

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
October 8, 2025

A regular meeting of the Leeds City Council was called to order by Mayor Nick Parslow on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025 at 6 p.m. at Leeds City Hall. Present were council members Kyle Nelsen, Tony Gratton, Patrick Streyle and Kris Larson. Also present were city employees Al Lundstrom and Gina Harkness. Jeff Manley, Jeff Jacobson and Patricia Hjelden joined the meeting for a short time. Pam Hjelden joined the meeting via telecommunication for a brief time.

Sheriff Report -- The Benson County sheriff did not attend the meeting or provide a report.

Public Works -- Larson made a motion to accept the public works superintendent's report. Nelsen seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Financials -- A motion was made by Gratton, seconded by Larson, to accept employees' timesheets. The motion carried unanimously.

Streyle made a motion, seconded by Larson, to accept the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Gratton, to approve the minutes with corrections from the September 10 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business -- A motion was made by Nelsen, seconded by Gratton, to pay the taxes on the property and for them to be included in the judgment we are seeking. The motion carried unanimously.

Gratton made a motion to accept the snow removal bid from Ritterman Excavating. The motion was seconded by Streyle. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business -- A motion was made by Nelsen, seconded by Larson, to refer complaint #1 to the police department. The motion carried unanimously.

Nelsen made a motion, seconded by Larson, to split the invoice for complaint #2 in half. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Gratton, to accept the special event liquor license submitted by Earl's Bar for the wildlife banquet being held at the Leeds Community Center on October 17. The motion carried unanimously.

Gratton made a motion, seconded by Larson, to sign the request for amendment for the Park Vue Apartments. The motion carried unanimously.

Kris Larson presented Resolution 10-08-2025 to alter the city fee schedule. Streyle moved for its adoption. The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by council person Gratton, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Kris Larson, Kyle Nelsen, Tony Gratton and Patrick Streyle. No members voted against the resolution. Whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted and was signed by the mayor and attested by the city auditor.

City of Leeds Fee Schedule
Resolution 10-08-2025-01
Effective: October 16, 2025

Water/month
Residential: \$32 base; \$7/1,000 gallons

Non-residential: \$42 base; \$8/1,000 gallons

Sewer/month
Residential: \$11 base; \$1.75/1,000 gallons

Non-residential: \$12.30 base; \$1.75/1,000 gallons

Water improvement fund
Resident/non-res. -- \$12.75/month

Sewer improvement fund
Resident/non-res. -- \$1.96/month

Garbage/month
Residential tote -- \$28; 2nd tote \$17; 3rd tote \$10

2-yard Dumpster -- \$88

3-yard Dumpster -- \$121

4-Yard Dumpster -- \$170.50

6-Yard Dumpster -- \$214.50

8-Yard Dumpster -- \$264

Mosquito -- \$4/month

EIF Fund

Residential charge -- \$5/month

Non-residential -- \$7/month

Dump ground

After-Hour Access: Personnel charge resident-- \$40 per trip

Personnel charge non-res. -- \$50 per trip

White good disposal resident: Free

White good disposal non-res. -- \$45/item

Non-res. -- \$150 pickup load; \$450 single-axle; \$750 tandem axle

Non-compliant dumping cleanup fee -- Cost + 55%

Annual key account -- \$100/year; \$250 deposit

Personnel/equipment charges

Personnel charge -- \$50/hour

Equipment charge -- \$80/hour

Supplies charge -- Cost + 40%

Sewer snake equip. charge -- \$200/hour

Sewer snake personnel charge -- \$50/hour

Sewer snake personnel charge \$100/hour (nights & weekends)

Services provided by others

Otter Tail Power -- 800-257-4044

ND Telephone -- 701-662-1100

Cemetery lot -- Lot \$150

Liquor license

Beer on- & off-sale -- \$495/year

Liquor on- & off-sale -- \$1,050/year

Beer off-sale -- \$247.50/year

Liquor off-sale -- \$525/year

Special event liquor license -- \$25/event

Local permits

Local charity permit (raffle) -- \$10/permit

Building permit -- \$25/permit

Annual pet license

Neutered or spayed -- \$10/year

Non-neutered or non-spayed -- \$15/year

Water department fees

Disconnect fee -- \$0

Reconnect fee \$150*

*Disconnected accounts will incur monthly charges; FIF fund, mosquito fund, water improvement fund, sewer improvement fund
Late fine -- \$20
No-meter-reading fee -- \$20
City meter reading fee -- \$75
NSF fee -- \$35
New account fee -- \$150
New meter fee -- Cost + 40%
Bulk water
Annual account fee -- \$35/card
Water -- \$16/1,000 gallons
Road bed/curb cutting deposit
Gravel -- \$500 deposit
Pavement -- \$1,000 deposit
Refundable only if repairs are made to council specifications -- as good as or better than original conditions.

Transient merchant license -- \$50/day

Vacation of street/alleyway -- \$300 deposit

All expenses will be deducted from the deposit.

Fixed-rate fees

Flat sewer fees -- \$60/month RV park; \$400/month Golden Plains

Flat garbage fees -- \$410/month Park Vue Apartments

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Gratton, to approve payroll and accounts payable. The motion carried unanimously. The bills were as follows:

Acme Tools \$182.72

Bechtold Paving, Inc. ... 308,708.00

Bobcat-Interstate

Billing Service 114.67

Blue Cross Blue Shield . 1,168.36

CenDak Cooperative 544.61

First Dist. Health Unit 30.00

Jordan Thompson 24.40

Leeds Airport Authority . 118.75

ND Telephone Co. 252.51

Northern Plains Elec. 478.92

Otter Tail Power Co. 1,316.32

Payroll 20,640.38

Plunkett's Pest Control .. 90.65

Terpening Const. 21,746.25

Verizon 159.56

Veseris 2,456.60

Visa 2,127.52

Waste Management 5,894.39

A motion was made by Gratton, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Gina Harkness
City Auditor

Nick Parslow
Mayor

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
November 5, 2025

A regular meeting of the Leeds City Council was called to order by Mayor Nick Parslow on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025 at 6 p.m. at Leeds City Hall. Present were council members Kyle Nelsen, Tony Gratton, Kris Larson and Patrick Streyle. Also present were city employees Al Lundstrom and Gina Harkness. Steven Jorgenson and Laura Wanzek joined the meeting briefly.

Sheriff Report -- Laura Wanzek, the Benson County sheriff, joined the meeting briefly to introduce herself.

Public Hearing -- Streyle made a motion to share the expense among the city and the property owners at the industrial park to have Northern Plains come and dig their power lines deeper into the ditch so the water can properly drain to the north. The motion was seconded by Gratton. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works -- A motion was made by Nelsen, seconded by Larson, to approve the sander chain quote. The motion carried unanimously.

Larson made a motion to accept the public works superintendent's report; Gratton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Financials -- A motion was made by Gratton, seconded by Larson, to accept employees' timesheets. The motion carried unanimously.

Gratton made a motion, seconded by Larson, to accept the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gratton, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes from the Oct. 8, 2025 regular meeting with corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business -- A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Gratton, to have the mayor sign the judgment for Jack Graber and to forward it to the attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

Larson made a motion to have the Benson County Sheriff Department deliver a letter to a resident about a nuisance dog and to CC James Wang on the letter. The motion was seconded by Streyle. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business -- A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Gratton, to give the Leeds Park District \$50,000 for the down payment on the pool renovation project. The motion carried unanimously. Streyle abstained; voting in favor were Nelsen, Larson and Gratton. No member voted against the motion.

Larson made a motion, seconded by Gratton, to approve the letter of objection from the city of Leeds to the proposed hog farm project on the Pierce County/Towner County line. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gratton and seconded by Larson to accept the bid (\$1,000) by NCB Electric, LLC, for the city-owned property located at 100 Main St W. The motion carried unanimously.

Nelsen made a motion, seconded by Larson, to accept the pledge of securities. The motion carried unanimously. Streyle abstained; voting in favor were Nelsen, Larson and Gratton. No member voted against the motion.

A motion was made by Nelsen, seconded by Streyle, to reimburse the Leeds Active Women \$1,000 for Christmas lights. The motion carried unanimously.

Streyle made a motion to sign the Park Vue Apartment amendment, seconded by Gratton. The motion

Apply for ND Farm Bureau
scholarships by March 1

ND Farm Bureau is offering several scholarships worth \$1,000 for high school students, undergraduates, and individuals studying agriculture. Additionally, a \$2,500 Student Volunteer Scholarship is available to students who volunteer through Farm Bureau.

NDFB will be granting scholarships in five categories, including a scholarship for college students pursuing an agriculture-related degree, an NDFB family member scholarship, one for high school seniors who will be enrolled in any ag-related post-secondary school, and the Becki Palmer Scholarship, which recognizes academic achievement as well as leadership skills of high school seniors.

The NDFB Student Volunteer Scholarship is for \$2,500 and will be granted to a student who volunteers through NDFB. This scholarship is awarded based on a point system, and students can earn additional points by becoming a student member of NDFB.

These scholarships are made possible through the contributions received by the NDFB Foundation. A significant portion of the funds for this year's

carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Streyle, seconded by Larson, to approve payroll and accounts payable. The motion carried unanimously. The bills were as follows:

BC Farmers Press \$295.92

BC Treasurer 2,707.31

Blue Cross Blue Shield . 1,168.36

CenDak Cooperative 915.71

Cindy Ritterman 150.00

Envision 25.44

Farmers Union Oil Co. 84.76

--York 30.00

First Dist. Health Unit 428.47

Hawkins 344.89

Leeds Airport Authority . 360.00

Leeds City Park Dist. 74.85

Mac's Hardware 141.75

Main Street, Inc. 256.42

ND Telephone Co. 256.42

Nick Parslow
Mayor

Reports --

Sheriff: Not present.

Public works report: The water

plant is installing a new heater; Babcock is updating files and studying for the water test. Aqua

Pure recommended not draining the second lagoon this year. Babcock has

set up appointments with residents to update meters, then they are a no-

show. This also happened after hours.

Emergency fee after hours: \$150;

\$75 to city, \$75 to city employee. A

motion was made by Clifton, seconded

by Short, to approve. The motion carried

the policy.

Auditor -- McCollum is working

on year-end.

Approval of Bills -- A motion was

made by Short, seconded by Clifton,

to approve the following bills. The

motion carried.

Payroll \$595.65

DD Payroll 3,472.52

PERS 1,262.85

FICA 1,593.90

Blue Cross 1,902.85

A. McCollum 1,089.16

Dept. of Environmental . 238.69

Ace 30.97

S. Babcock 540.00

Blue Book 29.45

Postal 10.45

Aqua Pure 2,250.00

A. McCollum 1,000.00

CenDak 127.28

Double M 4,778.00

BC Farmers Press 162.56

Mac's 164.87

Northern Plains 434.25

One Call 1.50

Otter Tail Power Co. 2,605.29

S. Babcock 1,000.00

Blue Book 84.00

Portfolio Reports -- Clifton -- none;

Weed -- absent; Short -- none; Seufert

-- none.

Adjournment -- A motion was

made by Clifton, seconded by Short,

to adjourn. The meeting adjourned

at 6:58 p.m.

The next council meeting is

scheduled for Jan. 13, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Audray J. McCollum
City Auditor

scholarships was raised through a live auction held at the NDFB annual meeting in November, where more than \$22,000 was raised. The NDFB Promotion and Education Committee sponsored the auction.

Interested candidates can apply for these scholarships at www.ndfb.org/edusafe/scholarships. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2026.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the NDFB Foundation at PO Box 2064, Fargo, ND 58107 for those interested in contributing to the scholarship fund. Please specify that the gift is intended for the scholarship fund.

Weather report

BAKER

Reports from the NDSU ND Agricultural Weather Network station at Baker for the 24-hour period each day.

| Date | High | Low | Rain |
|---------|------|-----|------|
| Jan. 12 | 36 | 21 | |
| Jan. 13 | 35 | 11 | |
| Jan. 14 | 23 | -1 | |
| Jan. 15 | 34 | 21 | |
| Jan. 16 | 23 | -7 | .01 |
| Jan. 17 | 7 | -12 | .06 |
| Jan. 18 | 14 | -10 | |

Northern Plains Elec. 241.89

Otter Tail Power Co. 1,323.30

Payroll 12,782.38

Ritterman Trucking 2,221.20

Susag Sand & Gravel, Inc. 1,080.00

US Postal Service 183.00

USDA 94,804.00

Verizon 159.58

Visa 200.52

Waste Management 6,226.57

Yunker Law 829.50

A motion was made by Streyle, seconded by Nelsen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Gina Harkness
City Auditor

Nick Parslow
Mayor

The various types
of savings accounts

Adults typically open savings accounts as part of a healthy financial strategy. But reports suggest that conventional strategy isn't providing as much security as it once did. Only 46 percent of adults have enough saved in an emergency fund to cover three months of living expenses, according to Bankrate.

Although exact numbers vary by survey, it's estimated that around 57 to 86 percent of Americans have savings accounts. Statistics from the Government of Canada indicate Canadians have experienced a gradual decline in their financial health over the past 35 years, and 15 percent of the population is underbanked, meaning they have a limited engagement with the mainstream financial sector.

Consumers may want to give further thought to opening savings accounts, which are secure and low-risk storage vehicles for their money. Savings accounts provide easy access to funds for emergencies and financial goals, and also help to build financial discipline by keeping money separate from the funds used for daily expenses. Different types of savings accounts serve unique purposes.

• **Traditional savings account:** Traditional savings accounts are typically offered by brick-and-mortar banking locations. They are easy to open, but generally do not pay much in interest. Bankrate says that as of September 2025, the average annual percentage yield of traditional savings accounts was 0.63. Some traditional savings accounts come with fees, including charges for excessive transactions or falling below a minimum balance.

• **High-yield savings account:** These accounts are similar to traditional savings accounts but the interest rates are much higher. As of 2025, the highest interest rates on savings accounts was around 4 percent. Online-only banks often have the highest yielding savings accounts because they don't have the overhead that brick-and-mortar institutions must account for. It may be more challenging to move money in and out of high-yield accounts, as that may only be possible through wire or electronic transfers.



tronic transfers.

• **Money market account:** With an MMA, customers typically earn a higher interest rate than traditional savings accounts. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau says an MMA offers an amalgam of savings and checking account features. An MMA enables people to earn higher interest rates, enjoy greater liquidity through check-writing or debit card access, and has higher minimum balance requirements.

• **Certificate of deposit:** Investopedia notes a CD requires a person to leave their money with the bank for a predetermined period of time in exchange for a fixed interest rate. This range of time may be anywhere from a month to five years or longer. A person cannot withdraw the funds before the term ends without paying a penalty. This is not the place for emergency funds, but it can help earn a higher interest rate for money a person doesn't need right now.

• **Tax-free savings account:** Since 2009, Canadian residents age 18 and older with a social insurance number have an option to put their money in tax-free savings accounts. TF-SAs provide the simple option to save tax-free without any strings attached. The money is saved and invested without paying tax on the earnings or withdrawals. Contributions to TF-SAs are not tax-deductible, but the money grows and can be withdrawn tax-free for any purpose and at any time, says the Government of Canada. It is perhaps most similar to a Roth individual retirement account in the U.S., but the TFSA does not have an unqualified withdrawal penalty like a Roth IRA.

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