

PUBLIC NOTICES

A public notice is information informing citizens of government activities that may affect the citizens' everyday lives. Public notices have been printed in local newspapers, the trusted sources for community information, for more than 200 years.

North Dakota newspapers also post public notices that are printed in newspapers on www.ndpublicnotices.com at no additional charge to units of government.

City of Columbus
Council Proceedings
February 2, 2026
Unofficial Minutes

The February meeting of the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:04 pm on Monday, February 2, 2026, by Mayor Chris Kihle at the Columbus City Hall, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mayor Kihle, Amber Nygard, Katie Nygard, Darla Westernness, and Scott Sandy; Auditor, Sandy Raines.

Guests Present: None

Agenda: Motion by Westernness and second by K. Nygard to approve the agenda as presented. The mayor called for the vote. Motion approved. Minutes: Motion by K. Nygard and second by Westernness to approve the City Council minutes of January 5, 2026, as presented. The mayor called for the vote. Motion approved.

Public Comment: There being no members of the public present to comment, Mayor Kihle proceeded with the meeting.

- **City Engineer:** No report
- **City Attorney:** No report.
- **City Maintenance:** Bobcat has been repaired and returned.

• **City Auditor: Correspondence:** NDLC Spring Conference, NDRIF updates, Firstlink updates, ND Small Business Dev. Ctr. Annual Report, rates for 2026 WSI and UI.

Building Permit: Motion by Sandy and second by K. Nygard to approve permit #2026-001 Parcel #7222000 to construct a covered 10 x 20 pavilion with cement slab floor. Mayor called for the vote. Motion approved.

Financials: Motion by Sandy and second by Westernness to pay the February bills and file the 2025 EOY and January financial statements. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westernness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- **Fee structure:** Utility rates and fines for ordinance infractions – ongoing.

- **Columbus Community Club:** No report

- **Tree Grant:** Columbus was awarded grant, trees and supplies ordered, Contractor on the calendar.

• **SB 2027 Update:** Flood Plain Ordinance Amendment: Motion by Westernness and second by Sandy to approve the first reading of the amended Columbus City Ordinances Chapter 17 Article 9 Section 1-Section 6. Mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westernness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

- **Rural Catalyst Grant** submitted by January 7, 2026

New Business:

- **Columbus 120th Birthday** – August 1, 2026: Advertise for Planning Committee

• **Other Grant Availabilities:** AARP Livable Grant, T-Mobile Pocket Space

Adjournment: Motion by K. Nygard and second by A. Nygard to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Bills to Pay: Intuit \$275.00; BDEC \$11.50; Verizon \$289.71; NWRW \$2412.31; NCC \$223.29; MDU \$1290.45 & \$82.78; EFTPS \$1138.44; Amazon \$51.88; USPO \$186.00; Gov Card \$49.00; Jacob's Hardware \$52.97; BC Sheriff \$400.00; Burke County Tribune \$113.71; Circle Sanitation \$1956.75; First District Health \$30.00; Jerry's Transfer \$28.00; Lignite Oil \$1072.00; Visa Auditor \$9.65; Visa Maintenance \$450.19; ND DEQ \$57.18; Sandberg's \$200.00; Iron Hide Equipment \$5569.56; WSI \$349.30; Bowbells Ins \$8150.00 (Fire Hall) .

Sandy Raines, Auditor
February 11, 2026

City of Powers Lake						
Fund Balance Statement of January 1 through December 31, 2025						
	Fund Balance	Receipts	Transfer In	Transfer Out	Expenditures	Balance
General Fund	736,609.19	610,944.71		100,000.00	518,865.40	728,688.50
Equipment Reserve	48,127.85	232.44	25,000.00		45,000.00	28,360.29
Building Reserve	60,127.85	232.44	50,000.00			110,360.29
Emergency Snow Fund	1,468.05					1,468.05
City Sales Tax - Park & Rec	68,545.24	14,083.20			5,000.00	77,628.44
City Sales Tax - NH & Muni Impr	65,811.13	35,121.25				100,932.38
City Sales Tax - Econ Dev	49,822.02	108,140.58			68,017.38	89,945.22
Highway Fund	102,761.39	45,820.45	25,000.00		128,684.79	44,897.05
Highway Fund - Legacy Earnings	2,666.05	15,967.01			2,666.05	15,967.01
Watershed Project	1,139.63					1,139.63
Water	507,706.48	639,949.70		120,000.00	195,677.16	831,979.02
Sewer	39,754.39	28,281.88			37,387.91	30,648.36
Garbage	4,881.40	85,090.90			88,193.00	1,779.30
Water & Sewer Impr Project	73,395.40					73,395.40
Water & Sewer Impr Project Reserve	200,709.85		120,000.00			320,709.85
Subtotal	1,963,525.92	1,583,864.56	220,000.00	220,000.00	1,089,491.69	2,457,992.79
CD's & Investments						
General CD	40,000.00					40,000.00
Equipment Reserve CD	57,128.08	1,934.85				59,062.93
Building Reserve CD	261,640.41	9,674.24				271,314.65
Highway CD	31,043.00					31,043.00
Water CD	4,000.00					4,000.00
Sewer CD	12,000.00					12,000.00
City Sales Tax - Park & Rec CD	4,800.00					4,800.00
City Sales Tax - NH & Muni Impr CD	10,000.00					10,000.00
City Sales Tax - Econ Dev CD	51,000.00					51,000.00
City Sales Tax - Municipal Imp Savings	143,159.64	1,612.14				144,771.78
Subtotal	614,771.13	13,221.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	627,992.36
Grand Total	2,578,297.05	1,597,085.79	220,000.00	220,000.00	1,089,491.69	3,085,991.15

Jennifer Titus, City Auditor
February 11, 2026

Ordinance Floodplain Management

CITY OF POWERS LAKE, ND
Section 6.1 Penalties for Violations

(1) Violation of the provisions of this ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements, including violations on conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants or variances or conditional uses, shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500 or by imprisonment not to exceed 30 days or by both such fine and imprisonment for each such offense, and in addition shall pay costs and expenses involved in the case. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

(2) Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Powers Lake City Council from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

THE CITY OF POWERS LAKE
Kari Enget, Mayor

First Reading: February 4, 2026
Second Reading & Adoption: March 5, 2026

Publication Dates:
February 11 & 18, 2026
Burke County Tribune

City of Powers Lake
Council Proceedings

Regular Meeting
Unapproved Proceedings

The Powers Lake City Council met in regular session on February 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were: Griesbach, Moen, Parslow and Holmen. Also present were Chief Leighton, Dustin Olson, Chris with Ackerman-Estfold, Ronnie Peters, Mark Douts, Dennis Dosch, and the auditor.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Enget called the meeting to order; called for public comment.

Dennis Dosch addressed the council regarding the Powers Lake Watershed Project. The project has exhausted all grant funding and is seeking the council's approval to place the dredge and pipe out for bids. Motion by Holmen, seconded by Griesbach to approve placing the dredge and pipe out for bids. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous. Dosch left the meeting.

Mark Douts presented a funding request for the Powers Lake Rural Fire Protection District (SCBA units) and the Powers Lake Ambulance (new heart monitor). Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Parslow to approve

bulk water community grants to each department for \$40,000.00. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous.

Motion by Moen, seconded by Parslow approve the January 7 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Auditor: Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Parslow to approve the January-December, 2025 fund statement. Motion carried. Motion by Parslow, seconded by Griesbach approve the January, 2026 fund statement. Motion carried. Motion by Griesbach, seconded Moen to approve the Rath & Mehrer audit contract for 2024-2025. Roll call votes resulted in ayes unanimous.

Landfill/Building Permits: Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Parslow to approve the building permit for Caren L. Holby for a modular home and garage. Motion carried.

Streets/Legion Hall: Street sanding requests should be made to Moen. Discussion was held on a pickup mounted sand spreader-tabled until May.

Police report for January: calls for service-35; crashes-1; total stops-26; citations-20; written warnings-11; verbal warnings-10; admin-8; assist PL ambulance-3; school checks-5; door checks-6; phone calls-106.

Mayor: Thank you to all the council members for all they do for the community.

Old Business: The city attorney provided the agreement document for current Hegstad Subdivision property owners to sign to vacate the protective covenants for Hegstad Subdivision as approved at 1-7-26 meeting.

New Business: Motion by Moen, seconded by Griesbach to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance Floodplain Management. Motion carried.

Sales Tax Committee recommendation for Hegstad Subdivision new construction incentive of up to \$7,500 utility connection reimbursement. Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Parslow to amend the original motion from 1-7-2026 to the following: Hegstad Subdivision new construction incentive of up to \$7,500 utility connection reimbursement. All three utilities (water, sewer, electrical) must be connected, water & electrical must be metered, redeemable upon project completion. Construction must start within one year of lot purchase and be completed/occupied within two years to be eligible. Roll call vote: Griesbach-aye; Holmen-abstained; Moen-aye; Parslow-aye. Motion carried.

The city attorney has filed her letter of resignation effective 12-31-2026.

Discussion was held on Hegstad Subdivision pricing for lots 10 & 11. Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Parslow to approve the sale price adjustment for lots 10 & 11 to match lot 9, \$20,182.88. All other lots will remain at the \$1/sq ft pricing. Roll call vote:

Griesbach-aye; Holmen-abstained; Moen-aye; Parslow-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Parslow to approve Mayor Enget to sign the Hegstad Subdivision purchase agreement for lots 12 & 13 to Caren L. Holby with the changes made by the city attorney. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous.

Discussion was held on items in the city shop that should be sold. Griesbach will present a list of items at the next meeting. Discussion was held on options for police department office.

Motion by Parslow, seconded by Holmen to pay the following bills: Adobe \$20.99, Amazon 349.99, Burke County Auditor 753.60, Burke County Tribune 119.52, Cenex 484.26, Circle Sanitation 8152.25, Country Store 160.59, Edwards Service 53.25, First District Health 30.00, Hawkins 635.78, ITD 103.40, John's Sand & Gravel 7937.50, KSquared 2084.62, Liberty Insurance 198.00, McAfee 158.99, MDU 3572.23, NCC 573.54, NDSU 265.00, Prairie Pride Foods 64.17, Staples 84.33, The Computer Store 360.00, Thistle Grove 111.00, USPS 1222.75, Verizon 288.57, Western Tax 30.00, WSI 652.91, Liz Beavers 502.23, Patrick Leighton 4616.50, Kenny MacDonald 3222.66, Jennifer Titus 2816.01, NDPERS (retirement) 1543.62, NDPERS (Def Com) 750.00, IRS payroll taxes 3037.70. Roll call vote resulted in ayes unanimous.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m.
Motion by Griesbach, seconded by Moen to adjourn at 7:08 pm. Motion carried.

Kari Enget, Mayor
Jennifer Titus, City Auditor
February 11, 2026

News Tip?

377-2626

Keep the Mice Away



Renew Your Fresh Cab scent pouches TODAY!

This all natural blend of scents, spices and agricultural products has been found to help keep mice out of enclosed areas such as tractor and combine cabs, farm trucks, boats, RVs and vehicles.

Sold at Burke County Tribune

Initiative Highlights Urgent Needs and Promising Pathways for Local News

A yearlong statewide research effort examining the health and future of local news in North Dakota affirms an industry at a crossroads—one facing mounting challenges, but also significant opportunities for renewal, innovation and community partnership.

The Future of Local News Initiative completed a comprehensive assessment of local news conditions in North Dakota, which included surveys of newspaper executives, journalists, college journalists, news consumers and residents of North Dakota’s “news desert” counties.

The project steering committee, comprised of media professionals and stakeholders, received the final project report at a Jan. 28 meeting.

Clear themes emerged from the research: the state’s independent newspapers face rising costs and shrinking margins, journalists are stretched thin, consumers want deeper coverage and more digital access, news desert areas with no in-county newspaper face significant information gaps, and outreach opportunities exist to promote journalism careers.

“North Dakota’s local newspapers have long served as trusted, community-rooted institutions,” says Chris Gessele, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) cooperative development specialist. “This Initiative not only highlights the challenges they face, but also offers a roadmap for actionable solutions that can help sustain local journalism for decades to come.”

KEY FINDINGS
Local newspapers remain widely trusted and deeply valued.

Survey results show strong public belief in the importance of maintaining a local newspaper:

- Nearly 90% of North Dakotans say having a local newspaper is “important” or “very important.”

- Local newspaper reporting is considered the most trusted source for information about important community issues.

Independent newspapers face acute sustainability risks.

The newspaper executives survey revealed an urgent need for succession planning and the cultivation of a new generation of newspaper publishers. Executives shared proprietary information to outline the industry’s strengths and challenges, including:

- More than 80% of independent newspapers reported operating at breakeven or better in 2024.
- Of independent publishers, 14% do not have an online presence.

Postal costs, declining advertising revenue and challenges attracting subscribers are top threats.

- Both group and independent publishers ranked these as top challenges.
- Printing and distribution costs consume more than half of independent newspapers’ budgets.

Journalists report chronic understaffing and desire greater community engagement.

- 72% say there are not enough journalists to cover community needs.
- 51% have experienced harassment or threats in the past two years related to their reporting.

- Journalists strongly support expanding digital tools, training and newsroom staffing.

Consumers want more coverage in key areas and expanded access to information.

North Dakotans expressed a desire for:

- More in-depth reporting on local government, schools and key community institutions.
- Expanded digital access, especially via e-editions and newsletters.

News desert counties experience notable civic impacts.

In Dunn, Sioux and Slope counties, which lack a local newspaper operating within their county:

- 71% feel less aware of local events.
- 55% feel less informed about local government.
- 52% feel less connected to their community.
- 90%, primarily Dunn and Sioux counties, expressed interest in a new locally focused newspaper.

Additionally, a statewide newspaper database is now established, with circulation, digital presence and audience metrics of North Dakota’s 71 newspapers, to support ongoing monitoring and future initiatives.

NEXT STEPS

The North Dakota Newspaper Association (NDNA) is seeking grant funding to support four pilot projects to test strategies identified through the Future of Local News Initiative, which include:

• Succession planning for newspaper owners as well as connecting them with individuals interested in owning a newspaper in the future.

• A newspaper sampling program in rural communities with higher concentrations of residents ages 25 to 45.

• Expanding the number of newspapers implementing a proven revenue model designed by researcher Teri Finneman, formerly of North Dakota and currently a journalism professor at the University of Kansas.

• Delivery of “revenue-in-a-box” content and advertising programs newspapers can tailor to their communities.

Many more solutions were identified, and this is only a starting point, says Cecile Wehrman, NDNA executive director. Industry leaders will use the findings to inform conversations about statewide collaboration, resource development and community-driven strategies to support sustainable local news.

“This initiative is not an ending – it’s a beginning,” Wehrman says. “The report provides a foundation for building stronger connections, stronger newsrooms and stronger communities across North Dakota.”

The Future of Local News Initiative was administered by NDAREC in partnership with NDNA. The project was guided by a steering committee and supported by a Bush Foundation Partnership Fund grant, with research conducted by Coda Ventures.

NDAREC is the statewide trade association for 17 electric distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives operating in North Dakota. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to nearly 250,000 North Dakotans.

NDAREC services include legislative advocacy, lineworker safety training, cooperative business and rural development, professional development and communication services, including publication of the North Dakota Living magazine.

REDUCE YOUR 2026 PROPERTY TAX BILL BY UP TO \$1600!

Eligibility requirements for the Primary Residence Property Tax Credit:



- Must own a home in ND and reside in it as your primary residence
- One credit per household, no age or income restrictions
- Must apply and be approved annually to receive the credit



Application Deadline: April 1, 2026
Apply Online: www.tax.nd.gov/prc