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City of Powers Lake
Council ProceedingsSpecial Meeting
Unapproved Proceedings

The Powers Lake City Council met in special session on April 16, 2026 at 9:00 am. Council members present were: Griesbach (via phone), Parslow and Holmen (via phone). Also present were Kenny MacDonald and the auditor. Mayor Enget called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 9:00 am.

An bid from SRS Crisafulli was reviewed. Discussion was held on the funds being retained by the Powers Lake Watershed Project for reclamation of the disposal site. Once the project is complete and remaining funds will be returned to the city. Motion by Parslow, seconded by Griesbach to approve accepting the following bid from SRS Crisafulli: Rotomite Dredge-\$175,000.00, dredge trailer-\$16,000.00, and 8" floating pipe/flexible tubing-\$15,000.00. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous.

Next meeting is Monday, May 11 at 6 pm.

Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Holmen to adjourn at 9:04 am. Motion carried.

Kari Enget, Mayor
Jennifer Titus, City Auditor
April 22, 2026

City of Portal
Council ProceedingsMeeting date: April 7, 2026
Unapproved Minutes

Tax Equalization Meeting

An annual tax equalization meeting of the Portal City Council was held at the Community Center in Portal, ND on April 7, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by Mayor Lisa Smith. Members of the City Council in attendance were Kenneth Evenson, Dustin Degenstein, Tamara Rudland via phone, and Auditor Kaydee Smith. Members absent were Lorie Fitchner. Others present were Patrick Samson with Ackerman, Tax Director Brandy Zepp, and Seymour Jordan. Citizens present were Dave Haugen.

Brandy presented the true and full tax evaluation for 2026 of \$306,052 for the City of Portal.

Motion was made by D. Degenstein, and seconded by T. Rudland to approve the 2026 true and full tax evaluations as presented. Roll call vote: Rudland, Evenson, and Degenstein. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion was made by T. Rudland, and seconded by K. Evenson to adjourn the meeting at 5:21 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Portal City Council was held at the Community Center in Portal, ND on April 7, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:22 pm by Mayor Lisa Smith. Members of the City Council present were Kenneth Evenson, Dustin Degenstein, Tamara Rudland via phone, and Auditor Kaydee Smith. Members absent were Lorie Fitchner. Others present were Patrick Samson with Ackerman and Seymour Jordan. Citizens present were Dave Haugen.

There were no public comments.

Motion was made by K. Evenson, and seconded by D. Degenstein to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2026 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by D. Degenstein, and seconded by K. Evenson to approve the financials as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

No Sheriff's report given.

Patrick talked about the close out documents and what is left to be paid for the CDBG projects. Motion was made by T. Rudland, and seconded by D. Degenstein to approve Auditor Smith to pay the outstanding balance to NPL as soon as the funds are received from the State. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by K. Evenson, and seconded by D. Degenstein to approve Auditor Smith to pay the outstanding balance to Municipal Pipe Tool Co. as soon as the funds are received from the State. All in favor, motion carried.

Auditor Smith reached out to Attorney Seymour Jordan about becoming the city's new attorney as the current attorney is resigning after this year. After election, Seymour will be appointed as the city's attorney. Seymour left the meeting at 5:42 pm.

The city used 680,000 gallons of water was used for the month of March. There were 3 different residential leaks in town for the month of March. Council reviewed 2 applications for summer help. Motion was made by D. Degenstein, and seconded by K. Evenson to hire Jackson Buick for summer help. All in favor, motion carried. Gooseneck will service the backhoe and tractor. A discussion of rain gutters at the Fire Hall and asphalt was tabled until next month.

Council is reviewing Planning and Zoning.

Auditor Smith will mail out dog license and mowing reminders to residents with April's bills. The charge of \$200.00 per lot/per time will stay the same under the City Ordinance Chapter 12 Article 1 Nuisances - 121.01010(1)(b)(iv). NW Vet will be here Saturday, May 9th at 11:30 am at the Community Center. Residents will be able to purchase

dog licenses during that time as well; residents will need proof of vaccinations to receive a dog license. The cost is \$10 per dog that is spayed/neutered and \$20.00 per dog if they are not. If dog license is not purchased by July 1, a \$100.00 fee per dog will be added to the July city bill.

Motion was made by T. Rudland, and seconded by K. Evenson to approve the resolution to dissolve the Portal Park District depending on the outcome of the voters at election.

The 2nd reading of Ordinance Floodplain Management was tabled until next month.

Council discussed 90-day delinquency. May 12, 2026 at the Community Center in Portal, ND at 5:15 pm is next regular meeting.

Motion was made by D. Degenstein, and seconded T. Rudland to adjourn the meeting 5:58 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills: Mar.: EFTPS \$1325.31, Dacotah Bank 10.00, Dacotah Credit Card 926.06.

Apr.: Ackerman \$378.75, Banyon 2595.00, BC Sheriff 400.00, BC Tribune 341.38, Circle Sanitation 2413.00, First District Health 30.00, Hawkins 1284.46, MDU (Utilities) 2723.76, MDU Contract 409.00, 3116.13, NCC 210.13, ND Dept. of Environmental 14.56, Tri-County Regional Development 18,000.00, Brit Communications 750.00, SaskEnergy 911.12, Jerry's Transfer 8.00, BC Assessor 700.00, Dacotah Credit Card 400.03, Dawn O'Hara 107.91, ND UI 9.15.

Kaydee Smith, City Auditor
April 22, 2026

City of Bowbells
Council ProceedingsTax Equalization Meeting
April 13, 2026

Unapproved Minutes

PRESENT: Council members: Casey Beeter, Archie Deckert & Laurie Lemmon; Lanette Jager, City Auditor; Dylan Bengt, Maintenance Supervisor.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Bolton.

GUESTS: Brandy Zepp, Tax Assessor

Mayor Shannon Holter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Motion was made by Beeter, second by Deckert, to approve the minutes as written for March 9th, 2026. Motion was carried.

Meeting was opened up for the Tax Equalization Meeting. Brandy Zepp informed the City Council that the CAMA system was updated from a 2008 manual to a 2020 manual which reflects a majority of the increases within the City of Bowbells.

Public Comments were opened up with Laurie Lemmon, owner of the Bowbells Hotel & Bunkhouse, had questions on her increase.

Motion was made by Beeter, second by Deckert, to approve the true and full changes, except parcel #6608000 Bowbells Hotel & Bunkhouse. Brandy Zepp will do rates for Residential & Commercial changes on parcel #6608000. Roll call vote: Deckert Aye, Lemmon Aye, & Beeter Aye. Motion carried.

Tax Equalization meeting was adjourned.

Motion was made by Beeter, second by Lemmon to approve the financial reports for March 2026. Roll call vote: Deckert Aye, Lemmon Aye & Beeter Aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Beeter, second by Lemmon to pay the bills for April 2026. Roll call vote: Deckert Aye, Lemmon Aye & Beeter Aye. Motion carried.

BILLS: Burke County Tax Equalization \$1300.00; Burke County Sheriff 400.00; Burke Tribune 125.33; Circle Sanitation 5408.75; Core & Main 128.57; Dennis Bengt 334.10; Elan Financial 766.78; Farmers Union Hardware 257.83; Farmers Union Oil 412.28; FDHU 30.00; Lanette Jager 285.36; MDU 3232.96; NCC 246.85; ND One Call 3.00; SBPC 450.00; Upper Souris Water 4640.00; VESTIS 268.05; BC/BS 247.00. TOTAL \$18,536.86.

Dylan Bengt gave his maintenance report:

Motion was made Beeter, seconded by Deckert to approve the quote from Hydro-Klean to Monoform rehabilitation of 5 sewer manholes and rebuild the bottoms of 5 sewer manholes, mobilization and lift station repair of gouting pipe and joint for 68,024.00. Roll call vote: Deckert Aye, Lemmon Aye & Beeter Aye. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Beeter, seconded by Deckert to enter into a 5-year contract with H & H Coating with services/maintenance to the water tower 2026, 2028 & 2030 at 5550.00 per biennial year. Roll call vote: Deckert Aye, Lemmon Aye & Beeter Aye. Motion was carried.

Dura Patcher will be here June 22nd, 2026, for a month at 5250.00 per month, plus oil and chips.

Skar Trucking will be removing the cotton wood trees and the big tree in front of the 3 camp sites next to the warehouse on Washington and 2nd Street.

Dylan attended the Water conference and Lead & Copper are coming out with new guidelines on AC piping.

Motion was made by Beeter, seconded by Deckert to approve the quote from Gooseneck Implement for 2 John Deere mowers for 15,450.00 with a trade in of the 2 Big Dog mowers. Roll call vote: Deckert Aye, Lemmon Aye & Beeter Aye. Motion carried.

City Council gave approval to order a new toolbox with basic tools for the city shop.

Motion was made by Deckert, seconded by Lemmon to approve the Liquor License/Special Permit transfer to Caddy's Shack for a Vender Show April 24th, 2026, from 4 - 8 at the City of Bowbells Memorial Hall. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Beeter, seconded by Deckert for Midwest Assistance program to help the city

compile an Emergency Operations Plan for water/sewer. This assistance is of no cost to the city. Motion carried.

Council discussion on Commercial rates for Building Permits and the Aramark Contract for cleaning of mats, dust mop and wet mop. Contract is up December 2026.

Motion was made by Beeter, seconded by Deckert to approve Building Permit #781 to Justin & Anna Peterson for an 8 x 26 insulated shed at 409 Railway St SE, Bowbells. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Deckert, seconded by Beeter to approve Building Permit #782 to Barry & Lanette Jager for a 12 x 20 carport with metal roof at 200 2nd St NE, Bowbells. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Beeter, seconded by Deckert to approve Vets Gaming Application to the Society of St. Stephens Food Pantry for 2000.00. Motion was carried.

May & June meetings will be at 7:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM. Next City Council Meeting will be May 11th, 2026, at 7:00 AM.

ATTEST: Shannon Holter, Mayor
Lanette Jager, City Auditor
April 22, 2026

City of Lignite
Council ProceedingsTax Equalization Meeting
April 6, 2026, 7:00
Unapproved Minutes

Meeting called to order by Mayor L. Granrud. L. Granrud turned the meeting over to B. Zepp. Present were Mayor Lance Granrud; Council members Whitney Rick, Joe Ruby, Keith Termine, Nadine Sandberg; Lisa Knutson, Auditor; Kimberly Jones, Auditor; Desiree Zeiba, Shelley Bartow, Nathan Schneider and Brandy Zepp-Burke County Tax Director.

Brandy Zepp presented the Book of 2026 assessment values for the City of Lignite. Joe Ruby questioned value of a lot he recently purchased on 3rd Ave which still showed a structure which had burnt in a fire.

Motion to approve 2026 values presented Whitney Rick, second by Nadine Sandberg. All in favor, motion carried.

Kimberly Jones, City Auditor
April 22, 2026

Guest Editorial
State Budget
Needs Balance,
Not Unsustainable
Growth

By Gov. Kelly Armstrong

For two decades, North Dakota has experienced remarkable growth. We've invested heavily in critical infrastructure, expanded behavioral health services, improved water systems and supported our communities in meaningful ways.

Much of that growth was necessary. But alongside it came a steady expansion in the size and cost of state government – growth that is no longer sustainable at its current pace.

Conservative budgeting isn't pessimistic – it's prudent.

We face a structural imbalance. Ongoing general fund expenditures are outpacing ongoing revenues. It's not a crisis today, but it is a slow-building storm that threatens our future

if we fail to act.

The responsible course is clear: We must balance the dollars coming in with the dollars going out. That was the message I delivered to our state agency leaders last week in presenting budget guidelines for the upcoming 2027–29 biennium.

The good news is that North Dakota is financially strong. Revenues are steady, our reserves are healthy, and our economy remains resilient and diverse. That didn't happen by accident – it's a credit to our citizens, our entrepreneurs and industries, and the dedicated state employees who keep government running effectively every day.

But strength today doesn't guarantee stability tomorrow.

Recent events remind us how quickly circumstances can change with the volatility of oil prices. That's why any short-term revenue gains from higher oil prices should be treated as temporary, not as a foundation for ongoing spending.

Our approach for next biennium reflects that reality. We're asking agencies to hold the line: no new full-time positions, no new building projects, and any request for new ongoing spending must be matched with reductions elsewhere. For smaller agencies, that means holding budgets flat. For others, it means identifying responsible reductions ranging from 3% to 10%.

We're not asking agencies to weaken their most effective programs. In fact, we're asking

the opposite: Take a hard look at what works, what doesn't, and where taxpayer dollars can be better spent. After 20 years of budget growth, it's time to evaluate – not just expand.

At the same time, we remain committed to supporting our current workforce. Fully funding existing positions and maintaining competitive salaries remains a priority. Right-sizing government is not about doing less; it's about doing better with what we have.

I served in the Legislature in 2015. I remember the downturn in oil prices and the allotment process that followed, and I understand how painful reactive cuts can be. By identifying contingency reductions now, we can avoid scrambling later. We must prepare for the worst while hoping for the best.

Our long-term goal is to eliminate deficit spending in the general fund and restore balance between ongoing revenues and expenses by 2032. That won't happen overnight, and it won't happen without tough decisions. But the sooner we begin, the more manageable those decisions will be.

North Dakota's future depends on getting this right. We can't assume energy markets will always be in our favor or rely on one-time revenues to sustain ongoing commitments.

The path forward isn't about cutting for the sake of cutting. It's about building a state government that is efficient, effective and fiscally responsible.

Kelly Armstrong is the 34th governor of North Dakota.

Powers Lake
Residents

The 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is now available. This report will not be mailed out.

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