

City Council Meets:

Council Will Look To Fill Vacancy

By Mary Kilen

Stanley City Council held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 10. Highlights of the meeting included a park board funding request, discussion on the council vacancy, and updated ordinances relating to municipal court.

Planning & Zoning Recommendations

Planning and Zoning committee chairman Todd Heidbreder reported on their meeting earlier in the day.

They had a variance request from Pam Nelson to put a lean-to addition on the building at the corner of 1st Ave. and 2nd St. The 20x44 addition would be 7'9" from the property line instead of 15'. The council moved to concur with the committee and approve the variance.

Nelson had also asked that the fee be waived for the variance application for the building as this was the third variance she had applied for related to it. The council moved to concur with the committee and deny the waiving of the fee.

The committee also held a public hearing on the application from Paco's Taco/Carlos Delgado for a mobile food unit to be located on the A Plus Properties land on Westview Lane. The truck had been approved by the health department in Dickinson, but it will need to be inspected again once it is moved to Stanley before the mobile food permit would be approved. The council moved to table this application until all the required paperwork is in order.

The committee had scheduled a public hearing on a rezone application from A Plus Properties for the old fair building property on 4th and 5th St. SE. Kier Jackson was present and requested to rescind the application as they are unable to come to terms with the property owner.

The council had tabled the re-plot for the city lots in the Rian Addition. The plat has been reviewed by the county now. To meet the requirements to record the plat, the outstanding taxes will have to be paid. As the city is looking to sell those lots, they will wait to file the plat until they sell the lots with the taxes becoming the responsibility of the buyer.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Amanda Dennis presented the council with a list of permits. The council moved to approve the following building permits: 516 2nd St. SW, new detached garage; 121 Hilltop Way, new backyard fence; 303 3rd Ave. SE, new driveway; and 102 Adeline Dr/50 Adeline Dr., new backyard fence. They also moved to approve the following demolition permit: 516 2nd St. SW, demolition of detached garage.

Dennis said that she would be in Bismarck the next week for continuing certification classes for assessors.

Cory Hale Invoice

The council entered executive session for attorney consultation regarding the invoice/potential lawsuit from Cory Hale. Following that session, the council tabled the issue as no one was present to address the agenda item.

Park District Request

The Park District met in October and is requesting release of a portion of their sales tax funds. They requested \$500,000 to repay a portion of the loan with the city for the outdoor pool project and another \$500,000 to cover expenses for recent and upcoming purchases for 2025 and 2026. Those include lawnmowers, picnic tables for the park and baseball fields, tree removal in the cemetery, a toilet for the baseball fields, trees for the ballfield, concrete work at the ballfield and parks, and a possible new pavilion or updates to the existing one in the park.

Cassie Fjeldahl reported on the projects completed and added pool equipment for more seating on the deck to the list of projects. The council discussed the possible need to solicit bids on some of the items due to the costs, as well as whether any of the projects would require an architect and engineer.

The council moved to approve the release of the funding from their sales tax funds.

Visitors Fund

The council moved to concur with the visitor's fund committee and approve the one funding request from the Mountrail County Ag Improvement Association for the ag appreciation banquet in the amount of \$3800. Brandi Larson said that the application was received prior to the banquet date, but not before action by the council. They have discussed the need to make sure applications are submitted to the visitor's fund committee so that action can be taken by the council prior to an event.

EDC Application

Councilman Chad Hysjulien reported he met with Brandi Larson of the Stanley EDC regarding the revised application drafted by the city attorneys as related to the Lostwood Media funding request. They have also discussed the requirements for funding as relates to businesses within the city limits, store fronts and employees.

With December and the end of the year approaching, Hysjulien said he believes it will be possible to address all concerns with the revised application and bring that back to the December council meeting.

They are also looking at the way the JDA approaches funding so that can be applied to the value that funding an application gives.

As for the Lostwood Media application, Larson said she understood the concerns of the business owner with the redrafted application presented by the city attorneys. She said this new revision is much better, but the EDC will look at it for any suggested revisions.

Attorney Ryan Sandberg said that the new applications are designed to help protect the city in the event there is repayment required.

Hysjulien will meet with the EDC again and bring the information back to the December council meeting.

Water & Sewer Rate Resolution

As discussed at previous meetings, the council approved an amendment to the water and sewer rate resolution. The city had added a \$10 fee to water bills with those funds being transferred to the infrastructure fund. The fee generates between \$90,000 and \$110,000 per year. The amendment will leave that fee in place but no longer transfer the income to the infrastructure fund. Instead, it will shore up the water and sewer funds without having to increase rates to citizens. The amendment is effective immediately.

Transfers

Auditor assistant Joan Hollekim presented the council with a list of transfers that will bring many of the project funds closer to zero or to close them out. These were factored into the 2025 budget and total just over \$8 million. This will take the infrastructure fund to about \$1 million, but they have budgeted transfers the next two years to move \$3 million into that fund to rebuild the fund. The council moved to approve the transfers.

Hollekim also had a list of transfers to close out other funds in the amount of \$596,871.09 that were budgeted for next year but could be done this year. The council moved to approve this list of transfers as well.

District 54 Payoff

Hollekim also presented information on the loan payoff for District 54, the street improvement project in capital improvement project phase one. In June, the council had approved paying down the project costs, leaving 25% for special assessments. At the October meeting, the council moved to pay 100% of this street improvement project, meaning they can pay off the full amount. Next year there will be a small transfer for the remaining balances in this project.

The council moved to approve the remaining payment of \$869,804. They also discussed making sure that residents were aware that the city has been using oil and gas production taxes to cover costs like this and not assess them to property owners. In this case, it is a savings of around \$20,000 per lot in specials. Hollekim said that she will work on an article to put in the newspaper so that residents can see what the city is doing to keep their taxes lower, using not only oil and gas production dollars, but also sales tax dollars.

Bid Notice Forms John Rian Lots

Councilmembers Jesse Weyrauch and Randy Jarmin met with Amanda Dennis and Joan Hollekim to review the bid forms for the sale of the city owned lots in the John Rian Addition. The city has six lots. The city attorneys had worked with the council on bid forms for sale of these lots including conditions of sale, improvement requirements and contract for deed.

The committee had looked at offering these lots for sale on bids first with a minimum purchase price of the outstanding special assessments, allowing the city to recoup those taxes.

The council moved to approve this option with proposed bid opening in February and council action on the bids at the February meeting.

Gaming Permit

The council moved to approve the gaming permit from the Holy Rosary Christian Mothers for a raffle on November 19.

Council Vacancy

The council discussed the now vacant seat on the city council with the passing of councilman Kirk Johnson. They also discussed the committee vacancies. Johnson's term runs through June. Mayor Marlin Ranum said that he would like to see someone appointed to fill the remainder of the term and said that council members and the public could make suggestions for the December meeting.

Engineering Report

Patrick Carabello of Brosz Engineering was at the meeting to update the council on current and future projects.

The 5th St. SE commercial repair is now complete with seeding and restoration complete. The council moved to approve the final balancing change order and the final pay application of \$47,629.50 which includes the release of retainage.

As for CIP3, cuts for the blockouts are being done and soil stabilization is scheduled for the completion of paving, and concrete for the blockouts was scheduled for this week. Once that is completed, the project will be ready for winter suspension.

The council moved to approve pay application #5 in the amount of \$440,728.74 which includes the first day of paving but not the remainder that has been completed.

Work on the John Rian street reconstruction is complete with the contractor completing the punchlist items. Gustafson Septic has hydro vac'd and cleaned the lines with Brosz also having run cameras on all the manholes. He submitted final pay application in the amount of \$82,684.11, which includes the final balancing change order and release of retainage. The council tabled this payment as they are looking for more information from Public Works Director Dave Brown on the work the city has done and the associated costs as well as some other items.

Carabello reported the DEQ has reached out to begin the second phase of lead service line inventory for the city. The goal is to use noninvasive methods to identify "unknown" customer service lines. They will be sending out customer surveys again, asking those property owners to either determine if they have lead service lines or they can come in and check for them. Brosz is being contracted through the DEQ and the costs are paid for by the NDDEQ not the city.

Carabello also presented the council with information on two funding programs. There is the transportation alternative program and the special road fund program. Both are an 80-20 funding split. The council discussed projects that may qualify, including if they move forward with the CIP4 in 2027. The funding could be used through the 2027 construction season. CIP4 would address the portion of the original CIP that have not yet been done including streets by the park and the Catholic Church. The council moved to go forward with the applications for funding for 2027 project dates.

Police Report

The police committee met the previous week. They have set a date of November 21 to begin interviews for the open police officer position.

They also received information from Axiom, the company that contracts for the city's taser, offering a virtual reality training module. This would be an effective way to train officers. This would be an additional \$6,685 to their yearly subscription. The council moved to concur with the committee and accept the five year contract to add this to their subscription, bringing the yearly cost to \$11,200 per year.

Interim Chief Sam Pesik reported the department picked up a stray dog in September. They contacted the presumed owner who denied it was their dog. As a result, Pesik was seeking permission to allow the dog to be adopted. The council moved to approve the request.

Pesik also reported that Lieutenant Chris Jenkins has reached an anniversary and is eligible to move up a step on the police department pay scale. The council moved to approve the increase.

Public Works Report

Councilman Chad Hysjulien reported that they are still working on getting the lift pumps working. The company originally shipped the wrong parts, but have now shipped the correct parts and are covering all associated costs.

He also reported that the landfill is preparing to close for the season. The rolloff dumpster will again be located at the public works building for residents to use during the winter.

Auditor Report

City Auditor Ada Arneson provided the council with a letter from the ND Dept. of Water Resources regarding an application from High-line Water, LLC for appropriation of water from the Knife. The council discussed the need to gather a list of the companies that have come to the city to use their permit or to request the purchase of water from that water source. They have denied

or tabled a number of requests over concerns about the excessive water usage. The council moved to send a letter opposed to this application.

Arneson also updated the council on the contract with Vestis. They have stopped service at city hall and the city is now using the other company. The agreement for the public works building runs until January with Vestis and then they will make the switch for that building as well.

Attorney Updates

City Attorney Ryan Sandberg discussed the legislative overhauls relating to municipal courts during the last session. They have drafted amended ordinances relating to Chapter 9 (traffic) and Chapter 12 (other offenses) for first reading. They have also drafted a new ordinance, Chapter 20, as relates to municipal court. There were questions regarding Chapter 9 and 12, including incorporating some of the changes that have previously been made to those codes. The council moved to table first reading on the amended ordinances. They held first reading on Chapter 20.

Sandberg also had a municipal court resolution needed under some of the new statutes and legislative changes. The council moved to pass this resolution.

Council Concerns

Councilman Jesse Weyrauch said that he had been contacted about a new line being installed by MDU from Williston to Minot that does not appear to be stubbing out new lines to Stanley. P&Z Administrator Dennis will contact the PSC to see about permits and who to contact regarding this issue.

Mayor Ranum noted the council may need to hold a special meeting to take care of the tabled agenda items before the end of the year.

Public Comment

Claudia and David Faulkner were at the meeting to discuss concerns they had at their property at 306 4th St. SE. With the recent capital improvement project, they had water and sewer service disconnected from one of their lots as well as changes made to the driveway.

Councilmen Chad Hysjulien and Ty Taylor visited the location along with engineer Patrick Carabello. When the plans were drawn, the property was considered one parcel and viewed as one lot. The city policy calls for one lot/one service. Hysjulien says the city was not right to remove the water and sewer to the second lot, saying the city would sign a promissory contract that if they were to sell that lot, the city would put the services back in at the city expense.

Faulkner said that he is looking to put water service to an outbuilding on that lot. The council said that at the time they are ready to connect to the services, the city would come back and put in the service lines and curb stop.

As for the driveway, the council said they could cut that back further to make it usable and create a smoother transition. Faulkners are also planning to put in an ornamental retaining wall.

The council moved to install water and sewer service at the time they are ready to be hooked up to the services at the city's expense and to also repair the driveway to the current residence at the city's expense.

AARP Fraud Alert: Celebrity Imposter Scams

Social media can make it feel like we're closer than ever to our favorite celebrities. But if a musician, actor or athlete you admire suddenly sends you a private message, don't get starstruck, get skeptical. It's almost certainly a scam.

That personal attention isn't coming from the celebrity. It's from a criminal impersonating them or someone close to them. These scammers build trust through private messages, tailoring their approach based on your responses, sometimes turning it into a romance scam or a charity scam. The story may change, but the goal is always the same, to steal money and personal information.

Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are making these scams even harder to spot. Criminals can now mimic voices, alter photos and craft polished messages without the spelling or grammar mistakes that

once were red flags. Some even create fake ads or livestreams featuring celebrities who appear to endorse products or causes.

Enjoy following celebrities online, just remember that engaging with their posts can make you more visible to scammers. If an unexpected message sparks high emotion (like excitement) and involves urgency, let that be your signal to disengage because it's likely a scam.

Report fake celebrity accounts or impostors directly to the social media platform. If you're the victim of a scam, report it to law enforcement and insist on a record in case of possible future restitution.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

Hoeven Statement After House Approves Legislation Ending Government Shutdown

Senator John Hoeven, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, issued the following statement after the House of Representatives approved legislation to reopen the government. The Senate approved the bill last Monday and it will now go to the President to be signed into law. As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee, Hoeven helped to negotiate the legislation, which includes three full-year appropriations bills, including the final Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

"Now that both houses of Congress have approved this legislation we can get the government reopened for the good of the American people."

Grants Available To Support Sustainable Agriculture Education And Practices

Application deadlines are approaching for grant opportunities funded by the North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) program.

NCR-SARE currently has four open grant programs to fund research and education projects that advance sustainable agricultural practices in the North Central region.

These grant programs are available to farmers, ranchers, scientists, educators, institutions, organizations and other exploring sustainable agriculture in the twelve states of the North Central region, including North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Karl Hoppe, North Dakota State University Extension livestock systems specialist, helps coordinate SARE in North Dakota. He encourages youth educators, farmers and ranchers to apply for these grant opportunities.

"NCR-SARE recognizes that farmers and ranchers have critical insight when it comes to improving their operations," says Hoppe. "The Family Rancher Grant Program, for example, provides agricultural producers the opportunity to explore sustainable ways of increasing profits and improving quality of life."

Since 1988, NCR-SARE's competitive grants have advanced agricultural innovation that promotes economic viability, stewardship of the land, air and water, as well as quality of life for farmers, ranchers and their communities.

The Farmer Rancher Grant Program is a competitive grants pro-

gram to provide producers with opportunities to solve problems on their operations through innovative sustainable agriculture practices and then share what they learn with others. Proposals must be received by December 4, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST.

The Youth Educator Grant Program will open for proposals in mid-January 2026. The aim of this program is to provide young people with learning opportunities about sustainable agriculture.

The Partnership Grant Program is a competitive grant program for cooperative projects between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers. Proposals for this grant program must be received by November 20, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST.

The Research and Education Grant Program is a competitive grant program for researchers and educators. Preproposals for this program must be received by December 4, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST.

Learn more about these open grant programs at <https://northcentral.sare.org/grants/>.

For more information, contact NDSU Extension staff who coordinate SARE in North Dakota: Hoppe (karl.hoppe@ndsu.edu) at 701-652-2951, or Jeff Gale (jeff.gale@ndsu.edu) at 701-652-2581.



CITY OF STANLEY - GARBAGE NOTICE

The Stanley Landfill is closed for the winter season.

The City of Stanley will have a garbage roll-off at the Public Works Building at 404 Reservoir Road available Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., during the winter season, to dispose of any additional garbage for city residents only.

Construction material, metal, wood, or tires are **NOT** allowed. The roll-off is **NOT** allowed for disposal from **house renovations and/or trailer loads of garbage.**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 7th Annual Meeting of the R&T Water District will be held at the Tioga Community Center Meeting Room, 410 6th St. NE, Tioga, ND Monday, November 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. This meeting is strictly a business meeting. No meal will be served. Door prizes will be awarded. All participating members are invited to attend. Agenda, Bylaw Revisions and Zoom link to join the meeting will be available at www.rtwatersupply.com



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Next Month: Monday, Dec. 22



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