

City Council Meets:

# Council Approves Visitors Fund Applications

By Mary Kilen

Stanley City Council held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Highlights of the meeting included planning and zoning requests for property in the John Rian Addition, a water purchase request from ND Energy Services, and funding approval for visitors' committee requests.

## Planning and Zoning Committee

Planning and Zoning committee chairman Todd Heidbreder reported on the committee's meeting the previous evening. They had just one item on their agenda. They received an application from Vast Diesel Performance to replat property at 6201 81st Ave. NW to two lots to allow for the sale of one. The plat has been reviewed and approved at the county level. The council moved to concur with the committee and approved the signing of the replat.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Amanda Dennis had no permits for approval at this month's meeting.

## Cory Hale Potential Lawsuit

The council entered executive session for attorney consultation regarding the potential lawsuit by Cory Hale.

Following the executive session, the council discussed city staff concern over harassment. They directed city attorneys to apply for restraining orders on behalf of all city employees.

## Property Requests

Ashleigh Collins and Shanel Effertz of Century 21 were at the meeting, representing the owner of phases four and five in the John Rian Addition. These phases are platted as subdivisions and individual lots, but they have been receiving requests to sell the phases as a whole for single family development. They are looking for ways to make this possible, but also have concerns about the costs for infrastructure including roads, water and sewer.

There was discussion of vacating the plats as well as looking for exemptions to allow a dirt/gravel road to the home to be developed on the property. The biggest concern appeared to be the costs of road, curb and gutter to serve just one home. They also asked about the possibility of unannexing the property from the city.

City Attorney Ryan Sandberg described the process, noting that they should contact their own attorneys regarding any of the options for vacating a plat or seeking to no longer be annexed into the city.

The council discussed their concerns as relates to the city's planning and zoning ordinances and the requirements those set for orderly development. They also discussed how allowing any changes to those requirements could be a disservice to other homeowners in the area.

In the end, the council asked them to submit actual plans for them to consider before making any decisions. They will bring those plans back to the council.

## ND Energy Services

Phil Olson was at the meeting representing ND Energy Services' request to draw water from the city reservoir using the city's permit for industrial use. The council noted this is the most recent request received. There are also other permits that are on private property taking water from the reservoir. Olson noted that the city's permit could be in jeopardy if they do not use water allowed by their permit.

He presented the council with an offer of 25 cents per barrel with a project timeframe of 30 to 60 days starting in March.

The council asked to see the contract and right-of-way agreement before making any decision. Olson will forward those documents to the city attorneys for review.

## Rian Properties Auction

The council had put city owned property in the Rian Addition up for public auction. There were no bids received on the lots.

## Visitors' Fund Application

Brandi Larson was at the meeting to present three applications for funding through the visitors' fund.

Applications were received from the Mountrail County Ag Improvement Association for \$3500 for the Regenerative Grazing School on March 3 and 4; Mountrail County Ag Association for \$4,000 for the Women in Ag banquet on April 8; and from the SHS junior class for \$15,000 for prom.

The committee recommended full approval for both Ag Improvement requests. They had considerable discussion about the junior class request and in the end recommended approval of \$5,000 of the request. They had also recommended the junior class advisor attend the meeting to answer any questions.

The council also had questions about why the junior class needed money beyond their fundraising to pay for prom decorations, saying they have never received a request before. Larson said that indications are the class does not have the funding they need.

The council moved to approve the funding for the two Ag Improvement requests. They tabled the request from the junior class, inviting the advisor and junior class president to attend their next meeting to provide further information on the request.

## EDC Updates

Brandi Larson also represented

the EDC at this meeting. The committee continues to work on a new funding application process, patterning it in part after the JDA Horizon grant applications. They provided the council with a first revision of their application to review. They welcome council input on the application.

The committee has one application they are looking to move through the funding process as they continue to revamp the application.

## Gaming Permits

The council moved to approve the following gaming permits: Mountrail Bethel Home Auxiliary, raffle on February 15; and Women of American Lutheran Church for a raffle on April 12.

## Everest Lease Request

The city received a letter from Everest Infrastructure Partners looking to acquire an easement for the water tank space the city owns and leases for wireless communications. The council had concerns over the terms of the offer, putting a third party in control of something the city already does. The council moved to decline the offer.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan

The city received a letter from Mountrail County Emergency Manager Warren Bogert. The county is starting the process to update their hazard mitigation plan which is due in October of 2027. They are inviting agencies throughout the county to assist in the process by attending meetings to discuss the plan. The council moved to sign the letter to give them a voice at the table during the process.

## City Pasture Lease

The council reviewed the pasture lease for city owned property south and east of the airport. Kevin Harstad has held the lease previously, but has said he will no longer need the lease which was set to expire at the end of June. City offices have received calls from others interested in the lease. The council moved to advertise the property for lease with bids due by March 1.

## Engineering Updates

Patrick Carabello of Brosz Engineering updated the council on current and future projects.

The city's request for State Water Commission funding for capital improvement project phase three was set for their agenda on February 12. The city is looking for cost share on part of this project. Carabello will update the council at their next meeting.

Working under the PAR grant, they have started some of the preliminary work for CIP4. Pipe Detectives had the low bid for televising the sewer systems in that project area. They also had a quote for if-needed cleaning as part of the process. Total quote was \$9,481.50 with the city share at \$1,896.30. They are on the schedule for the end of February weather permitting.

Carabello also presented the council with a tentative schedule for CIP4 starting with the scoping, planning and design work that is currently underway. The next step would be public participation meetings. If the city proceeds with this phase, it would be a 2027 construction season project.

Brosz continues to work on the lead service line surveys in the city. They are almost done with their first attempts to contact those who have not returned letters about their properties. So far four lead lines have been found in this round, bringing the total so far to 16 including the lines found while they were working on CIP1. They will continue to follow up with property owners as they work on this survey. There are potential federal dollars available to replace lead service lines.

Carabello also informed the council that the DWR and SWC are developing their 2027-2029 water development plan. Project submissions are due by April 30. Carabello suggested submitting for CIP4 as well as 7th Avenue after water breaks and freeze ups last winter.

## Infrastructure Project Requests

Joan Hollekim presented the council with a list of transfers to cover the previously approved street project costs. \$804,828.97 was approved to transfer from the infrastructure funds to close out those project funds.

The council also approved the second and final draw requests from the State Revolving Loan Fund for District 56 water and sewer projects.

Hollekim reported the special assessment committee will be meeting soon to levy for District 56's water and sewer projects in CIP2.

Hollekim also presented the council with a draft article for the newspaper detailing the city's commitment to infrastructure projects reducing the amount owed by the property owners.

## Police Committee

Councilman Ty Taylor reported on the police committee meeting as they look to fill the open patrol position. The council moved to approve the committee's recommendation to offer the position to Bryce Hysjulien conditioned on his meeting all of the qualifications of the position, obtaining a peace officer license, and signing a two-year commitment contract. The contract allows the city to recoup the costs of training and the academy should an officer leave before that two-year commitment is up. He would start at step zero on the officer's salary chart.

This base entrance level is five percent below the step one salary.

Chief Sam Pisek updated the council regarding the Peace Officer Memorial Highway. In December, the council approved putting two signs up to recognize the officers lost. They will be located at mile markers 112 and 113 near Killdeer and put up by the Dickinson DOT in the Spring. The council asked Pisek to follow up on when it will be done so that the city can be represented when the signs are installed. Pisek also reported on activity during the most recent grant fund period.

## Public Works Report

Councilman Chad Hysjulien presented the council with a proposal for a Muffin Monster sewer grinder. He said that city crews are currently having to pull the main lift station pumps two to three times per week because of the things that are going through the sewer system. The current grinders are not designed to deal with the amount of things being found. Hysjulien said this should help with many of the sewer issues. The council recommended that Public Works Director Dave Brown find three vendors to quote this item and installation and bring back to the next meeting.

Hysjulien also discussed charges for meter replacement when it needs to be done due to property owner negligence. The city currently charges \$125 in these cases, but the current cost for a meter is \$195. The council moved to change the charge to include the actual cost of the new meter and the actual hours for employees to install the new meter.

Hysjulien brought up what the city charges when they have to shut off and turn back on water service for delinquent accounts. He was concerned about the chronic cases where this happens and what the city can do to better handle these accounts and costs. Joan Hollekim will research city ordinance and policy and the council can revisit this at the next meeting.

## Auditor Items

City Auditor Ada Arneson provided the council with information from the Division of Water Resources Water Appropriation Division as relates to the city's conditional water permit for the Knife. While it was mostly informational for the council to review, it does support the earlier comments that if the city does not use their water permit they could lose it.

Arneson reported that she and Deputy Auditor Ronica Pederson are planning to attend the League of Cities spring workshop on March 18 and 19 in Dickinson.

The council moved to approve the designation of Bravera Bank as the city's depository. They also moved to approve the pledge of securities submitted by Bravera.

## Attorney Updates

City Attorney Ryan Sandberg said Pringle & Herigstad had reviewed the flood plain ordinance information and found the city does not need that ordinance as the city does not have properties that are flood insurance eligible.

The council moved to approve the resolution appointing and designating a special prosecutor for the city in the event of a conflict for the city's attorneys.

## Council Concerns

The council discussed that the school may choose to decline the safe routes to school grant for sidewalk by the practice football field. The estimated cost of engineering is well over the cost of the project. The city will follow up on the school's decision as the city was the agency that needed to accept the grant.

Mayor Marly Ranum asked council members and the community as a whole to keep those who have experienced recent tragedies in their prayers as well as helping whenever possible.

# AARP Fraud Alert: Government Impostors Rampant

The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline (877-908-3360) has seen a rise in impostors pretending to be government officials.

Scammers are calling people, making claims like there's a warrant for their arrest, their identity was used to buy child pornography or launder money, or that the FBI needs their help to catch a thief. These criminals seek to get your money by wire transfer or crypto kiosks. Some even use the real names of FBI agents or sheriffs to appear legitimate when you search online.

Remember that government officials will never contact you unexpectedly to seek payment in any form. If you receive a contact like this, disengage, and if you're worried there may be a problem, contact the agency at a number or web address you know to be legitimate.

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



## Obituaries

### Donna Heintzleman

Feb. 22, 1935-Jan. 27, 2026

Donna Heintzleman, age 90, of Newburg, passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at a Bottineau hospital.

Donna was born February 22, 1935, to AD Pierce and Hazel (Ruby) Pierce at Stanley, ND. She graduated from Wildrose High School in 1953. While in high school, she worked for "Mix" Stefanowicz at the Wildrose Mixer.

At Wildrose Chapel, Pearl Skor helped her learn to trust and follow Jesus Christ. She lived for a time at Lock Haven, PA. Donna married Reverend David Heintzleman at First Baptist Church in Stanley, ND, on February 14, 1983. He was pastor at Berthold Baptist, Berthold, ND. They served churches in Dell Rapids, SD; Grant, NE; Scottsbluff, NE; Columbus, NE; North Platte, NE; Rock Springs, WY; retiring at Newburg, ND, in 2010.

They served several short-term interims in Wyoming and North Dakota.

At Dell Rapids, Donna started a clown ministry with a friend, Molly, continuing it after moving.

In addition to being an active member of each church, teaching children's church and Sunday School classes, Donna was active in community service, helping organize community meals at holidays and helping her husband with hospitality for church groups and aids support group, and for the volunteers and staff of several domestic violence programs.

A celebration of life was held at Grace Lutheran Brethren Church in Bottineau, ND, on Saturday, February 14, 2026. Memorials may be directed to the Gideons or AWANA at the church in Bottineau.

Donna is survived by daughter, Debra (Vern) Hessler, San Antonio, TX; and son, Bill Mills, Norwich, ND.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dwight; her parents; brothers, Robert, Walter, and Marvin.

Arrangements were with Nero Funeral Home in Bottineau.

### Delores Thompson

Aug. 17, 1932-Feb. 1, 2026

Delores Elaine was born August 17, 1932, to Edwin and Lydia (Sorenson) Johnson at their farmstead north of Williston, ND, the oldest of six children. She was confirmed at First Lutheran Church in Williston and graduated with the Williston High School Class of 1951. After graduation, her career goal was to attend hair dressing school after working for a time at the Luzon Café in downtown Williston. She so enjoyed her time waitressing at the Luzon. Over the years, she has always recalled many happy memories of working there, and she made many lasting friendships and acquaintances.

One of those Luzon acquaintances was the young farmer from north of Ray, Norman Thompson. After their many lunch dates at the Luzon, Delores' plans changed. Norman and Delores were married December 27, 1959, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Williston. Their candlelight service was complete with Christmas trees, red and green dresses, and cascading poinsettias on her Bible bouquet. For a few years they lived in Williston in the winter months for employment. Mom worked at Model Cleaners. In the farming months, they moved back to the farm.

For the next nearly 63 years, her life revolved around Dad and children Jan Lorraine and Wesley Hilman. Our family grew with the addition of son-in-law, Charles Lloyd and daughter-in-law, Dawn Marie. When the three grandchildren arrived, she quickly accepted the role of Grandma with energy and love. Tyler Norman, Tanner Wesley and Lydia Kate Lorraine each had a very special place in her heart.

Throughout Delores' life, she became a beautiful blend of her parents' talents and interests. Her father, Edwin, was a skilled wood carver, accordion musician, farmer and cook, especially making gravy. Her mother, Lydia, was a registered nurse filled with knowledge, compassion, and instinct; Lydia took pride in her vegetable and flower gardens and hosting family holidays with great food and fun.

Without a doubt though, Mom's love language was food! Her family remarks about the numerous meals that she made and served over the years. She was a master baker and gravy maker (yes, she learned that from her dad) and everything in between! Her quiet, yet compelling presence and friendly smile were welcome to many.

Delores' priority was her family. Dad always said that the farm would NEVER have been successful without Mom. Her faith along with wise instinct and business acumen were integral to all farm decisions. What a team! They worked side by side, through thick and thin. Mom's actions defined the word "homemaker" NOT as just a passive occupation; she truly did "make" our home.

Delores was active in Rainbow Valley Church and in Ladies Aid where she held numerous offices over the years. She enjoyed teaching Sunday School and Bible School.

She was a member of the Oli-Rain Birthday Club.

Mom and Dad never really "retired" but moved south, you know, into Ray! She and Norman moved to Arbor House in Williston in October 2022. Norman passed away December 17, 2022.

Delores is survived by her daughter, Jan (Charles) Repnow, Minot, ND, and granddaughter, Lydia Repnow, Moorhead, MN; son, Wesley (Dawn) Thompson, Ray, ND, and grandsons, Tyler Thompson and Tanner Thompson, Ray, ND; sister, Myrtle Erdman, Williston, ND; brother, Robert Johnson Madison, SD; sisters-in-law, Ethel Thompson, Williston, ND, and Joyce Thompson, Helena, MT; special cousin, Duane (Carol) Sorenson, Chippewa Falls, WI; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by husband, Norman (2022); father, Edwin (1968); mother, Lydia (1999); sister, Gladys (2011); sister, Evelyn (2011); and brother, Laurence (1992).

Our family extends our deepest gratitude and thankfulness to the staff and residents of Arbor House in Williston. Your attentive care and kindness towards Mom touched our hearts. We are forever grateful.

Delores' funeral service was held on February 14, 2026, at the Ray Lutheran Church in Ray, ND. Pastor Mary Dickman-Parris officiated. Burial was held at Rainbow Valley Cemetery in Ray, ND.

The service will be recorded and posted as soon as it is available, you can view Delores' service on her obituary page on the website www.fulkersons.com.

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home of Williston, ND is assisting the family. Condolences may be left on the funeral home website at www.fulkersons.com.

### Frances Ventsch



July 8, 1926-Feb. 9, 2026

Frances Verlina Bohmbach Ventsch, age 99 and 7 months, passed away peacefully on February 9, 2026, surrounded by family.

She was born on July 8, 1926, in Charlson, ND, to Louis and Veroley Bohmbach, along with her twin brother, Neil Bohmbach. Frances spent her life dedicated to her family.

She graduated as a salutatorian from Sanish High School. After a year of college in Grand Forks, she taught fifth and sixth grade in Sanish, where she began her love of teaching. Frances graduated from Dickinson State with a two-year standard degree and went on to teach at Hettinger and Woodland, Washington. While in Washington, she also taught dancing at Arthur Murray's Dance Studio for one year. She then returned to North Dakota and continued teaching at Ray, Parshall, and New Town. She eventually earned her Bachelor of Science in Education at Minot State Univer-

sity. Frances retired after dedicating thirty-one years to education.

She married her loving spouse, Arthur Fritz Ventsch, on December 20, 1958. Together, they raised three daughters. Frances was a devoted mother, known for her giving spirit and love of children and education.

She is survived by her children, Debra (Pepper) Walsh of Bottineau, Robin (Gary) Fiddler of Minot, and Tamara (David) Wegner of Beach; her grandchildren, Amie (Chet) Erdman of Upham, Francine (Ryan) Dixon of Minot, Brooks (Bridget) Walsh of Souris, Cory (Nadine) Fiddler of Minot, Brett Fiddler of Minot, Hannah (Wolf) Brink of Wheaton, MN, Raymond Wegner of Benson, MN; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Ventsch; her parents, Louis and Veroley Bohmbach; and her siblings, Marvin Bohmbach, Blanche Vigen, and Neil Bohmbach.

Frances' funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, New Town, with visitation one hour prior to the start of the service at the church.

Interment will be held at Van Hook Cemetery in rural New Town, ND.

Memorials are preferred to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bethel Lutheran Church of New Town, or to the Benedictine Living Center of Garrison.

Those wishing to sign the online register and share memories may access the online obituaries section at www.langhansfuneralhome.com.

(Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall)

## Memorials Received By Stanley Fire Department

In memory of John Vachal from Mark and Melissa Vachal Family.

In memory of John Vachal and Roger Evans from Howard and Janice Rehak.

In memory of Jim Holm from Colleen Evenson.

## Memorials Received By Stanley Rural Fire Department

In memory of Roger Evans and Rosemary Martens from Diane and Meyer Kinnoin.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please send checks to Stanley Rural Fire Dept. at P.O. Box 926, Stanley, ND 58784.

## Memorials Received By Mountrail Community Food Pantry

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry received donations in memory of Rosemary Martens from Jeff and Deena Lapica, and Brandi and Darin Larson.

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry also received a donation in memory of Roger Evans and Rosemary Martens from Mary Domaskin.

A donation was also received in memory of Danny Lindberg and Roger Evans from Mark and Penny Uran.

Donations are very appreciated and may be mailed to 6989 84th Ave NW, Stanley, ND 58784 (or slide under the door at the pantry).

## Idaho Township Annual Meeting

Idaho Township Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Mountrail County South Complex. Business to be conducted includes election of officers, and any other business to come before the Board at this time.

Jackie Nelson, Township Clerk

## INVITATION TO BID FOR 5-YEAR LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PASTURE

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City of Stanley, North Dakota until **1:00 PM, on Monday, March 2, 2026**, for the lease of City-owned pasture consisting of approximately 71 acres located in the NW of Section 33, Township 156, Range 91 (fenced area north of the Little Knife Reservoir). Minimum bid shall be for no less than \$14.00 per acre per year.

Bidders shall submit their bid offer for the annual per acre amount in a sealed envelope and the face of the envelope shall be clearly marked "SEALED BID FOR PASTURE LEASE". Along with the bid for the annual per acre rental offer, bidders shall include their name, address and phone number in their bid offer. Bids shall be mailed or hand-delivered to the City of Stanley, Attn: City Auditor, 221 South Main Street, PO Box 249, Stanley ND 58784. All bids, whether mailed or hand-delivered, must be in the City Auditor's Office by the deadline of March 2, 2026, by 1:00 P.M.

Successful bidder shall be required to enter into a pasture lease agreement with the City of Stanley setting forth the terms for leasing City-owned pastureland. The lease will run for five years, and the annual rental payment will be calculated on the total acreage being offered for lease. The property shall only be used for ranching purposes, and all fences shall be maintained at the tenant's expense.

The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 4:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at Stanley City Hall, 221 South Main St, Stanley, ND. The Stanley City Council will take appropriate action on bids at their March 10, 2026 regular meeting. Any questions, call the City Auditor's Office at 701-628-2225.

The Stanley City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any or no reason, to hold bids for thirty (30) days before awarding, and waive any defects therein.

Dated at Stanley, North Dakota this 13th day of February, 2026.

Ada Arneson  
Stanley City Auditor