

NOVAK

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want the legislature to fund this not just by one or two polls, but by multiple polls (82% of North Dakotans polled support it).

What is interesting about the makeup of the polls is that it shows that the issue is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is quite nonpartisan, and I've found that to be true in my conversations with constituents.

I do want to clarify a few points, though. In 2023, we passed a law, so no students are denied meals, and the meals provided are the same for all students, despite the ability to pay. The drawback here that people don't talk about is that many schools experience budget shortfalls because people don't pay their delinquent lunch accounts.

Last year, Mandan had approximately \$400,000 owed from people not paying for their children's lunches and it ended up being absorbed through the district and paid for by local property taxes.

I'd also like to point out the difference between a ballot measure and a bill the legislature passes are that a ballot measure goes into our constitution, which means the legislature cannot change it. So, if we experience tough financial times, we must always pay for the school lunches and may have to make difficult funding choices.

In the end, I voted in favor of paying for universal meals for our students. The issue was less about my own personal convictions and more about what the people of North Dakota have shown they want as well as I would like the legislature to have some flexibility in the future for funding it.

But as you likely know, the bill failed in the Senate. The public will probably have the opportunity to weigh in this fall during the general election.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve you in the legislature. It's such an honor to represent District 33.

Rep. Anna Novak, of Hazen, has been serving in the ND House of Representatives since 2023, is the co-founder of Faces of North Dakota Coal and is married with four children. To contact Rep. Novak, email her at anovak@ndlegis.gov.

HCR 3038 was a congratulatory message on the YMCA 175th anniversary

SB 2403 created an emergency loan fund for medical facilities in financial trouble

SB 2404 created a loan fund for the IT department and the PSC during a litigation process.

All of the above bills passed both chambers.

Two bills that failed by small margins were HB 1624, requiring all students to qualify for free breakfast and free lunch, and HB 1627, which moved the qualifications for free student lunch from the current 225% of the Federal Poverty level (we just recently increased this substantially during the regular 2025 legislative session), up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level for qualification. Under current law, a family of four with annual approximate income below \$72,000 already quali-

fies for free meals.

I voted against both lunch bills, HB 1624 and HB 1627. I strongly oppose a pending petition for a constitutional measure to provide free lunch. I encourage and am willing to have a civil conversation with any individual or group willing to do so.

I invite you to do a deep dive, study all the consequences, before signing such a petition. Our constitution is too precious and sacred to clutter with these types of measures. At present, no child goes hungry in North Dakota under provisions made by the 2023 Legislative Session.

Thanks for reading.

Rep. Bill Tveit (R-Hazen) is a military veteran and a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives from District 33, which he's been serving since 2018. Contact him at 701-870-4014 or email him at btveit@ndlegis.gov.

LEGAL NOTICES

ZAP CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 19, 2026

ZAP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2026 6:30 PM

Meeting called to order 6:30 pm. Present: Joe Grammond, Steve Stefansky, Tammy Gillig, Jamey Boutilier, Rhonda Pfenning, Auditor. Absent: Mike Duttonhefner. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Agenda: motion by Stefansky to approve Agenda; seconded by Boutilier. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion by Gillig seconded by Boutilier to approve Minutes from previous meeting. Roll Call vote. All in favor. Motion to approve minutes from Special Meeting 12/4/25 by Stefansky seconded by Gillig. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion to approve minutes from Special Meet-

ing December 30, 2025 by Stefansky, seconded by Boutilier. Roll call vote. Boutilier – yes, Stefansky – yes, Gillig -no. Motion carries. Police Report: for 2025 there were 287 calls and 25 case reports.

Financial report: Motion by Stefansky, seconded by Boutilier to approve financial report as presented. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Old Business: Security Cameras: discussed Council members having access to Security Cameras on separate system. W/S/G Ordinance: see below. Community Club lease agreement: in Progress. MICS Tavern lease agreement: Address next month. Lighting in Fire Hall: The fire chief will be contacted to oversee the Bidding and what

they would like to have for updates in lighting. New Business: Statement of Interest given to Council Members to complete by 1/31/25 and turn into City Auditor. Offer on 205 2nd Ave E. Questions regarding offer; invite to next meeting to clarify what he is needing. Maintenance Position: continue to advertise. Someone is helping temporarily. Company may be interested in contracting services to city for Maintenance. Consultation with Attorney: Opdahl Property: would like to tie into SW Water on Highway 200. Lawyer is also reviewing paperwork of description of property. Solem is working on Garbage Ordinance with across-the-board fee increase of \$2.00. This will be written as a Resolution.

Routine City Business: Community Hall – no report. Judge: no report. Mayor: no report. Police: report earlier. Water and Sewer: Stefansky will visit with people who are behind on water bills. Water sample for November didn't get to lab until 12/3/25. Letters will be sent to residents. Building and Grounds: Gillig brought a resident verbal concern regarding fence next to resident property. Gillig asks resident for request in writing. Auditor: Payroll software needs to be upgraded. Bills due: Motion by Stefansky, seconded by Boutilier to approve bills due. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Zap Park Board – 483.03; Hazen Machine and Welding – 2186.50; USPS – 280.00; MGM – 3,265.25; Southwest

Water Authority – 2,156.64; Hazen Hardware Hank – 111.84; City of Beulah – 251.50; Solem Law Office - 349.25; Antelope Creek Trucking – 600.00; MidAmerican Research Chemical -2,711.17; Western Plains Public Health – 125.00; New York Life – 651.79; IRS Tax Payment – 371.86; ND Department of Health – 54.00; West River Telephone – 278.26; Beulah Beacon – 26.35; Farmers Union – 2088.42; Diane Kasanke – 165.12; Glenn Neuberger – 1326.54; Jamey Boutilier – 226.26; Joe Grammond – 226.26; Steve Stefansky – 226.26; Tammy Gillig – 196.01. Motion by Stefansky, seconded by Boutilier to adjourn meeting. Roll Call vote. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. (01-29-2026)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Probate No. 29-2025-PR-00009

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
MERCER COUNTY, STATE OF
NORTH DAKOTA
PROBATE NO. 29-2025-PR-00009

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF NOEL J. HELM, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be presented to Betty J. Helm, Personal Representative of the estate, at 6140 County 20, Beulah, North Dakota 58523, or filed with the Court.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2025.
BETTY J. HELM
6140 County 20
Beulah, North Dakota 58523
Scott T. Solem
SOLEM LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 249
Beulah, N.D. 58523
Attorney for Betty J. Helm, Personal Representative of the Estate of Noel J. Helm, Deceased.
(January 15, 22,& 29, 2026)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Probate No. 29-2026-PR-00002

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
MERCER COUNTY, STATE OF
NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF LYNNE T. WOLF, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Nicholas Wolf, Personal Representative of the

estate, at 973 Sandpoint Pond Lane, Henderson, Nevada 89002, or filed with the Court.

DATED this 20th day of January, 2026.
NICHOLAS WOLF
973 Sandpoint Pond Lane
Henderson, Nevada 89002
Scott T. Solem
SOLEM LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 249
Beulah, N.D. 58523
Attorney for Nicholas Wolf, Personal Representative of the Estate of Lynne T. Wolf, Deceased.
First publication on the 29th day of January, 2026.
(January 28, February 5, & 12, 2026)

DODGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 13, 2026

CITY OF DODGE
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2026

The Dodge City Council met on January 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM. Present were Mayor Gervers, Presiding; Directors Acosta, Wolff, Frederick and Jones. Also present- Mark Kaffar, Mark Klein and Jenn Beckman.

Mayor Gervers called meeting to order.

Visitors Brad Duttonhefer.

Director Wolff made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Jones seconded the motion- Motion Carried.

Director Jones made a motion to approve the December 11, 2025 minutes with the correction of who seconded the landfill fees. Director Frederick seconded the motion- Motion Carried.

Director Jones made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Director Wolff seconded the motion- Motion Carried.

Director Jones made a motion to pay bills. Director Acosta seconded the motion- Motion Carried.

Bills presented for January 13, 2026: Mark Klein CPA- \$102.15, MDU- \$2,227.96, Beulah Beacon- \$1,647.32, Consolidated- \$137.01, Beulah Hardware- \$490.86, Farmers Union Oil- \$1273.50. Napa Auto Parts- \$33.29, BMS-\$7,067.64, Moore Engineering- \$4,500.00, North Dakota Environment Quality- \$401.82, Western Dakota Energy Association- \$4000.00.

Commissioner of Police- NA
Commissioner of Utilities- NA
Commissioner Streets- NA
Commissioner of Building and Properties- Discussed calling Western Plains to have them come to town to look at dilated houses for removal and what we can do to remove houses that are not livable in Dodge.

Mayor Gervers addressed the Christmas Party and the City collected \$423.00. The city donated the rest of the food to the Dunn County Sheriffs department. Mayor Gervers stated that they made plates up and delivered food to the residence in Dodge that did not make it to the Christmas party.

Auditor Beckman addressed the on-line banking accounts for the city. The phone number for online banking was never updated still has the previous Auditors number. Online banking needs to be updated to new email address for city. Auditor Beckman addressed that Mark Klein CPA for Dodge, should be put on the General fund and Debt Reserve fund so if he needs anything from those accounts, he can receive information without going thru Auditor Beckman. Auditor Beckman stated that the Union Bank needs to have all of this approved and in the minutes before they can proceed with the changes.

Director Wolff made a motion to make changes to the Bank accounts and online phone number changes and emails also to have Mark Klein added to the Checking account and Debt Reserve Fund. Director Frederick seconded the motion- Roll call vote with all council members voting Aye- Motion Carried.

Director Jones stated when Philip does snow removal if we could let him know not to push snow up against the Wolff's Den fence and it needs to be pushed to different area in order for no damages to occur. He needs to remove snow and put somewhere else. Auditor Beckman stated she will let Philip know.

Auditor Beckman also discussed Holidays off, not just the ones that were listed in the HR Manual. Council refused and said this was already discussed prior and this will stay as is.

Mark Kaffar will revise City Contracts and the Public Comments Policy and it will be revisited at the next meeting in February, 2026.

Director Jones made a motion to raise the water charge \$1.00 to make the water \$11.00 for first 1,000 gallons. Director Wolff seconded the motion- Roll call vote with all council members voting Aye- Motion Carried.

Auditor Beckman addressed Affidavit of Candidacy Signatures that needed to be filled out after meeting so that they can be filed in city folder.

Director Acosta made a motion to give Philip and Jenn a fifty-cent raise putting Philip at \$29.00 an hour Jenn will be at \$22.50. When broken down from salary to 35 hours a week. Director Acosta seconded the motion- roll call vote with all council members voting Aye- Motion Carried.

Director Wolff made a motion to have letters sent to residence of Dodge who need to have trees trimmed that are touching powerlines or causing blocking visibility of streets. If this is not done the city will come in and address the issue. The fees will be \$150.00 for first hour and \$100.00 an hour after that. Director Acosta seconded the motion- Roll call vote with all council members voting Aye- Motion Carried.

Mayor Gervers stated she would like Auditor Beckman to contact concrete companies to look at the Auditorium ramp that needs to be redone.

Director Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Frederick seconded the motion- Motion Carried.

Amy Gervers, Mayor
Jenn Beckman, Auditor
(January 29, 2026)