

# Proceedings Of The Plaza City Council

## PLAZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 9, 2026

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Reese; Council Members, Phil Westgard, Ethan Stein, Darrell Salter, Bob Blunck  
OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Bill Woods; City Engineer Jason Strand; Wayne Olson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Phil moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve the agenda. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bob moved, seconded by Phil, to approve the February 2026 bills. Voting in favor were Phil, Bob, Ethan and Darrell, with no one abstaining or opposing, the motion carried.

### ATTORNEY REPORT

Bill said the County had submitted a contract to do the assessment for 2026 for \$5000.00. He also said he had done some research into assessor duties and time frames; he said the majority of the work needs to be completed by the end of July. He also said this arrangement would cover us this year but we really need to retain our own assessor. He and the Council discussed various options.

Darrell moved, seconded by Phil, to approve the contract to have Mountrail County complete the City's assessments for 2026. Voting in favor were Phil, Bob, Ethan and Darrell, with no one abstaining or opposing, the motion carried.

### ENGINEER REPORT

Paving and Street Improvements  
Jason said he is currently working on plans for the 2026 Paving and Street Improvements project. He recommended that the City advertise for bids during the last week of March, beginning of April as a lot of contractors' schedules are filling up for the season.

### SEWER LINE PROJECT

Jason discussed the top hat services for our sewer lining project and he and the Council reviewed the various options available.

The next meeting date is March 9, 2026.

Phil brought up the date for this year's Tax Equalization hearing as well. The Council decided to schedule it for 6:30 p.m., April 14, 2026 with the Regular Meeting to follow. Jason said he would check with Karla to see if she will be able to assist the City with that before she leaves to take her new position.

### ADJOURNMENT

Phil moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Pemina Yellow Bird, City Auditor

Terry Reese, Mayor

## PLAZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 9, 2026

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Reese; City Council Members, Phil Westgard, Bob Blunck, Ethan Stein, Darrell Salter  
OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Bill Woods; City Engineer Jason Strand; Wayne Olson; Shelby Stein

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Phil moved, seconded by Bob, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil moved, seconded by Ethan, to approve the February 9, 2026 minutes. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF BILLS

Phil moved, seconded by Bob, to approve the March 2026 Bills. Voting in favor were Phil, Bob, Ethan and Darrell, with none opposing or abstaining, the motion carried.

### ATTORNEY REPORT

Bill said he would be working with the Park Board to assist them with their grant application for JDA funding for new playground equipment.

Bill also stated that the ND League of Cities came out with a model ordinance for data centers and asked if the Council was interested in adopting an ordinance. He said he could develop a draft ordinance and that there are a lot of conditions in the League's model ordinance.

Wayne Olson said the County will be adopting an ordinance next month. The Council discussed the pros and cons of allowing a data center nearby and Terry said we'll probably wait until the County does something. Terry and Ethan also said we could review what Parshall is doing as well.

### ENGINEER REPORT

Jason stated that he was close to finishing plans on three projects and the bid opening for street improvements. He and the Council discussed a time and date for the bid opening and agreed on 3 p.m., April 8, 2026.

Jason distributed draft plans to address drainage of the parking lot at the new City Hall. He and the Council discussed what would be needed in the contours and measurements of Jason's plans to address existing problems. They discussed curb side to address potential parking issues. Darrell said we are not locked into anything right now, and a little bit of work now will save a lot in the future. Jason asked for a walk-through on Wednesday, and they agreed to go out there and take another look. Jason said he would check with his colleague in Bismarck to see if he can join them for the walk-through on Wednesday. Jason said he would do some homework on the plans and bring proposed changes to the next meeting.

Jason also stated on C5 there's no curb there and is proposing to put a 3' gutter there to drain water. Terry said there were two culverts going north under 3rd Avenue, and said the easiest thing to do would be to get rid of some of that water by the Fire Hall.

Jason and the Council next discussed C16, and Terry said there's a patch on 3rd and there's a hole in the waterpipe and we need another patch on Berthold and 5th and there's also a need for patching on 7th. Jason said he will advertise a request for bids next week on this project.

Jason said he reviewed the 2027-2029 biennium plan for water resource development, and learned there is funding available for a chlorine injection system that would give the City better control over that process. Jason said he'll put in the paperwork for that and that it's not something we have to start this year. Jason then moved on to fire hydrants, saying they could be covered if it was part of a maintenance plan, and it would be helpful if we could get the Fire District to conduct a demonstration of how fire hydrants work, maybe we could

## NEW CITY HALL FURNITURE

Phil said we have already received tables and chairs, and are looking at ordering dollies, a portable stage, reception tables and end tables. The existing desks in the office will be moved and there will be a table in the conference room. He stated we still have grant monies for furniture.

## PLAZA PARK BOARD

Shelby presented a report on the Park Board's fundraising efforts to install new playground equipment, trees, benches, trash cans and picnic tables at Robyn's Court. Shelby described the type of playground equipment to be built and that it would be appealing to all ages of children. One of the funding applications she's working on is for JDA, who asked if the City would be able to make a donation and she also asked the Council for a letter of support for the JDA grant application.

Phil moved, seconded by Bob, to approve a letter of support be written for the Park Board's JDA grant application. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

## TRACK AND FIELD AT ROBYN'S PARK

Bob said there has been a request to add track starting lines around Robyn's Circle for training. He said there are 38 student athletes, and 540 feet of track for runners protects them from potential traffic issues.

Darrell moved, seconded by Ethan, to approve the track and field Vangelis Thompson Starting Lines and track for training at Robyn's Circle. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026. The Tax Equalization Hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. with the City Council meeting to follow at 7 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Pemina Yellow Bird, City Auditor

Terry Reese, Mayor

## PLAZA CITY COUNCIL TAX EQUALIZATION MEETING MINUTES APRIL 14, 2026

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Phil Westgard; City Council Members, Bob Blunck, Ethan Stein, Darrell Salter  
OTHERS PRESENT: City Engineer Jason Strand; City Attorney William Woods; Kim Savage, Mountrail County, Director of Tax Equalization; Jeff Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Kim said that there have been some changes in cropland assessments, but that doesn't affect the City's status.

She also noted that there was one citizen who qualified for Homestead Credit and one tax exemption. But we didn't have any increases on residential structures last year so no changes this year. Kim added that valuation is 90-100% of what they sold last year.

The only exception are lake properties, whose valuations have increased.

Phil said we didn't have any sales in the City, and issued only one building permit for a deck.

Darrell moved, seconded by Bob, to approve the 2026 Tax Assessment as presented by Kim. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

## ADJOURNMENT

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Phil Westgard, Acting Mayor

Pemina Yellow Bird, City Auditor

Terry Reese, Mayor

## PLAZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 14, 2026

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Phil Westgard; City Council Members, Bob Blunck, Ethan Stein, Darrell Salter  
OTHERS PRESENT: City Engineer Jason Strand; City Attorney William Woods; Wayne Olson; Jeff Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ethan moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Darrell moved, seconded by Bob, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 meeting. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

Ethan moved, Bob seconded to approve the April 2026 bills. Voting in favor were Bob, Ethan and Darrell; with none opposing or abstaining, the motion carried.

## ATTORNEY REPORT

Bill stated that he'd conducted some research and has been working on the Data Center Ordinance. He distributed copies of the draft ordinance he'd developed. He also reported that he'd spent time helping the Park Board with completing their application for a JDA grant. He said it is completed and they'll have the results when the Board awards the grants.

## ENGINEER REPORT

Jason gave a Project Report on the 2026 Street Improvements Project. A bid opening was held on April 8, the bid went to Minot Paving for \$268,992.49. He said the bid did not include for Alternate #1 because they thought it was either/or. Jason said we could make a deal with them as they will already be in the area on another job so it will be cheaper and they agreed. He brought all of the bids received for the Council's review.

Ethan moved, seconded by Darrell, to accept the bid from Minot Paving at \$268,992.49, with the intent to negotiate a bid for Alternate #1 because they will already be in the area. Voting in favor were Bob, Ethan and Darrell; with none opposing or abstaining, the motion carried.

Bob moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve for Phil to sign the contract with Minot Paving for \$268,992.49. Voting in favor were Bob, Ethan and Darrell; with none opposing or abstaining, the motion carried.

Bob moved, seconded by Ethan, to approve for Phil to sign the Notice to Proceed, once it is signed by Minot Paving. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Darrell asked Jason if he had contacted Minot Paving and asked for a quote on Alternate #1 and Jason said he had done so.

## 2025 SEWER LINING PROJECT REPORT

Jason stated that the only thing left is the top hats, and that there is \$29,284.60 left in the project funds and that this could be used for some of the top hats. Darrell said they are expensive but just yesterday there were problems at the Senior Center because of tree roots so it's worth it. Jason said the total to do all of the top hats that are needed (131) would be \$288,200.00.

## 5. 1st Reading Ordinance relating to Data Center

This ordinance enacting a new provision of the Chapter 16, relating to Data Center zoning requirements: the City of New Town recognizes the economic and technological benefits of data centers, pro-

vided such do not cause disruption of the local residents. Data centers have unique infrastructure, utility, and environmental requirements, it's the public interest to establish clear zoning and operational standards for data centers to alleviate noise concerns and to ensure compatibility with surrounding land uses.

## 3. Mountrail County Mitigation Plan- Sarah Couture;

This plan is to help out in a Natural, Technological Hazards, Adversarial Threats. The city needs to have this plan in place: Natural hazards- drought, flood; Geologic Hazard, severe summer weather, severe winter weather, space weather, urban fire, wildland fire; Technological Hazards, dam failure, hazardous materials released, transportation incident; Adversarial Threats, civil disturbance, criminal attack, infectious disease and pest infestations, terrorist or nation-state attack. Chief White Owl with check these all out.

## 4. Resolution to issuance of bonds for City Hall;

The bond council needs this resolution relating to the issuance of the bonds and the reimbursement of certain expenditures.

## 8. AE2S: Jason Strand;

New Town Sand Hill Water Tower / GSR- Contract No. 1 (General Construction)

## 6. City Foreman- Scott Andersen;

Sold the 2014 garbage truck for \$7,000.00, ordered some pothole patching for the streets. Plan on starting as soon as it shows up. We have had issues with the splash pad, none for the features are working. I have 2 quotes to repair the groundwork: PVC pipe & fittings and concrete. Steen Construction \$81,812.00 & Tand Construction \$48,435.00.

## 2. Financials

Motion by Bratvold, seconded by Baker to approve the financials and bill set as presented.

## 1. Minuties

Motion by Bratvold, seconded by Baker to approve the minutes from March 18th meeting.

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## HALL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Wayne shared some costs associated with interior projects in the new Hall, such as putting stickers on everything in the Hall, purchasing window blinds, a rack for the janitor's closet and a floor scrubber. He stated the Community Club had also moved to purchase in IMOP floor scrubber for smaller surfaces. Wayne also stated that he had been to Minot Restaurant Supply about the counter tops and a dishwasher. Wayne also said he'd spoken with the contractors, who want to be out of there by June, so we'll be finished by then. He also said there are still 40 chairs to put together, and that someone had called to book the Hall.

Bob moved to reimburse Wayne for his out-of-pocket expenses, seconded by Ethan. Voting in favor were Bob, Ethan and Darrell; with none opposing or abstaining, the motion carried.

Darrell moved to purchase two floor scrubbers for a total of \$17,188.00, seconded by Bob. Voting in favor were Bob, Ethan and Darrell; with none opposing or abstaining, the motion carried.

## SCHOOL ROAD

Bob reported that the School Board discussed doing some cosmetic work on the School Road. They do not want to have the road vacated, but are willing to share improvement costs with the City, although they do not have a specific amount at this time. Jason said we have had some elevations shot and looked at what could be done there. Bob said he'll take the school we are looking at \$370,000.00.

Jason and the Council discussed the various options available to address drainage and repair or replace the surface. Phil

## 6. City Foreman- Scott Andersen;

Sold the 2014 garbage truck for \$7,000.00, ordered some pothole patching for the streets. Plan on starting as soon as it shows up. We have had issues with the splash pad, none for the features are working. I have 2 quotes to repair the groundwork: PVC pipe & fittings and concrete. Steen Construction \$81,812.00 & Tand Construction \$48,435.00.

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