

STATEWIDES

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

are "real" and correct. Mayor Thomsen presented the Quick Books reports showing what Auditor Volochenko has compiled to date. The financials were only presented as a temporary update and that they are not a final presentation. Auditor Volochenko said that the 2025 accounting is almost complete and that January reports will be accurate, therefore no vote was taken.

Mayor Thomsen presented the bills that need to be paid. Council Member Lorenz made a motion to approve the bills as presented, Council member Volochenko seconded, roll call vote results: Council member Gardiner aye, Council Member Volochenko aye, Council Member Lorenz aye, M/C.

Mayor Thomsen presented the water usage & various account reports. There was some discussion about the unread meters. Tim from McLean Sheridan Rural Water had met with Auditor Volochenko and checked some of the meters. One needed to be activated, one showed an error and so was reset. Another was in a poor location in the basement.

Park Report: Council Member Lorenz presented the report and discussed the installation of the park Christmas lights and that it went very well.

New Community Center Project Report: Council Member Zinke wasn't present therefore no report was presented, however Mayor Thomsen presented a copy of the recorded deed for the property and the Ottartail Power easement map and contract to the board for review. Was also some discussion about the cost estimates for the new building.

Old Business:

Mayor Thomsen mentioned that the reimbursement funds were transferred out on 11/25/2025 from the New MCC Building Savings Acct. # 8304 to the General Bank Account #0709 for survey costs paid Ck# 021390 on 05/15/2025 to Moore Engineering, Inc.

Mayor Thomsen presented a membership confirmation letter from the League of Cities. Discussion included the benefits of membership.

New Business:

Mayor Thomsen presented the recently updated 2025 Emergency Response Plan (ERP) booklet. Auditor Volochenko said that Mary Jameson of the Midwest Assistance Program came and updated the Mercer ERP that will be good for five years.

Mayor Thomsen said that CD #5645 was renewed on December the 1st at a rate of 3.66%APY Mayor Thomsen presented the NDIFR Blanket Bond was renewed for another two years. There is no extra charge or premium increase.

Auditor Volochenko said that the Gov Card monthly charge is \$19.95 x 12 = \$240.00 per year and that there are currently 7 different accounts that use this payment option.

Mayor Thomsen talked about the Bravera Online Bill pay option that charges \$5.00 for the first 20 remote

FARMLAND FOR SALE
Elms Twp. Bottineau County
Deadline February 12, 2pm
Submit bids to waindslake@live.com Call Tom at 701-871-0310

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Mercer City Regular Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be held at the Mercer City Hall on February the 12th at 7:00 pm CST.

(Jan. 15 & 22, 2026)

New Mercer Community Center Project

Informational & Public Input Meeting Notice

This meeting is scheduled for January 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Mercer City Hall.

The "New Mercer Community Center Committee" will be presenting details about the new Mercer community center project, all public input is welcome!

(Jan. 15 & 22, 2026)

Mercer City December Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2025

Mercer City Hall at 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomsen at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Council Members Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, Dan Gardiner, Auditor: Kathrin Volochenko

Absent: Council Member Randy Zinke

Mayor Thomsen read the minutes from the November 13th 2025 regular meeting.

After a few corrections, Council Member Lorenz made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections, Council Member Volochenko seconded, Ayes all, M/C

Mayor Thomsen read the minutes for the September 11th 2025 regular meeting.

Council Member Gardiner moved to accept, Council Member Lorenz seconded, ayes all, M/C.

Mayor Thomsen presented the completed annual 2026 Water & Sewer Budget as stipulated by the USDA & Rural Development as part of the loan agreement. No approval vote was required.

Mayor Thomsen presented the year to date city financials. Kathrin noted that the Quicken report that's showing the account balances that those numbers

bank checks or ACH payments generated per month, then .50 for each payment thereafter. This charge applies to all business checking accounts regardless of any other subscribed features.

Mayor Thomsen presented the 2026 election packet specifically for cities. Mayor Thomsen mentioned that the Mayoral position needs to be adjusted to coincide with the presidential election cycle. Auditor Volochenko said the county auditor is aware that it needs to be adjusted.

Council Member Lorenz mentioned that there is an auditor bond that the city may have to get that is specifically for the auditor. Auditor Volochenko will check into it.

Auditor Volochenko presented the recorded document showing that the city no longer holds a groundwater permit.

Public Comment: No guests were present; therefore there was no public comment.

Mayor Thomsen asked for a motion to adjourn, Council Member Volochenko made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Lorenz seconded, ayes all, M/C.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm CST.

(Jan. 15, 2026)

Riverdale City December Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2025

The regular Riverdale City Council meeting of December 8, 2025 was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Taylor.

Present: Alex Taylor, Ken Skuza, Toni Ganje, Mike Dirk, Jerry Orth and Auditor Del Kolke

Dirk moved to approve the consent agenda. Ganje seconded. Motion carried.

A public comment policy for city council meetings was drafted by auditor and will be adhered to going forward.

Old Business: Ganje moved to increase city employee salaries 5% and award a 5% incentive increase for maintenance employees upon successful completion of each water class license by Tighe. Orth seconded. Roll Call: Skuza aye, Ganje aye, Dirk aye, Orth aye. Motion carried.

Tighe Teets - \$31.50/hour; Clay Kruger - \$36.10/hour; Del Kolke - \$52,650/annually

Skuza moved to increase residential electric base rate \$3.00 per meter and commercial electric base rate \$5.00 per meter. Dirk seconded. Roll Call: Skuza aye, Ganje aye, Dirk aye, Orth aye. Motion carried.

Dirk moved to increase residential electric usage rate to \$0.09/kwh and commercial electric usage rate to \$0.095/kwh and eliminate rounding usage by ten (10) and bill for actual usage. Orth seconded. Roll Call: Skuza aye,

Ganje aye, Dirk aye, Orth aye. Motion carried.

Orth moved to establish a \$5.00 per electric meter charge earmarked for electric capital reserves. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Ganje moved to increase residential water base rate to \$35.00 per meter and commercial water base rate to \$55.00 per meter and eliminate rounding water usage by thousand (1000) and bill for actual usage. Orth seconded. Roll Call: Skuza aye, Ganje aye, Dirk aye, Orth aye. Motion carried.

Dirk moved to increase charge to \$60.00 for appliances containing refrigerants deposited at the landfill. Skuza seconded. Motion carried. The city landfill is an inert disposal area available at no charge for property owners and charges are assessed for non-residents.

Reports: Fire Dept. delivered Santa and Mrs. Claus for the Christmas Tree Lighting event.

Dirk reported Flex Funds have not yet been rewarded. Estimates for tree removal are expected soon.

Auditor was contacted by Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) requesting the completion of the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Election Form which indicates what is done with the RECs we have. After discussion, it was decided to sell them due to North Dakota not imposing renewable energy requirements. The deed for the transfer of Plaza Building I to the McLean-Mercer Regional Library has been executed and presented to the library board. Recording of deed, change of utility services, and transferring ownership is expected by year's end. City hall will be closed

Dec. 24 & 25 for Christmas holiday.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12 at 6:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

GENERAL FUND BILLS DECEMBER 2025

Visa 1,519.91; MDU 218.08; Blue Cross Blue Shield 2,683.68; Cenex 2,600.45; MFOA 40.00; Bobcat 1,031.54; Hetletved CPA 710.00; Otter Tail Power 228.32; Water Treatment Facility 2,880.45; Verizon 107.47; Circle Sanitation 4,853.00; WRT 232.52; ND Dept. of Health 27.00; Interstate Battery 333.70; Acme Tools 850.26; US Postal Service 780.00; City of Riverdale 905.15; ND PERS 1,398.16; IRS 3,715.00; MRES 11,490.33

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY BILLS - DECEMBER 2025

Visa 23.72; Dakota Supply Group 731.35; Hach 1,282.76; City of Riverdale 909.20; ND Chemistry Lab 724.56; Verizon 16.62; Hawkins 3,269.79; Border States 1,317.35; Zenon 1,824.66; AE2S 2,437.50; WRT 205.64

(Jan. 15, 2026)

WEATHER

Date	Max	Min	Precip
Jan 5	37	22	.00
Jan 6	34	11	.00
Jan 7	42	30	.00
Jan 8	31	18	.00
Jan 9	25	18	.00
Jan 10	24	12	.00
Jan 11	40	16	.00

Larry Dziuk

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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