monday, October 6th, 2025.  
Mayor Lee adjourned meeting at 8:12 p.m.

John Lee, Mayor  
RaShell Simenson, City Auditor  
  
(09-18-2025)

## Free flu shots for military veterans in Bismarck

COMPILED BY RYAN SCHLEHUBER  
CENTER REPUBLICAN EDITOR

Military veterans will be offered three dates for free flu shots at the Bismarck Veterans Affairs Clinic.  
Fargo VA Health Care System is offering open times to veterans enrolled in VA health care:  
• Sept. 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., via drive-through  
• Oct. 10, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., via walk-in  
• Oct. 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., via walk-in  
Call 701-239-3700, extension 3428 for information about eligibility and how to enroll in VA health care, or call 701-221-9152 for more information.

## Dickinson State University opens new cadaver lab in Murphy Science Building

BY KIERRA MATHERN  
DSU INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dickinson State University has recently announced the opening of a new cadaver laboratory in its Murphy Science building, a significant advancement in hands-on education for students in science and health-related fields. The lab features two human cadavers – one male and one female – and includes resources for dissection and detailed anatomical study.  
This hands-on facility will serve students across multiple disciplines, including nursing, exercise science, and pre-medicine, providing real-world, experiential learning opportunities in human anatomy and physiology.  
In addition to student use, the lab will also support local emergency response professionals. The Dickinson Fire Department has partnered with the university to conduct emergency medical services training in DSU’s academic spaces, and this lab will allow training with a special focus on airway management that wasn’t quite possible before.

“Access to this kind of facility enhances the realism and rigor of our EMS training,” Dickinson Fire Chief Jeremy Presnell said. “Practicing airway techniques on human anatomy gives our responders a level of preparation that mannequins simply can’t replicate. This partnership with DSU directly improves community safety.”  
The cadaver lab is part of a broader vision to elevate science education at DSU and attract students interested in careers in healthcare and science. By integrating advanced anatomical education into the curriculum, DSU is ensuring students gain a deeper understanding of the human body, better preparing them for graduate school and professional programs.  
“This facility is a game-changer for student learning and success,” said Dr. Holly Gruhlke, Vice President of Academic Affairs. “Our

students will enter their careers or medical programs with a depth of understanding that is usually only accessible at large research institutions. It sets DSU apart as a place where students can pursue science in a hands-on, meaningful way.”  
The project was spearheaded by Dr. Liz Freedman, dean of the School of Applied Sciences, whose vision and leadership helped bring the cadaver lab from concept to reality with the full support of DSU’s Academic Affairs division. The lab is made possible by a partnership with University of North Dakota’s Deeded Body Program through their School of Medicine and Health Sciences, as well as the North Dakota Economic Diversification Research Grant.  
“This is a defining moment for our science programs,” Dr. Freedman said. “Our faculty are excited to teach in the lab, and our students are already eager to learn in it. This facility affirms our commitment to academic excellence and gives us the tools to recruit and retain top-tier students with career goals in medicine, allied health, and scientific research. We are grateful to the generous donors to the Deeded Body Program for providing this incredible learning opportunity to the next generation of healthcare workers.”  
The cadaver lab not only strengthens DSU’s academic offerings, but also reinforces the university’s connection to the region’s workforce needs, aligning curriculum with the demands of healthcare, emergency services, and biomedical fields.  
Earlier this year, DSU unveiled its Virtual Cadaver Lab with a state-of-the-art Anatomage imaging table. Now, with the addition of the traditional Cadaver Lab, DSU is the only institution in North Dakota to offer its students both virtual and traditional hands-on medical cadaver training.

## CENTER CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

09.15.25  
Meeting called to order by Mayor Lee at 6:05 p.m.  
Council members present: Troy Hatzenbihler, Eric Casson, Lisa Gusewelle, and Auditor Simenson  
CB Accounting: Sheri Niese, Tray Brownlee

on phone  
Discussion on the 2026 preliminary/final budget that the City Auditor presented. Casson moved to approve the 2026 Preliminary/Final Budget pending the changes that was discussed for the city, 2nd by Hatzenbihler; all voting aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Lee at 8:31 pm.  
  
John Lee, Mayor  
RaShell Simenson, Auditor  
  
(09-18-2025)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Oliver County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 25th at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Oliver County Courthouse, 115 W Main St, Center, North Dakota, to consider an

amendment to the Oliver County Planning & Zoning Ordinances. The amendment is to 18. Enforcement, 2. Remedies and 3. Penalties. To see the proposed amendment, a copy can be obtained at the Oliver County Auditor’s office at the Oliver County

Courthouse. The public may comment by attending the meeting or in writing to the Oliver County Planning & Zoning Board, PO Box 188, Center, ND 58530.  
  
(09-18-2025)

STAY INFORMED.  
READ YOUR PUBLIC NOTICES.