

## New Salem City Proceedings

### NEW SALEM CITY PROCEEDINGS REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2026, 6:30 P.M. CITY AUDITORIUM

These minutes are being published subject to review and revision by the New Salem City Council.

Gaebe called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Attendance  
Council Mayor: Josh Gaebe  
Council members present: Chad Goetzfridt, Delton Kautzman, Sheppard Olson, Pryn Goetzfridt, Corey Lausch, Bryan Moen

Others present: City Works Robert Boehm and Dale Ponzer, City Auditor Melissa Davis, Richard Mendoza, Todd Norton, Amy Kruger, Josh Valleroy  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Minutes

The council reviewed the February 9th regular city council minutes. P. Goetzfridt moved and Kautzman seconded to approve the minutes as presented. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Public Comment  
Kruger and Valleroy stated that the emergency sirens can no longer be set off by radio control due to an update of equipment at the fire hall. Kautzman will get more information to Davis so she can get an updated estimate for a new siren and the necessary radio controllers.

Water & Sewer Committee  
The council reviewed the city purchase requests with the remaining USDA grant funds from the priority 6 project. The total of the purchase requests is \$190,263.54, with approximately \$140,000 of grant funds remaining. Kautzman moved and Lausch seconded to purchase all requests and use sales tax to cover the overage. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Kautzman and Norton informed the council about water pooling on N 1st street. Norton stated that once the ground frost has thawed the cause can be investigated to determine if it is a soil problem or a possible water leak.

Auditorium Committee  
The council received a request from a wedding party wishing to do an open bar for their wedding and not contract with a local bar to sell alcohol. Kautzman moved and Olson seconded to approve the request under the conditions that the wedding party provides proof of liability insurance with the City of New Salem as an additional insured party and proof of contract with a licensed and insured security company. The number of security officers required will need to follow the recommendations given by the Morton County Sheriff's Department for public events. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Police Committee  
The council reviewed the February police report.  
Sanitation and Garbage Committee

The council agreed to continue the additional hours of the transfer station and have Davis post signs around town on business bulletin boards.

City wide clean up week was scheduled for June 1st-6th, 2026. Hours will be Monday-Thursday 4pm-8pm, Friday 9am-12pm and 4pm-8pm, and Saturday 10am-4pm with all fees being half price during city wide cleanup week.

Personnel Committee  
The council reviewed the February city works report.

Moen moved and C. Goetzfridt seconded to purchase the new hand rail for the auditorium grounds. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Kautzman moved and Lausch seconded to approve the sale of the shop lathe for \$2500. All voting aye, the motion carried.  
The council also discussed concrete releveling of the ramps

around the auditorium and agreed to get new bids and revisit the subject once the ground thaws.

Boehm stated, Central Mechanical was out to perform the repairs on the boiler and while here he had them once again look at the radiator leaks on the gym floor that we were told was excess flux, but they confirmed that it was once again a leak and will be sending out crew to fix it. Due to the consistent breakdowns and inconsistent heating supply we have had with the boiler since its installation, Gaebe plans to contact both Prairie Engineering and Central Mechanical to discuss our concerns with them.

C. Goetzfridt and Gaebe discussed changing the annual vacation leave policy for full time and permanent employees. C. Goetzfridt moved and Kautzman seconded to adopt the same accrual rate as state employees and cap the maximum hours earned/carried over from 240 to 192 and to buy out any city employee that has currently has over 192 hours of vacation time. All voting aye, the motion carried.

The council also discussed changing health benefits for city employees, but no decision was reached.

Ordinances  
The council reviewed Ordinance No. 2026-01, An ordinance to amend and re-enact section 9-12-02 of chapter nine of the revised ordinances of the City of New Salem regarding a penalty for commercial vehicles on non-designated truck routes. P. Goetzfridt moved and Kautzman seconded to approve the seconded and final reading of the ordinance. All voting aye, the motion carried.

The council reviewed the updated ordinance 2026-02 from City Attorney, Scott Solem, in regards to the franchise agreement with Mor-Gran-Sou. C. Goetzfridt moved and Kautzman seconded to approve the first reading of the ordinance with the spelling corrections. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Old Business  
Davis stated the owner of the hotel has signed the revised plea agreement with the city to remove the mobile homes from the property in 45 days, after 45 days the city will contract the work and assess the cost to the property. The hotel owner has until April 10th, 2026 to have the work completed himself. Gaebe plans to reach out to local contractors to get price estimates if the city has to move forward with the cleanup.

Lausch moved and Kautzman seconded to approve the presented public comment policy. All voting aye, the motion carried.

New Business  
Lausch moved and P. Goetzfridt seconded to approve the 3 year generator service contract with Interstate Power Systems. All voting aye, the motion carried.

After some discussion the council decided against pursuing both the public sewer backup and water main break endorsement through ND Insurance Reserve Fund and the flood insurance through FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

Consent Agenda  
Lausch moved and Moen seconded to approve the consent agenda. All voting aye, the motion carried; Kautzman abstained.

Gaming Permit Application  
ND Fur Takers Association-Raffle 8/29/26  
Liquor License Transfer – New Salem Golf Association to Otto Events – Cocktail Crawl 3/14/26

Gaming Site Authorizations – New Salem Civic Club  
Golden Nugget Saloon  
The Field  
Kautzman moved and Lausch

seconded to approve the bills as presented. All voting aye, the motion carried.

Square Space .....	\$20.00
.....Domain Renewal	
941PAYMENT ....	\$1,868.37
NDPERS .....	\$1,844.72
.....retirement payment	
MDU .....	\$4,280.94
.....street lights	
WEST RIVER TELECOM-	
MUNICATIONS.....	\$282.76
.....phones	
MOR- GRAN- SOU ELEC-	
TRIC .....	\$167.33
.....street lighting	
941 PAYMENT ...	\$2,105.49
Boehm, Robert ...	\$2,337.93
Davis, Melissa ...	\$1,459.23
Haff, Tyler .....	\$377.37
Ponzer, Dale.....	\$1,778.30
Yellow Bird, Miranda	
.....	\$1,119.97
Bennett, Shane .....	\$92.35
Boehm, Robert ...	\$2,515.08
Davis, Melissa ...	\$1,459.23
Haff, Tyler .....	\$417.96
Ponzer, Dale.....	\$2,167.49
Yellow Bird, Miranda	
.....	\$1,097.18
A2Z PLUMBING ....	\$600.00
.....Shop Ceiling Work	
AMERICAN WELDING &	
GAS .....	\$124.36
.....Welding supplies	
CENTRAL DAKOTA FRON-	
TIER .....	\$695.12
.....gas, oil, shop supplies	
COFER SANITATION	
.....	\$3,899.12
.....Special Assessments	
COFER SANITATION	
.....	\$97.61
.....garbage service	
COLONIAL RESEARCH	
.....	\$421.27
.....lagoon breakdown	
CORE & MAIN ...	\$1,357.20
.....retrofit kit, meter	
COUNTRYSIDE CON-	
STRUCTION.....	\$11,972.00
.....Finish Shop Ceiling	
CURTIS RUD OIL .	\$163.12
.....fuel	
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	
.....	\$2,299.20
.....Water/Sewer Main Repair	
Supplies	
Dale Ponzer .....	\$274.79
mileage, parts, shop supplies	
Ecolab .....	\$400.00
.....Pest elimination contract	
FARMERS LUMBER &	
GAMBLES .....	\$1,256.38
.....aud/shop supplies	
General Equipment & Sup-	
plies I .....	\$1,863.74
.....Grader blade/parts	
GS Publishing, LLC	\$323.49
.....publishing/printing	
MISSOURI WEST WATER	
SYSTEM.....	\$18,295.05
.....water purchase	
MORTON COUNTY AUDI-	
TOR .....	\$3,528.00
.....police contract	
NAPA .....	\$2,952.66
.....equipment parts	
ND DEPT OF HEALTH –	
MICRO.....	\$27.00
.....labs	
ND SURPLUS PROPERTY	
.....	\$60.00
.....shop and city misc	
ONE CALL CONCEPTS	
.....	\$4.50 811
.....locates	
PARK DISTRICT	\$1,301.79
.....state aid	
PETERSON FENCING .....	\$1,250.00
.....Loader Repair	
US Postal Service	
.....	\$2,000.00
.....On Account Permit #3	
RAILROAD MANAGE-	
MENT CO III .....	\$1,241.62
.....Water Pipeline Encroach-	
ment	
Robert Boehm .....	\$46.36
.....NDDEQ Training	
Kaelberer Construction Inc.	
.....	\$1,491.86
.....Transfer Station	
TYLER HAFF .....	\$25.00
.....gas stipend	
VESTIS .....	\$845.93
.....paper supplies/rugs	
Gaebe adjourned the meet-	
ing at 8:28pm. The next regular	
New Salem City Council and	
Board of Equalization meeting	
will be Monday, April 13th, 2026	
at 6:30pm.	

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## Street

\$18 million, and while a majority of the money is grant and fund-based, the rest will stem from a \$8,215,000 loan, one which will be paid for by special assessments. These are expected to cost between \$5,000 and \$19,500 for every homeowner in the area, with individual monthly payments ranging from \$32.43 to around \$129.71.

As one might expect, this caught the eye of many locals, who submitted letters and comments against the new fees. A 30-day protest period was launched immediately after the February commission meeting, and the discussion has only spiraled now that residents know about the coming charges. According to Wigness, although 45.19% of the area protested against the renovations, this number falls just short of the 51% required to force a change. Notably, 6.29% of all protests were withdrawn, and a further 1.50% were considered invalid. If every submission were both kept and valid, the



photo | Brendan DeLuca-Rodenberg  
**A CHUNK** of damage street. to be addressed as part of the upcoming District 242 project.

protests would have been enough to meet the criteria.

At the City Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 17, commission members stated that unnerving residents on fixed income is never an easy choice, but also stressed this is the cheapest and best long-term decision available to complete a task that must be done. Defenders of the project who were present, meanwhile, cited the importance of clean water pipes for any functioning community, as well as how special assessment prices would only

increase if the repairs were undertaken later.

The City Commission eventually voted to declare the protests invalid, meaning work on the District 242 project (and the special assessment charges that come with it) will proceed as planned. Construction is set to begin this summer and is expected to end in the fall of 2027.

More information on the ongoing project and special assessments, including a newsletter that will include design and construction updates, can be found on the City of Mandan's website.

## Fire

the station, and the design process has already begun. If the funding measure is approved by voters, the building is expected to be fully constructed and operational by Fall 2028.

In addition to funding the new building, leftover funds from the ballot measure will be used to help remodel and modernize Fire

Stations One and Two in 2031 and 2036, respectively. Any funds that remain after both projects are complete will be used to help secure land for a potential fourth fire station, which will ensure that Mandan's officers can respond quickly in any future city developments. The purchase date and land in question have not yet

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been confirmed.

In the coming months, the Mandan Fire Department will hold a series of public information meetings to provide more detailed information on each project, as well as the measure that will fund them. More information is also available by calling the MFD at 701-667-3288.

## Minutes of Almont City

### MINUTES OF ALMONT CITY MARCH 2, 2026

Present: Russell Kramer, Kaity Olson-Brett, Sharmayne Erhardt, Andrew Heinrich, Seth Feland and Lynne Jacobson.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting were read. Seth made a motion to accept the minutes as read; Sharmayne seconded; motion passed. Treasurer's report was provided. Seth made a motion to accept; Andrew seconded; motion passed.

Lynne presented the bill from Sims Valley LLC. Kaity made a motion to pay; Andrew seconded; motion passed. Lynne presented an invoice from Moore Engineering. Seth made a motion to pay when funds are received; Andrew seconded; motion passed.

Old Business:  
Lynne advised that some funding fell through on the tree removal but will apply to other

organizations. Andrew made a motion to pay the removal of the tree at the park from the award already received; Sharmayne seconded; motion passed. Lynne will advise 7 Arrows of the status.

Lynne advised that Tank Maintenance Solutions will be out this month to fix the leak at the water tank.

Lynne advised that Braun Intertec was out today and will be out on March 9th to do some soil testing and that the streets will be temporarily closed (30-45 minutes) by the fire department while they do the testing.

New Business:  
Lynne advised that she is looking into Banyondata about purchasing a utility billing program.

Lynne advised that Missouri West Water has raised their water rates effective February 2026. After discussion council decided to hold on any increases at this time.

Russ inquired about purchasing an outside meter/reader for the Young residence. He was advised to go ahead. He was advised to get the other meters installed ASAP.

Kaity inquired about a donation for the easter egg hunt. Sharmayne made a motion to donate \$100; Seth seconded; motion passed.

Lynne advised that 2 council positions are open and will post the appropriate notice.

Lynne advised that the board of equalization will be held on April 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. Kaity made a motion that this date is acceptable; Seth seconded; motion passed. Lynne will get the notice published.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kaity and seconded by Andrew. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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