

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
March 2, 2026 Unofficial Minutes

The Public Hearing commenced at 7:01 pm. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive public input from all interested people on a request of the City Council to approve a special exception variance to City Ordinance 7.0303 Section 3. "Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facilities intended or used for the disposal of

sewage." Comments received: There can be some smell; able to be used year-round, regular maintenance and cleaning is essential. Public Hearing closes at 7:05 pm.

The March meeting of the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:06 pm on Monday, March 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 Westerness, and Scott Sandy; Auditor, Sandy Raines.

Guests Present: Brian Julius, Ackerman-Estvold; Dennis Damm, Brooke Watterud, Kari Lesmeister, Ashley Throntveit, and Susan Kihle.

Agenda: Motion by Westerness and second by K. Nygard to approve the agenda as presented. The mayor called for the vote. Motion approved.

Minutes: Motion by Westerness and seconded by A. Nygard to approve the City Council minutes of February 2, 2026, as presented with the correction of Building Permit parcel from #7222000 to parcel #07223000. The mayor called for the vote. Motion approved.

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

the meeting.

• **City Engineer:** Brian shared a letter from the Dept. of Water Resources and State Water Commission to submit projects that will request cost-sharing during the 2027-2029 biennia.

• **City Attorney:** No report.

• **City Maintenance:** Cleaning streets, installed spotlight on water tower from the Community Center, received cutting edge and installed on Bobcat bucket.

• **City Auditor:** Correspondence: NDLC Spring Conference, updates from NDIRF.

• **Financials:** Motion by K. Nygard and second by Sandy to pay the March bills and file the February financial statement. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westerness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Old Business: • **Columbus Community Club:** Brooke Watterud presented a financial report regarding monies that have been donated for the basketball court at Cougar Park. The goal has been reached, totaling \$114,377.00. Brooke also presented an estimate from Safety First Playground Maintenance for the

installation and construction of the court. After discussion the Council asked Brooke to respond to the company to clarify some ambiguous items on the quote obtaining more specific details.

• **Tree Grant:** The trees were removed on February 12-13, and the wood donated to a resident.

• **SB 2027 Update:** A motion was made by Westerness and seconded by Sandy to hear the second reading and make final approval of the Amended Flood Plain Ordinance Chapter 17 Article 9. The mayor called for the vote. Motion carried. Mayor signed the ordinance into effect on March 2, 2026.

• **Rural Catalyst Grant:** Columbus was not selected as a recipient for the grant.

• **Columbus Birthday Celebration** – consensus of the council to continue planning and marketing for anniversary celebration, slated for August 1, 2026.

• **Fees and Fines Schedule:** A draft of suggested rate increases was presented to the council for discussion. The changes will be inserted and a final draft presented for approval at the April meeting.

New Business:

• **Variance for Privy Toilet:** A motion was made by Sandy and seconded by K. Nygard to approve a one-time variance special exception of City Ordinance 7.0303 Section 3 to the City of Columbus to allow the installation of a privy vault toilet at Cougar Park located on Main Street and 4th Ave W. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westerness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

• **2026 Election forms – Park Board** has 3 - 4 yr. term positions; 1 - 2 yr. unexpired term; City has: Mayor - 4 year term; Council 2 - 4 yr. terms and 1 - 2 yr. unexpired term. ASFN 10172 Statement of Interest and a SFN 02074 Certificate of Nomination must be completed and filed with the Columbus City auditor by 4:00pm on April 6, 2026, to have name on the ballot.

• **Maintenance Salary:** A motion was made by Westerness and seconded by K. Nygard to approve a \$1000 per month increase in the Maintenance Salary following a six-month probation effective immediately. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K.

Nygard, Westerness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Abstain: Sandy. Motion approved.

Adjournment: Motion by Westerness and second by K. Nygard to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 6, 2026, following the Columbus Board of Equalization scheduled to meet at 7:00 pm.

Bills to Pay: Intuit \$275.00; BDEC 11.50; Verizon 289.63; NWRW 3224.42; NCC 223.29; MDU 1205.42; EFTPS 1088.86; Amazon 142.03; Gov Card 49.00; Jacob's Hardware 65.98; BC Sheriff 400.00; Burke County Tribune 266.69; Circle Sanitation 1956.75; First District Health 30.00; Jerry's Transfer 28.00; Lignite Oil 1108.80; Visa Auditor 215.00; Visa Maintenance 642.53. BND 937.50.

Sandy Raines, Auditor
March 11, 2026

Battleview Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 6:00 PM
 at the clerk's home. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Nick Dosch, Clerk

Clayton Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 7:00 PM
 in the Dacotah Bank community room. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Denise Chrest, Clerk

Cleary Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 5:30 PM
 at the Powers Lake City Hall. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Shawna McFarland, Clerk

Colville Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Thursday, March 26: 8:00 PM
 at the Hygge Hotel, Powers Lake. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Jamie Eckert, Clerk

Dale Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION and
Tuesday, March 17: 5:30 PM
 at the clerk's home. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Ronda Ehlike, Clerk

Notice of Public Hearing
Dale Township, Burke County, ND
 Dale Township Supervisors of Burke County, North Dakota will have a public hearing on Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Faron and Ronda Ehlike for the purpose of raising the township mill levy, up to 36 mills.
 In accordance to 58-04-02 - Special Meetings, we are hereby giving notice of a public hearing for tax increase.
 If you have any questions or concerns or would like additional information, contact Ronda Ehlike, 701-339-8969.

Fay Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 5:00 PM
 at the Columbus Fire Hall. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 James Powell, Clerk

Foothills Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 2:00 PM
 at the Burke County Courthouse. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Amy Ones, Deputy Clerk

Harmonious Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 24: 7:00 PM
 at the Dhuyvetter residence (9950 County Rd 6). Election of two supervisors to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Betty Dhuyvetter, Clerk

Kandiyohi Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 6:00 PM
 at the Layne & Kae Ankenbauer Residence (7340 84th St. NW, Kenmare, ND). Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Amy Ones, Deputy Clerk

Keller Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 9:00 AM
 at the Columbus Fire Hall. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Lynn Watterud, Clerk

Lakeview Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 4:00 PM
 at the Burke County Courthouse. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Amy Ones, Clerk/Treasurer

Leaf Mountain Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 24: 7:00 PM
 at the Roger Helseth farm. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Taylor Jacobson, Clerk

Lucy Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 7:00 PM
 at the clerk's home (8575 85th Ave NW, Powers Lake). Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Lani Lucy, Clerk

Minnesota Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Monday, March 23: 7:00 PM
 at the Dacotah Bank community room. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Amy Ones, Deputy Clerk

North Star Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 24: 7:00 PM
 at the clerk's home. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Sarah Petersen, Clerk

Richland Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 17: 3:00 PM
 at the courthouse. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Gene Christansen, Clerk

Roseland Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Wednesday, March 18: 7:00 PM
 at the clerk's home. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Marie Mogren, Clerk

Thorson Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Monday, March 30: 7:30 PM
 at the clerk's home. Election will be held for one supervisor and clerk/ treasurer and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Jennifer Grote, Clerk/Treasurer

Vale Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Wednesday, March 18: 2:00 PM
 at the home of Deb Nelson. Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Deb Nelson, Clerk

Vanville Township ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Tuesday, March 24: 6:00 PM
 at the clerk's home (7975 83rd Ave NW, Powers Lake). Election to be held and to act on any other business to come before the board.
 Leandra Hamilton, Clerk