

Bakken Briefs

Ray proposes splash pad

Construction of a splash pad in Ray could begin as soon as this summer if funds are secured, according to city leaders.

City park board members Brent Bingeman and Michael Borneman attended the June 9 city commission meeting to brief the commissioners.

Bingeman said the idea comes after discussions with a number of people in the community regarding additional amenities for the city.

To that end, Bingeman said the park board has been in discussions with a Minnesota-based contractor since the beginning of the year.

The price tag for such a project, according to Bingeman, exceeds \$400,000. Bingeman told commissioners the park board can commit \$200,000 toward construction and intends to seek a number of grants to cover additional costs.

--The Journal, Crosby

Columbus fire hall expands

The Columbus Volunteer Fire Department recently completed the move into a brand-new addition to its building.

The 40-by-60-foot addition to the existing fire hall now houses the pumper truck, the tanker truck and an enclosed trailer.

Chief Michael Powell said the original building is now going to provide much-needed space for training. Powell estimated that the department has about 35 volunteers.

Powell said it took many generous donations and grants and a loan to fund the project.

Rob Wittman Construction from Kenmare constructed the building and the 10-foot breezeway that attaches it to the original structure.

"The project started last year, and we were able to move in this spring," Powell said.

--Burke County Tribune, Bowbells

Kenmare project bids are in

The Kenmare City Council awarded a \$1.08 million contract to the low bidder for a water main replacement project.

Of the six submissions received for the project, the lowest bid was from Basaraba Excavating and Dirt Works, based out of Wilton.

Basaraba's bid to replace the water main in a southeast section of town was about \$300,000 below the engineer's estimate of \$1.38 million.

The council unanimously approved Moore Engineering's recommendation to award the contract to Basaraba, contingent on approvals from the state Department of Water Resources and Department of Environmental Quality.

Funding for this project will come from an American Rescue Plan grant, a Water Resources grant and a State Revolving Fund loan.

--Kenmare News

Williston chief hired internally

The Williston City Commission recently appointed law enforcement veteran Steven Gutknecht as the

new chief of police.

The position was vacated after the previous police chief, David Peterson accepted an early retirement incentive from the city.

Gutknecht was most recently a captain with the Williston Police Department, in charge of the investigations division. Prior to coming to the WPD, he was with the state Bureau of Criminal Investigation as a supervisory special agent.

Now, in his new role, Gutknecht hopes to get his feet underneath him and get going.

"I know that my role here at the PD is to provide the best work atmosphere and provide for my people so that they can do their job to the best of their ability," Gutknecht said.

--Williston Herald

Surrey sales tax hike passes

Unofficial election results show Surrey voters have approved an additional 1% city sales tax by a 55-18 tally in an election June 10.

The change would raise Surrey's city sales tax to 3%. The current 2% tax generates roughly \$150,000 a year for infrastructure improvements.

The amount generated from an additional 1% tax would be dedicated to reducing the loan term on a sewer relining project, according to the city.

The city has also received a \$1.9 million Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan and \$242,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan toward a water and sewer project.

The increase would raise Surrey's total sales tax to 8.5%, which includes the 5% state tax and half-percent Ward County tax. Tioga is the only other North Dakota city with an 8.5% sales tax.

--Minot Daily News

Beulah picks new engineers

Moore Engineering is the city of Beulah's new engineering firm and will also oversee the city's Phase II infrastructure project, while AE2S will oversee the water plant and lagoons.

The city council on June 2 approved the hiring of both firms, ending a relationship with Interstate Engineering that began in 1977.

City employees who reviewed the proposals received from four engineering firms wrote a letter to Mayor Sean Cheatley and the council recommending Moore and AE2S.

Ward 1 council member Cameron Brown said he spoke with city staff about their recommendations and was satisfied with their answers.

Ward 2 member Adam Baker agreed, stating he spoke with other entities that use Moore Engineering and he said "there were no issues."

--Beulah Beacon



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City Council Meets:

Council Looks At Liquor License Wording Changes

By Mary Kilen

Stanley City Council met in special session on Wednesday, June 18 to address several items that were tabled at their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10.

Liquor License Renewals

City Auditor Ada Arneson had worked with the applicants whose original liquor license applications were incomplete and tabled at the June 10 meeting. Those applications were now all complete and the council moved to approve the liquor licenses for Stanley Sunrise Hotel, on sale/hotel; Cashwise, off sale; Servmore/Safari Fuels, off sale; Prairie Rose Golf Club, on/off sale and Sundays; Rustic Bean, on sale/food; and Fridah LLC, on sale/food and Sundays.

Special Council Meetings For Liquor Licenses

The council discussed the occasional need for special meetings to approve a special event liquor license. With the liquor license holder responsible for any issues and the ability to hire their own security, they felt they may be able to change how those event licenses are approved. City Attorney Ryan Sandberg said the current application process falls under city ordinances. The attorneys have drafted an ordinance that would allow the application to be submitted to the city auditor with the Chief of Police giving approval. If the chief were to deny the application they could then appeal to the council.

Sandberg said they also looked at the liquor license renewals for the concerns over wording and clarity. They have also drafted changes to that as well as clarifying other requirements set forth by the city.

They will submit that revised application and ordinance for action at the next council meeting.

Fireworks Resolution

The council rescinded the motion made at the regular meeting and approved a new resolution that would set fireworks times to end at 10:00 p.m. with the exception of Friday, July 4 and Saturday, July 5. Those two days would allow fireworks until midnight. They also approved the resolution to allow the sale and discharge of fireworks from June 27 through July 5, dependent on state fire conditions.

Music On Main

Councilman George Littlecreek reported they will still be able to use the new system for the July 4 event. He is working on a plan to move the controls to city hall. He will provide costs and plans for a future council meeting.

Funding For Projects

Joan Hollekim provided the council with information regarding interfund loaning to cover infrastructure projects. Using this method, the city could fund the project and then assess costs and collect the interest on those assessments.

There is still more information that needs to be collected including information on the city's debt limit and interest rates allowable by statute. City Attorney Sandberg also

discussed the percentage that can be absorbed by the city when special assessing a project. He believes there are exceptions the city can use when it comes to the current capital improvement projects.

More information on all of these items will be provided for the council for their next regular meeting.

The council moved to set the term for special assessments for the Country Estates project at 20 years.

The council also discussed the possibility of applying for SRF funding for the phase three capital improvement project. That will also be addressed at the regular meeting in July.

Outdoor Cameras

Chief of Police Kevin Litten reported that after a recent incident, they found that two of the outside security cameras at City Hall are not working. These cameras are also out of warranty. The council approved the quote from The Computer Store in the amount of \$2003.00 to replace them. These new cameras will have a five year warranty.

NDIRF Insurance Coverage

The council discussed the current insurance coverage through NDIRF. They authorized the audi-

PSC Schedules Public Hearing For Proposed Pipeline Projects In McKenzie County

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 3, regarding an application for siting permits for two pipeline projects in McKenzie County.

Hiland Crude, LLC, is requesting siting permits for two projects in McKenzie County. The first proposed project is for an 8-inch steel crude oil pipeline, approximately 3.4 miles long. The Gullickson Re-route Pipeline Project will connect two existing crude oil transportation pipelines as part of Hiland Crude's Market Center System. Maximum throughput is approximately 80,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The estimated cost of the project is \$9.5 million.

The second proposed project is a 10-inch steel natural gas liquid (NGL) pipeline, approximately 28.1 miles long. The Hiland Express Spine Pipeline Project will provide take-away capacity for Y-grade NGLs (a mixture of ethane, propane, butanes, iso-butane mix, pentanes, and natural gasoline) produced at the Hiland Roosevelt Gas Processing Plant to the Camp Creek Injection Station, where products will enter an existing NGL pipeline system. Construction of the project would provide transportation of up to 80,000 barrels of NGLs per day. The estimated cost of the project is \$37.2 million.

Details for the public hearing are as follows:

Thursday, July 3, 2025, 8 a.m. Central

Teddy's Residential Suites
113 9th Avenue Southeast
Watford City, ND 58854

tor to change the coverage to replacement costs instead of actual cost value to any city properties and covered items that qualify for the change.

Deputy Auditor Salary

With the deputy auditor position advertised and interviews slated to begin next week, the council moved to set the salary range from \$58,000 to the current salary of \$69,222, based on experience and qualifications. A final salary would be approved by the council.

Attorney Updates

Attorney Sandberg presented the council with a draft promissory note for the EDC loan/grant to Lostwood Media. At the last meeting, the council had discussed the need for a new promissory note for the EDC loans and grants to provide more protection for the city in the event of default. It will also provide clarity and information for the person or entity receiving the funding. Sandberg also noted that this is a unique form that could be adapted for any circumstance. The council moved to adopt this agreement with Lostwood Media and set the forgiveness date for June 19 of each year.

PSC Schedules Public Hearing For Proposed Pipeline Projects In McKenzie County

The hearing provides an opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the PSC's official record. Any comments from members of the public must be received at a hearing to be part of the record. People with concerns, questions or support/opposition for the project are encouraged to attend the hearing and present their information. Information received after the hearing will not be part of the official record and cannot be used as a basis for the Commission's decision unless certain additional procedures are followed.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

Card of Thanks

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry would like to thank the Five Spot Bar for choosing our pantry as a recipient for some of their gaming funds! We surely appreciate the help! And thank you to the patrons who support these games.

God bless you all,
Mary Dennis, Director

Letter To The Editor

Governor Armstrong Won This Battle, It's Up To Us To Win The War

On June 14, Governor Armstrong was censured by the leaders of the ND Republican Party for vetoing Senate Bill 2307, the recent book ban bill that was defeated due to the Governor's veto. This censure means bills like SB 2307 will come back and work at Right to Read ND must continue in earnest.

The wildest part of the resolution is that it doesn't even mention books or libraries. The resolution says the focus of the bill was to "safeguard children from dangerous, irreversible medical interventions and harmful ideologies that threaten their health, identity, and development."

This is not how North Dakotans saw the bill; they overwhelmingly saw it as lawmakers taking away their freedom to access information at their libraries. Hundreds of North Dakotans submitted testimony opposing the bill; over 1,000 showed up in person on a cold day in March to read outside their local libraries in opposition to the bill; and over 2,200 people took our action alert urging the Governor to veto the bill.

And we are so thankful he did. By vetoing this bill, Governor Armstrong protected our First Amendment rights, curtailed attacks on our librarians, supported limited government, and affirmed that North Dakotans can parent their own kids at the library. Thank you, Governor Armstrong.

We know the fight will continue. This vote shows that a majority of those in the ND Republican Party's leadership want to revisit this issue in the 2027 Legislative Session, no matter how unpopular it is with North Dakotans. We will be ready for that fight when it comes. Join us at righttoreadnd.org/join-us.

Mariah Ralston and Randi Monley,

Right to Read Co-Chairs

Right to Read ND is a non-partisan group of North Dakotans who have come together in response to the growing movement to limit access to books and materials in our libraries and school. Learn more at righttoreadnd.org.

Memorials Received By Mountrail Bethel Home

In memory of Robert and Joan Fladeland from Mary Aal.

In memory of Denise Sundean from Darlene Ellis.

Donations received from City of Palermo, City of Ross, and Kenmare Veterans Club gaming funds for Rosen Place; also from Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Powers Lake, and Faith Lutheran Church of Palermo.

Memorials and donations are always appreciated and may be mailed to Mountrail Bethel Home at P.O. Box 700, Stanley, ND 58784.

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PROPERTY FOR SALE ON SEALED BIDS

In accordance with the North Dakota Century Code §40-11-04.1, the City of Ross, North Dakota (Seller) will receive sealed bids delivered to Ross City Hall on the following described real estate situated in Mountrail County, North Dakota:

Lot 2 of Block 001 of Ross Subdivision

1. The property will be sold by sealed bids to the highest bidder. Any questions of a legal nature should be discussed with an attorney. The Seller DOES NOT WARRANT TITLE.

2. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "REAL PROPERTY-SHOP BID-CITY OF ROSS" and received by one of the following methods:

a. Physical Delivery: Delivered to the City of Ross's Drop Box inside the Ross Post Office, 203 Main Street, Ross, ND 58776 no later than 5:00 PM on July 23, 2025.

b. Mail Delivery: Mailed to City of Ross, PO Box 4, Ross, ND 58776, with the following requirements:

i. Must be physically received by the City of Ross no later than 5:00 PM on July 23, 2025.

3. Late bids will not be accepted.

3. All bids must include:

a. Bidder's full name, address, telephone number, and email address

b. Bid amount in US Dollars

c. If bidding as a business entity, proof of authority to submit bid

d. Disclosure of the following relationships:

i. If they currently serve as Mayor or City Council Member of Ross (collectively "City of Ross Governing Board")

ii. If they are a family member or relative of any current City of Ross Governing Board member

iii. If they are employed by the City of Ross

iv. If the bidder is a business entity (corporation, LLC, partnership, or other organization), it must disclose if any owner, officer, director, or principal has any of the relationships described above with the City of Ross Governing Board or their family members/relatives.

e. Bidder's signature and date

4. The descriptions provided are based on the Official Records of the Mountrail County Recorder's Office and are presumed to be correct.

5. The minimum bid shall be \$300,000.00

6. Bid packets can be obtained via email laceyjemtrud@gmail.com or by contacting the City of Ross (701) 755-3262.

7. To inspect the property, prospective bidders must contact the City of Ross (701) 755-3265 to set up an appointment.

8. The City Auditor, accompanied by another City Council member, will open sealed bids on July 23, 2025, at 5 p.m. at Ross City Hall. The City Auditor will then present these bids at the next scheduled City Council meeting, currently set for July 23, 2025 at 5:30 P.M., where the Council will vote on whether to accept the highest bid.

9. The successful bidder must make payment in full by certified cashier's check or wire transfer within ten (10) business days of notification of award. Warranty Deed will not be signed and delivered by the City of Ross until payment is made.

10. The Seller expressly reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason. The sale will be awarded to the highest responsible bidder, provided the bid meets or exceeds the minimum bid amount, subject to the City's right to reject any and all bids.

For further information and terms, please contact Lacey Jemtrud, City Auditor, at laceyjemtrud@gmail.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-CONDITIONAL USE

Take notice that The Triple T, Inc (Fred Evans) has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a parochial school in an C3 Corridor-Highway Commercial District.

The property is located at 6161 Highway 8, Stanley N.D.

The public is hereby notified that the Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission will hear comments on **Monday, July 7, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at 221 S. Main, Stanley, North Dakota.** The Stanley City Council will then hear comments on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 221 S. Main, Stanley, North Dakota.**

All persons who would object to the conditional use permit should be present at the meetings or submit any objection in writing before the date of the meetings to Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator, PO Box 249 Stanley, ND 58784.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – REZONE REQUEST

Take notice that the Dittbrenner Woodworking LLC has made a request to the Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission to change the use of the property from 14 Oil Field Industrial District to C3 Highway Corridor Commercial District.

The property is described as: Nelson Business District Block 2: Lots 2,3 & 4, approximately 9.5 acres

The public is hereby notified that the Stanley Planning and Zoning Commission will hear comments on the proposed zoning change on **Monday, July 7, 2025, at 5:40 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.** The Stanley City Council will then hear comments on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.**

All persons who would object to the proposed zoning change should be present at the meetings or submit any objections in writing before the date of the meetings to Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator, PO Box 249 Stanley, ND 58784.

Amanda Dennis, Stanley Planning & Zoning Administrator