

Popular love songs stand the test of time

There are many different ways to convey feelings of affection. Some people pen poetry, others bestow gifts, while still others feel moved by music and lyrics. Songs have long been a popular way to convey emotions -- and love songs have been performed by artists from nearly every musical genre at some point in time.

Although music is subjective, some love songs have stood out as fan favorites. Commonly featured at weddings or as the backdrop on romantic evenings like Valentine's Day, the following songs are considered some of the more popular love songs of all time.

-- **"Love Theme From 'A Star Is Born'" (Evergreen):** This Barbara Streisand classic from the hit film helped Streisand earn both an Academy Award for Best Song from a Motion Picture and Grammy Award for Song of the Year.

-- **"Up Where We Belong":** Few people can forget the ending scene of "An Officer and a Gentleman" when Richard Gere sweeps Debra Winger off of her feet. The song "Up Where We Belong" by Jennifer Warnes and Joe Cocker from the movie will always be a romantic favorite.

-- **"All My Life":** Former Jodeci members K-Ci and JoJo created an enduring romantic song with this pop hit.

-- **"Save the Best for Last":** This song became Vanessa Williams' signature song and a smash hit.

-- **"Be With You":** Soul singer Mary J. Blige emphasizes sticking with the one you love by being loyal.

-- **"I Do It for You":** This Bryan Adams hit was nominated for an Oscar as the theme for the 1991 film "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves."

-- **"I'll Make Love to You":** This Boyz II Men song was one of the longest-running No. 1 hits of all time.

-- **"Lovesong":** The Cure's Robert Smith penned this song as a present to his wife, Mary, in 1988.

-- **"Sweet Love":** Anita Baker's soulful hit helped turn her from a budding R&B singer into a household name.

-- **"Love Me Tender":** His good looks and gyrating hips helped thousands of women fall



in love with Elvis Presley. However, this signature love song endeared the famed crooner to many others.

-- **"My Heart Will Go On":** Celine Dion's theme from "Titanic" became one of the most popular love songs of all time after the film's 1997 debut.

-- **"I'll Stand by You":** This 1994 hit from The Pretenders can be interpreted as a song of romantic devotion or a commitment to friends.

-- **"You Are So Beautiful":** Joe Cocker makes the list again with this soulful 1975 hit.

-- **"Have I Told You Lately":** Originally written and recorded by Van Morrison, this song gained new life and notoriety when recorded by Rod Stewart.

-- **"My Girl":** Beloved R&B group The Temptations deliver a song about sunshine on a cloudy day in this classic.

-- **"I Will Always Love You":** Written and performed by Dolly Parton, this song is perhaps most known for the version performed by Whitney Houston for the soundtrack of her 1992 film "The Bodyguard."

-- **"Time After Time":** A song of devotion, Cyndi Lauper earned her first No. 1 single with this hit.

-- **"Hey There, Delilah":** A simple song of young love by the Plain White T's.

-- **"Unchained Melody":** The Righteous Brothers delivered the best-known version of this song, which helped create movie magic between Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in the 1990 film "Ghost."

-- **"Just the Way You Are":** Billy Joel's classic in which he tells his beloved she is perfect as-is.

-- **"Your Song":** A simple, eloquently written song of love from Elton John.

-metrocreativeconnection

Valentine's Day facts and superstitions

Every February 14th people around the world exchange gifts, chocolates and romantic greetings for a day set aside for lovers. Many traditions are followed, all in the name of St. Valentine. Still, people may not understand why such customs are upheld. Much of the history of Valentine's Day and St. Valentine himself is shrouded in mystery -- and much of what's widely accepted is inaccurate.

To set the record straight, here are some facts about the holiday.

-- Valentine's Day is believed to have originated from a celebration in Rome during the fifth century. This celebration paid tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic priest. Other historians surmise it was a way to "Christianize" the pagan holiday of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival. Included in the traditions were boys and girls drawing names from a box and exchanging gifts.

-- The Catholic Church acknowledges at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus.

-- All of the stories surrounding St. Valentine -- whether they are disputed or not -- paint him as a sympathetic and heroic individual.

-- Valentine's Day greetings have been popular from the Middle Ages onward, though they have been usually verbal in nature.

-- The oldest known written valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.

-- Valentine's Day is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

-- Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the most popular holidays to give flowers.

-- According to Hallmark, women purchase 85 percent of all valentines.

-- According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas.



-- Candy was among the earliest Valentine's Day gifts and remains a popular gift today.

-- Some tales suggest that the type of bird a girl watches on Valentine's Day predicts her future husband. A bluebird indicates a happy man, while a sparrow indicates a poor man.

-- In Medieval times, girls consumed unusual foods on Valentine's Day in the belief it would make them dream of their future husbands.

-metrocreativeconnection

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MICHIGAN CITY COUNCIL September 8, 2025

Mayor Rysavy opened meeting. Present: Daniel Reineke, Jay Gilbertson, Nathan Flom, Jay Vasichek, Lauri Rysavy; Jason Flom, auditor; Scott Gilbertson, city superintendent. No others were present.

No concerns over 2026 budget were presented.

Calls for additions to agenda were under new business: semi-truck and trailer parked at residence.

Mayor Rysavy appointed and welcomed Daniel Reineke to council. Dan will be replacing Traci Lagein, who has moved. Thank you to Dan for stepping up to join council and thank you to Traci for her time with council.

August regular meeting minutes were presented. Nathan Flom made motion to approve as presented. Jay Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.

Monthly bills were presented:

First United Bank	\$1,704.93
Pribula Engineering	2,000.00
Otter Tail	1,731.79
Nodak	124.00
Polar	185.91
NCSO	1,315.00
One Call	3.00
Card Member Services ..	1,320.23
Berger	1,200.00
Verizon	41.50
Hamster Oil	359.80
Vandiest	5,434.00
USDA 14-1	1,680.00
Total	\$17,100.16

Jay Vasichek made motion to approve bills as presented. Jay Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.

Scott Gilbertson, city superintendent, presented his report. Water report will be corrected for next meeting as he and Jason are working on it. Mosquito fogging has happened 14 times. New 55-gallon drum of chemical for it was ordered. It takes four gallons each time. Old chair storage has been dismantled. Cemetery grass continues to grow and mowing continues. Council discussed road patching. Will make calls for quotes.

Jason Flom, auditor, presented his report. Reconciliation continues and hopes to have it completed by month's end. Profit and loss were presented for what has been corrected. Hulstrand family funds were discovered not distributed from 2024, so that has been completed. Budget was discussed. Council instructed auditor to research rolls on interest from funds with LOC attorney.

Old Business -- Spark Housing only has the update that they are hoping to pour cement this fall yet.

Drain clean-out is on hold waiting for water board to decide if they will help with said project.

Civic center deep cleaning will begin next week.

New Business -- Mayor Rysavy informed council that there has been some fraud activity reported by Polar Communications to her over email. Polar has turned this issue to local authorities. None of this has affected or caused a breach of information from the office, and auditor has taken steps to ensure that won't happen.

Copier has broken down in the office and is not fixable. Council instructed auditor to order a new one. An old printer we had in storage is working well enough to cover the meantime.

Auditor Flom brought up getting some more pole Christmas decorations for town. Council instructed him to ask Legion if they would be interested in helping with this project.

Discussion was held on the local food pantry with Red River Community Action closing. It has been taken over by the Jamestown region of Community Action.

Auditor Flom presented some information on switching over to Banyon for our accounting and utility billing. Council would like pricing, and discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Complaints have been issued on a resident parking his semi and trailer on the street in front of his house. Letter will be sent that he will need to park elsewhere, and a full tractor-trailer cannot be left on the street.

Nathan Flom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jay Vasichek seconded. Motion carried.

Next regular meeting is Oct. 13, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jason M. Flom Auditor

Amendment, Oct. 13, 2025: Motion made by Nathan Flom to accept minutes as written. Seconded by Jay Gilbertson. Roll call vote: All members voted yes. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING MICHIGAN CITY COUNCIL October 7, 2025 - 6:30 a.m. Meeting called order by Mayor

Simple touches that add an elegant feel to a wedding

The term "the perfect wedding" can be somewhat misleading.

Couples have their own ideas regarding the perfect wedding, and no single vision is more worthy of that characterization than another.

Tradition plays a big role at many weddings, as couples have long embraced customs like the first dance, cutting the cake together and even tossing the bridal bouquet at the reception. Traditional weddings often are associated with elegance, and there are many ways to create an elegant aesthetic at a wedding.

• **Consider candlelight.** Candlelight can make any space feel cozy and warm. Lit candles also create a calming and elegant vibe at a wedding. A handful of thoughtfully placed candles around a ceremony space can add a sense of elegance to a wedding. That vibe can be maintained into the reception when candles are placed on dining tables.

• **Include some vintage items.** Vintage items can add elegance because they call to mind traditional weddings of past eras. Unique vintage vases on seating tables or even as

reception table centerpieces are simple to arrange and effective at adding an elegant touch.

• **Choose a signature cocktail.** The drinks guests enjoy at the reception also can add some elegance to the festivities. Ask the reception hall bartender to collaborate on a classic cocktail, ideally one that might have been popular years ago or even a modernized version of a drink that calls to mind ceremonies of yesteryear.

• **Go traditional with wedding attire.** More and more brides are choosing wedding gowns that go beyond the classic white dress. But brides who want something elegant may want to stick to traditional attire. The same goes for grooms, who can choose a traditional black tuxedo to add some simple elegance to the big day.

• **Set your sights on seating.** There's no area of a wedding that can't be augmented with a little elegance, and that even goes for seating. Chair sashes complement an elegant theme, and such simple decor is easy to pull off. It also provides instant appeal and a touch of class as guests enter the venue and take a seat.

-metrocreativeconnection

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MICHIGAN CITY COUNCIL July 14, 2025 - 5 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lauri Rysavy. Members present: Nathan Flom, Jay Vasichek, Traci Lagein, Jay Gilbertson. Others present: Jason Flom, auditor; Scott Gilbertson, city superintendent; Anna Halvorson, Nelson County JDA.

Mayor Rysavy called for any additions to the agenda. Auditor Jason Flom stated the pet ordinance will need to be moved to next month.

Mayor Rysavy turned floor over to Anna Halvorson. Mrs. Halvorson stated she was the new Nelson County JDA executive director. She spoke on how she had just been to the Michigan Hometown Foods and spoke to Ashley Parsons on a new state grant for grocery stores. She asked the council to support such grant, and a letter of approval would be needed from council. After a brief discussion, council instructed Auditor Flom to write the letter that the grant would require.

Mrs. Halvorson left the meeting. Last meeting's minutes were presented. J. Gilbertson moved to accept as presented, N Flom seconded. Motion passed.

Monthly bills were presented. Council instructed Auditor Flom to take the new lawn mower payment from the cemetery fund. T. Lagein made a motion to accept bills as presented, J. Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.

Brager Disposal	\$4,000.50
Credit Card	557.89
One Call	9.00
First United Bank	1,790.17
Team Lab	1,025.50
Hamster Oil	402.95
City of Lakota	1,300.00
Leading Edge Equip.	21,000.00
GF Utility Billing	28.00
Nelson Co. Sheriff	1,315.00
League of Cities	505.00
Lakota Farm Services	2,322.00
Otter Tail Power	2,301.22
Otter Tail Power	5.51
Polar Communications ..	168.72
Verizon	44.53
Total	\$36,773.99

City Superintendent Report -- No monthly water report as it is not correct and being worked on. Chemical has been added to the lagoon to eat the sludge in the bottom. Some whiteware has been removed by Jerry Johnson. Weeds have been sprayed through our city property. Mosquitos have been fogged five times. Mowing at lagoon and along drainage ditch are being worked on. Quarterly state reports have been completed and sent in.

Auditor Report -- Returned water bill; mailing was discussed. Black Mountain has been contacted and they have helped with some issues. QuickBooks show that reconciliation needs to be done starting 03/01/2022. It has been started. Uncollected property form was presented. This was from the county.

Old Business -- Civic center will have a deep clean and floors waxed on September 4 and 5 by Renexal Cleaning Service.

Potholes were patched by Councilman Flom. Another pallet of patch has been ordered, and he will complete more when he has time.

Dakota Prairie student clean-up was discussed, and we will have them do smaller projects throughout the school year. They have many organizations that need volunteer hours.

Street cleaning was completed. Spark Housing is moving forward. Two new houses will be built to the east of Jay Slade's residence. Lots were purchased by a generous donor. Surveying the lots will be happening in the next couple weeks. The hope is to start building this fall.

New Business -- Discussion was held on the soon-to-be vacant council seat that will be upcoming. Mayor Rysavy will talk to a couple individuals from town to see if they are interested. They will be appointed until the next election.

Councilman J. Vasichek moved to adjourn, N. Flom seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next regular meeting will be Aug. 11, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Jason Flom Auditor

Amendment, Aug. 11, 2025: Traci Lagein made a motion to accept minutes as presented, Jay Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MICHIGAN CITY COUNCIL August 11, 2025

Mayor Rysavy called the meeting to order. Members present: Lauri Rysavy, Nathan Flom, Jay Gilbertson, Traci Lagein via phone. Members absent: Jay Vasichek. Others present: Scott Gilbertson, city superintendent; Jason Flom, auditor.

Mayor Rysavy called for any additional changes to agenda. Auditor Flom added building permit to new business and asked to table pet ordinance to next meeting.

Last meeting minutes were presented. Council member Lagein made a motion to approve. Jay Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.

Monthly bills were presented.

Otter Tail	\$3,829.75
Michigan Hometown	
Foods	13.98
Polar	202.72
Verizon	41.50
One Call	12.00
NCSO	1,315.00
Hamster Oil	315.72
United Laboratories ..	1,916.01
Lakota Farm Services ...	3,647.00
Nodak Electric	124.00
GF Utility Billing	26.00
Credit Card	482.86
Brager	2,000.25
Total	\$13,926.79

N. Flom made a motion to approve. Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.

City Superintendent Report -- Lagoon and grass around drainage ditches have been mowed. Drainage ditch itself will be done when dry. Algae control chemical has been added to the lagoon. Steve Ralston has taken a load of white ware and will be taking the rest of it. Brian Day sent the emergency response plan 2025. S. Gilbertson stated all should review it. Mosquitoes have been fogged eight times so far this year. N. Flom and S. Gilbertson will work on getting the camera to work at the grass/tree dump. Securing school building was discussed. Brian Johnson will be contacted to push back concrete at the reservoir.

Auditor Report -- Brian Day was here on July 31 from Midwest Assistance Program. He discussed the ND auditor reports that are needed. City has the years of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 to complete. Brian stated that reconciliation of the bank accounts will need to be done first. Upon reviewing, Brian Day and Auditor Flom found this will need to be done from 03/01/2022 forward. Financials were discussed. And

Auditor Flom is working on taking grouping of deposits out and placing them like they were placed in the bank. After this is done, reconciliation will be completed. Black Mountain rep will be calling in on 08/27/2025 to discuss different items that can be done through the program. Auditor Flom said he also has another rep from BM who is working with him on issues as they arise. We have had one NFS check for water payment. This has been taken care of. Water shut-off was presented. We have two accounts at that point. Letters were sent with a shut-off date of 08/15/2025. Auditor Flom stated that he will be starting his auditor certification within the month. This is a required course.

Old Business -- Grocery store grant that Anna Halvorson is working on through RRRC was discussed. She needed a letter of support from council. Auditor presented such letter and council agreed to use it.

Spark Housing is coming along. Property has been surveyed and deeds have been recorded with the county. Mayor Rysavy will contact the representative of this program to see what needs to come next.

Council seat vacancy that will occur when Member Lagein moves was discussed. Mayor Rysavy stated that Daniel Reineke stated he would take it to fill Lagein's term. Mayor Rysavy thanked Councilwoman Lagein for her time and dedication to council.

New Business -- Auditor Flom stated we have a couple residents who have not filled out the paperwork to keep their PO boxes, so water bills are being returned. One resident rents, so the owner will receive a letter on this matter. The renter will have the letter sent to his workplace. Council instructed the auditor to look at the ordinance to be sure we have that water users must have a current mailing address that accepts mail.

RRRC is conducting a Brownfield survey on buildings needing to be taken down. This will be filled out with our current list of dilapidated buildings/houses.

Discussion was held on having the drain field cleaned out on the north end of town and on the corner by Rod's Autobody. Mayor Rysavy will contact water board if there are any specification we need to know. N. Flom will reach out for bids.

Maria Nenow and Maria Vasichek are working on a grant to revitalize the civic center. They have asked for items needed. Council gave the following: doors, windows, siding with insulation, painting, flooring, mini-split heat pump AC for city office. Thank you to them for working on this!

Building permit was received from Alan Cook for a small porch addition to the south side of his house at 219 James St. W. After reviewing, N. Flom made a motion to accept the building permit, J. Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.

2025 budget was discussed. Jay Gilbertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Traci Lagein seconded the motion. Motion passed. These are non-approved minutes. Respectfully submitted,

Jason Flom Auditor

Amendment 09-08-2025: Nathan Flom moved to approve August meeting minutes. Jay Gilbertson seconded. Motion carried.