

Make sure trees, shrubs are winter hardy before purchasing

Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring is encouraging homeowners to read the tag and research varieties before buying and planting nursery stock for their property.



zero and colder," Goehring said. "Some plants may not tolerate our soil types or dry winter conditions. Plants not adapted to our environment can also make them more susceptible to plant pests and diseases."

The most common, non-hardy trees and shrubs offered for sale in North Dakota include emerald arborvitae, dwarf Alberta spruce, eastern redbud, oakleaf hydrangea, Japanese snowball (Viburnum plicatum), dappled willow and certain varieties of fruit trees, such as peaches and sweet cherries. Emerald arborvitae and dwarf Alberta spruce are sometimes labeled as hardy from 30 to 40 degrees below zero, but they tend to winter burn badly resulting in death or severe dieback.

NDDA nursery inspectors have been out visiting nurseries and checking for non-hardy nursery stock as well as other compliance with North Dakota nursery law, including proper labeling, pests and disease, and plant health and viability.

A more detailed listing of non-hardy trees and shrubs and a list of all licensed nurseries, as well as a plant hardiness zone map can be found on U.S. Department of Agriculture website, usda.gov

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

McVILLE CITY COUNCIL March 9, 2026 - City Office

Pledge of Allegiance was said. Mayor Stein called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present were members Messner and Altendorf; public works employee Trostad; Auditor Arneson; representatives for Tri-County Water and Otter Tail Power. Not present: members Berg and Joramo.

Motion to approve the agenda by Messner, seconded by Altendorf; motion passed.

Motion by Messner to approve February regular meeting minutes, seconded by Altendorf; motion passed.

Public Works Report -- Sewer on Sheyenne Street was frozen and Tolna Plumbing helped get it open.

Auditor's Report -- Currently switching data over to our new accounting program, Banyon. Thank you to the American Legion for donating toward purchase of this new software.

Motion for approval of February financials by Altendorf, seconded by Messner; motion passed. Payments: F & M Bank \$3,630.64 NDPERS 2,044.74 Sheriff 1,960.00 701 Tax 850.00 Hawkins 906.55 Skips 3,008.54 State Chem Lab 14.56 NAPA 126.46 Brager 1,725.25 GF Lab 44.00 Unum 64.08 Otter Tail 3,047.25 BCBS 4,153.40 Sheriff 1,960.00 MN Lab 83.00 F & M Visa 777.84 Moore 25,656.25 WSI 931.95 GF Lab 44.77 Farmers Union Oil 87.95 D & M 1,509.96 Catalis 877.42 Verizon 310.15 NDTC 253.17 F & M Bank 94.79 USDA 11,382.00 Payroll 14,125.09

Old Business -- Main Street Project: A \$395,655 grant was awarded from the ND Flex Fund for the replacement of three blocks of Main Street. We will be applying for additional funding as it becomes available.

Water Plant Renovations: Motion by Messner, seconded by Altendorf, to approve Moore Engineering to develop and submit a project information and planning form for the water treatment plant rehabilitation and Main Street Improvements projects, to be included on the 2027-29 water development plan maintained by the ND Department of Water Resources. All approved; motion passed.

Tri-County Water Rates: Guest -- Currently Tri-County water pays \$3.24 per 1,000 gallons. After a recent increase of about 38% to our residents, the conversation has been about what applicable charge increase would be adequate and fair with rural water sales. Motion by Messner to raise rates for Tri-County to \$4 per 1,000 gallons. Seconded by Altendorf. Motion passed.

New Business -- Otter Tail Power Ordinance: Presented by Damian Reiter. Messner motioned to approve the first reading of the amended Ordinance #90. Seconded by Altendorf. Motion carried. First reading of Ordinance #90 passed.

Designation of Publication: Lakota American. Motion by Messner, seconded by Altendorf, to designate the Lakota American for official publication. Motion passed.

Petitions for Office: Petitions for elected officials are due April 6. Positions open are four-year terms for two council positions, two four-year terms for park district and the mayoral position.

Discussion on Dilapidated Housing: Council discussed options for addressing dilapidated buildings and blight in our community.

Announcements: Regular council meeting Monday, April 13, 2026. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Chanda Arneson

City Auditor

Douglas Stein Mayor

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

McVILLE CITY COUNCIL April 13, 2026 - City Office

Pledge of Allegiance was said. Mayor Stein called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present were Mayor Stein, members Joramo, Berg and Messner; public works employees Trostad and Joramo; Auditor Arneson; representatives from Moore Engineering and Otter Tail Power Co. Not present: member Altendorf.

Messner motioned for approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Joramo; motion passed.

Motion by Joramo to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Berg; motion carried.

Public Works Report -- Getting the street sweeper ready to make a pass; working on details for the water plant renovation project. Public works employee Trostad applied for and was awarded a grant from ND HHS for \$5,397 for a replacement pump for fluoride in the water plant.

Motion by Joramo, seconded by Berg, to approve the March financial report. All approved; motion passed.

Payments: NDTC \$251.98 Sheriff 1,960.00 Banyon 1,260.00 Ihry 23.00 Otter Tail 2,698.76 State Chem. Lab 14.56 BCBS 4,153.40 ABS 127.99 F & M Visa 504.14 Brager 1,725.25 M. Lindstad 1,200.00 ND Aviation 100.00 Co. Shop 105.00 D & M 430.93 Johnston H&C 2,175.00 Menards 234.42 F & M Bank 3,351.04 NDPERS 1,946.02 Verizon 310.15 Payroll 14,125.09

Old Business -- Jeff, Moore Engineering, Main Street project: Motion by Berg, seconded by Joramo, to authorize Moore Engineering to prepare SRF loan applications and specifications for the Main Street project. Task order #2. All agreed; motion passed.

Water Plant Renovations: Motion by Berg, seconded by Messner, to approve task order #3 authorizing Moore Engineering to prepare the engineer's report for phase #1 of the water and sewer improvement project. All agreed; motion passed. This report will be submitted for hopes of a matching grant to replace water and sewer lines.

McVillie Recreational Pathway: Motion by Messner, seconded by Berg, to authorize Moore Engineering to assist Chanda with completing the OHF grant application submittal and assistance with the presentation to the ND Industrial Commission. All agreed; motion passed.

Ordinance #90: Motion by Messner, seconded by Berg, to approve the second reading of Ordinance #90 pertaining to the agreement the city has with Otter Tail Power Company. All approved; motion carried. Ordinance #90 is updated and ready for publication.

Cleanup Week: April 27-May 1. The city will supply dumpsters from Zaub Rolloff.

New Business -- Flood Plain Ordinance: Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #25 Flood Plain Management made by Joramo, seconded by Berg. First reading of the new ordinance passed.

F & M Bank: Motion to approve closing obsolete accounts at the F & M Bank by Joramo, seconded by Messner. All agreed; motion passed.

SRF Bond Documents: Motion by Joramo, seconded by Messner, to approve the bond resolution application to the SRF. All agreed; motion passed.

Announcements -- Regular council meeting Monday, May 11; garage sales May 15-17.

Adjournment 8:45 p.m.

Douglas Stein Mayor

ACCEPTANCE of Franchise Agreement

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY, a Minnesota corporation, acting through its proper officers thereunto duly authorized, does hereby accept Ordinance No. 302-05 of the City of Petersburg, North Dakota, being an Ordinance granting a franchise to Otter Tail Power Company, and being entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO THE OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, PERMISSION TO ERECT, CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, AND MAINTAIN WITHIN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG, NORTH DAKOTA, AN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER SYSTEM AND TRANSMISSION LINE, AND TO OPERATE THE SAME, AND TO INSTALL CONDUITS, POLES, WIRES, PIPES, AND OTHER FIXTURES IN, UPON AND UNDER THE STREETS ALLEYS, BRIDGES, AND PUBLIC GROUNDS OF SAID CITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURNISHING ELECTRIC LIGHT, HEAT, AND POWER TO SAID CITY AND THE INHABITANTS THEREOF";

and all of the terms, conditions, requirements, and provisions of said Ordinance No. 302-05. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Otter Tail Power Company has caused this Acceptance to be duly executed this 10th day of April, 2026

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY By: Tim Rogelstad, President And: Cary Stephenson, Associate General Counsel, Otter Tail Power Company

In Presence of: Barbara LaPlante Cynthia Geray

STATE OF MINNESOTA))SS COUNTY OF OTTER TAIL)

On this 10 day of April, 2026, before me, a Notary Public within and for said County, personally appeared Tim Rogelstad and Cary Stephenson to me personally known, who, being each by me duly sworn, did say that they are, respectively, the President, and Associate General Counsel of Otter Tail Power Company, the corporation named in the foregoing instrument, and that said instrument was signed in behalf of said corporation by authority of its Board of Directors, and said Tim Rogelstad and Cary Stephenson acknowledged said instrument to be the free act and deed of said corporation.

MARGARET THERESE GETTEL Notary Public-Minnesota My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2030

The foregoing Acceptance was duly filed in the office of the City Auditor of the City of Petersburg, North Dakota, this 3rd day of May 2026. City Auditor, Tricia Johnson

ORDINANCE NO. 302-05

An Ordinance granting to the Otter Tail Power Company, a Minnesota Company, its successors and assigns, permission to erect, construct, install and maintain within the City of Petersburg, an electric light and power system and transmission lines and to operate the same and to install conduits, poles, wires, pipes and other fixtures in, upon and under the streets, alleys, bridges, and public grounds of said City for the purpose of furnishing electric light, heat and power to said City and the inhabitants thereof.

BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG, North Dakota, Hereinafter called the "City":

SECTION 1

There is hereby granted to Otter Tail Power Company, a Minnesota Company, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called the Grantee, for a period of twenty (20) years from and after the passage and approval of this Ordinance and during all of said time, subject to the conditions and requirements hereinafter set forth, permission to construct, install and maintain an electric light and power system and transmission lines and to operate and maintain the same within and through the City and to transmit electricity to and from other towns or cities for the purpose of light, power and heat and to erect, construct, install and maintain conduits, poles, wires, pipes and other necessary fixtures and attachments upon and under the streets, alleys, bridges and public grounds of said City for the purpose of furnishing and selling electricity for light, heat and power and such other purposes for which electricity may be used by the inhabitants of said City, said permission and franchise to become operative and continue under the conditions hereinafter set forth.

SECTION 2

Said Grantee shall use poles, wires, crossarms, equipment and devices to conform with the standards of construction adopted by the National Electrical Safety Code of the United States, Department of Commerce, and all apparatus connected therewith shall be located so as not to obstruct the avenues, streets, and alleys of said City or to endanger persons or property or to hinder or to obstruct the use of said avenues, streets, and alleys for public places by the inhabitants of said City, or public in general, or to interfere with any street, sidewalk, curb, gutter or park improvements that the City may deem proper to make along the lines of said avenues, streets and public places.

SECTION 3

All conduits, poles, wires and pipes installed by virtue of this Ordinance shall be installed in such places and in such manner as not unnecessarily to encroach upon streets, alleys, bridges, or public grounds of said City, and so as not to unnecessarily obstruct the use thereof for the ordinary purpose of travel thereon, and the erection thereof shall be subject to the reasonable supervision and direction of the City Council of the said City. Whenever practicable, all poles shall be set in alleys, and poles now in position upon or along the streets, whenever practicable, shall be removed, and the locations of all of said poles shall be designated by the Mayor under the supervision of the City Council of the said City.

All poles where set in alleys shall be set at or near the boundary line thereof, and where set in streets shall be located at such distances, as shall be directed by the city, from the property line of the abutting owner, and shall be placed so as not to interfere with the construction of placing of any waterpipes, sewers, or drains or the flow of water therefrom which have been or may be placed by authority of said City. In the event that said Grantee shall make any unnecessary obstruction of said streets, alleys, public grounds or places not designated by the City Council, the City may cause the removal of such obstructions and charge and collect from such Grantee the actual cost of such removals.

SECTION 4

During the construction, maintenance or enlargement of any part of said electric light and power system, said Grantee shall not unnecessarily impede or block travel in said streets and highways in said city, and shall leave all streets, highways, alleys, sidewalks, curbs, lanes and public places and all grounds disturbed by said construction in good condition upon the completion of said work.

The City reserves the right for itself and its agents to make and adopt, and the rights and privileges hereby granted shall at all times be and remain subject to, such reasonable regulations of a police nature as it may deem necessary for the best interests of the City but the City will not by an such regulations or by acts of its own or agents do anything to prevent or interfere with the Grantee carrying on its business in accordance with the franchise hereby granted.

SECTION 5

Whenever the said Grantee in erecting, constructing and maintaining said lines or poles, shall take up any of the pavements, sidewalks crossings or curbs on any of the avenues, streets and alleys or public places in said City or shall make any excavations thereon; such excavations shall be refilled and the sidewalk, crossing or curb replaced under the direction of the said City and any excavation so made shall be properly lighted at night during the construction, and in case of the failure to do so on the part of the said Grantee, then the said City may do the same at the expense of said Grantee and said Grantee agrees to pay said City for the reasonable cost or value of said work. Said Grantee shall be liable for all loss or damage caused by the negligence of Grantee, which may result to persons or property within the said City, caused by it, or its agents, servants, or employees in erecting, operating and maintaining the said electric system within said City, and shall at all times save the City harmless from any and all damages to persons or property in erecting, operating or maintaining said electric system.

SECTION 6

There is granted to said Grantee, its successors and assigns, during the term hereof, permission and authority to trim all trees in alleys, streets and public grounds of said City so as to remove all parts of said trees interfering with the proper erection maintenance and operation of poles, cables, wires, masts or other fixtures, or appliances installed or to be installed pursuant to authority hereby granted.

Said Grantee shall have full right and authority to assign any person, persons, firm or corporation all the rights that are given it by this Ordinance, provided that the assignee of such rights by accepting such assignment shall become subject to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7

The Grantee shall use due diligence and care in furnishing electric service as herein provided but shall not be liable for any loss or damage which may arise from failure of the service, either partial or total, but this shall not be construed to exempt said Grantee from liability for negligence.

SECTION 8

The rates to be charged by said Grantee in the said City shall be filed with the Public Service Commission of the State of North Dakota, and no increase or decrease in said rates shall be made except in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Public Service Commission.

SECTION 9

This contract shall be subject to any present or future laws of a regulatory nature enacted by the State of North Dakota, or an any amendment or addition to such laws and further shall be subject to the rules and regulations laid down by the Public Service Commission of the State of North Dakota.

SECTION 10

The City reserves the right during the term hereof to enact and assess a franchise fee such as it deems necessary, upon reasonable advance notice to Grantee of not less than sixty (60) days.

SECTION 11

In the event the City should sell or transfer real property which is subject to Grantee's franchise and should it become necessary to remove conduits, poles, wires or pipes installed by virtue of this ordinance the removal shall be done at the expense of the Grantee upon the request of the City.

SECTION 12

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval by the City Council. The said Grantee shall specify its acceptance of this franchise in writing, to be filed with the City Auditor and in no event shall this Ordinance be binding on said Grantee until the filing of such acceptance.

Approved This Feb. 2, 2026 Attest: Tricia Johnson Title: City Auditor, City of Petersburg Amber Vickar Mayor, City of Petersburg