

Mercer City Meeting Minutes

June 11th, 2026,

Mercer City Hall at 7:00 pm CDT

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Lorenz at 7:00 pm CDT and the Pledge of

Allegiance was recited.

Present: Council Members Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, Dan Gardiner, & Randy Zinke.

Auditor Kathrin Volochenko

Absent: Mayor Thomsen

A quorum was established.

Vice President, Randy Zinke declined to start or run the meeting. Council Member Lorenz asked

if there was any objection to her running the meeting. Hearing none, Council Member Lorenz

called the meeting to order.

Additions to the Agenda: Election Results, Hydrant Flushing, Carpet Cleaning, Septic Pumping,

Tire Burnout Indemnification Agreement, Auditor Bond Declaration by Resolution, James

Murray Building Permit Application, McLean Sheridan Rural Water District July Board Meeting,

Street Graveling.

Minutes:

Council member Lorenz read the minutes from May 14th 2026, regular meeting.

There were several corrections to the minutes.

Council Member Volochenko made a motion to accept the minutes as read with the corrections,

Council Member Gardiner seconded, "ayes" all, "nays" none M/C.

Financials & Bills List:

(The current available (remaining)) "Municipal Infrastructure Fund Bill" ("Operation Prairie

Dog") is \$17,345.20)

Auditor Volochenko presented the completed YTD 2026 Balance Sheet Standard, YTD & MTD Profit & Loss (P&L) reports.

Council Member Lorenz presented the current bills list.

Council Member Volochenko moved to approve the May & June financials and bills list as presented,

Council Member Gardiner seconded, roll call vote results were; Council Member Gardiner "aye", Council Member Volochenko "aye", Council Member Lorenz "aye", Council Member Zinke "aye", M/C.

Water/Wastewater Business: Council Member Lorenz presented the 2026 water usage & various account reports.

Park Report: Council Member Lorenz New Community Center Project Report: Council Member Zinke, Willa Murray, more donations were received the past month. Current New MCC fund balance is \$21,038.97

Mercer Market: Auditor Volochenko stated that the city is now a member and that the membership fee was paid through PayPal.

Old Business:

1. Catalis Payment Platform: Auditor Volochenko said the contract was emailed the following Monday, the pending change notice is on the website.

2. The Old MCC water meter was removed by Ward H.

3. McLean Sheridan Rural Water District Board monthly meeting will be held on June 16 @ 8:00am. Notice can be emailed to anyone that wishes to attend virtually.

4. Assessor's Return Oath: Was included with the 2025 Mercer City Tax Roll: Council Member Lorenz

5. Waste Management Tote Overages: Auditor Volochenko stated that she was able to get through to customer service and did get the address and a good picture, auditor will contact the resident and get it resolved.

6. Evolve Account Closure: Auditor Volochenko stated that she called Evolve, Inc. requested and received a closure agreement. The cost will be a one-time fee of \$375.00, Council Member Gardiner moved to accept the terms of the closure agreement, a member of the gallery suggested a 70/30 split with 70% from the water maintenance fund and 30% from the sewer maintenance fund, (with amended motion to accept the 70/30 split) Council Member Zinke seconded, roll call vote results; Council member Gardiner "aye", Council Mem-

ber Volochenko "nay", Council Member Zinke "aye", M/C.

7. City Hall Carpet Cleaning: Auditor Volochenko wanted to wait until after the hydrant cleaning project to move everything out of the main meeting room, will then set a date for Prairie Carpet Cleaning to come in.

8. Street Graveling: Council Member Volochenko said that next week the gravel be delivered, several belly loads and one or two end dumps.

New Business:

1. Election Results: Council Member Lorenz read the results from a "screen shot" of the ND Secretary of States' web site; Mayor Thomsen-78.57% with 22 votes, Council Member Gardiner 44.44% with 24 votes, Council Member Volochenko 37.04% with 20 votes.

2. Septic Pumping: Auditor Volochenko said that Salhus Septic quoted the job for \$250.00 per hour and should be no more than two hours total. Council Member Gardiner moved to hire Salhus Septic to pump out the last city manhole and pump the park outhouse as well, Council Member Volochenko seconded roll call vote results; Council Member Gardiner, "aye", Council Member Volochenko "aye", Council Member Zinke "aye" M/C.

3. Motor to Mercer Car Show/Tire Burnout Indemnification Agreement: Auditor Volochenko stated that it is a FYI to let the City know that the City is held harmless if something should happen during the tire burnout competition.

4. Auditor Bond Declaration by Resolution: Auditor Volochenko stated that at the June meeting "The bond of the City Auditor must be set by resolution of the City Governing Body (NDCC 40-13-02)". Council Member Gardiner made a motion to accept the Auditor Bond resolution as presented, Council Member Zinke seconded, "ayes" all, "nays" none, Council Member Volochenko abstains, M/C

5. Building Permit Application Submitted by James Murray: Council Member Lorenz presented the application, Council Member Volochenko moves to approve the building permit as presented, Council Member Gardiner seconded, "ayes" all, "nays" none, M/C

6. Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Raffle Permit Application: Council Member Lorenz presented the raffle permit for the annual fall quilt raffle. Council Member Gardiner moved to approve the application as presented, Council member Volochenko seconded, "ayes"

all, "nays" none M/C.

7. Lagoon Old Cross-Over 6" Gate Valve & 2023 Excavate and re-lay of Lagoon Cells #1 & #2 6" PVC Cross-Over Pipe: Council Member Volochenko stated that the crossover pipe at midpoint needs to be dropped down to a level that will better facilitate management of cell #1. Council Member Volochenko

stated that he attempted to dig out the existing gate valve located at the south end between cells 1 & 2 and broke the crossover pipe.

There was much discussion and it was agreed to ask Keith Hegney the North Dakota Rural Water Assn. Waste Water Advisor to meet with the members of the council next week.

8. Was one complaint about burning wood against one resident, Auditor Volochenko said that she will take the wood.

9. Just a FYI Council Member Lorenz stated that a resident that had been cutting the grass on some county owned

lots will no longer be doing so.

Public Comment:

No speaker cards were turned into the Auditor; therefore, there was no public comment.

With no further business to discuss Council Member Lorenz asked for a motion to adjourn, Council Member Volochenko made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Gardiner seconded, "ayes" all, "nays" none M/C meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm CDT.

(July 30, 2026)