

Minutes for Council Meeting

February 2nd 2026 / 7:00 PM / 203 Alley St.

In Attendance:

- Tony Roth
- Tasha Pond
- Scott McConnel
- Cody Cashman
- Merle Myers
- Jon Prien

Guest:

- Bill Martin
- Nick Huss
- William Martin
- Kinney Idso
- Mike Kriz
- Chris Seely
- Derrick Taylor
- 3 Moore's Employees
 - Nick
 - Kurt
 - Josh

City Business

- Called meeting to order 7:00pm
- Cody moved a motion to approve previous meeting minutes.
 - a. Seconded by Merle
 - b. No discussion
 - c. Motion Passed
- Cass Rural Water Usage for January- 129,830 gallons
- Garbage increase starting Jan. 1
 - a. This will be reflected on this month invoice
- Sheriffs report- Read by Nick Huss
 - a. Nick Introduced himself again with more resident attendance
- Floodplain ordinance: needs to be updated again
 - Waiting on hearing back from Ohnstad Law
- Grants:
 - Garrison Grant Due March 1
 - Increased to \$100,000 match
 - Scott finished a map for trees to be removed
 - Tasha working on the grant for the park
- Moore's Engineering- water levy

- Spoke about the history leading up to this levy- it has been almost 10 years of working on this project
 - What started this project: many years ago multiple different people were on a project team. They evaluated large area of Rush River area not just Amenia.
 - They held a meeting with the public members and the land owners at that time. They had multiple alternatives but were ruled out by the residents at that time.
- Their goal is to have more reports finished this month.
 - Tentative finances status: from estimated 2024 cost
 - Federal: 100% of construction cost covered
 - This does not pay wet land acquisitions, permit fees, flood tax, right of way, legal fees or utilities, along with others.
 - State: cost share 60% of what the feds dont cover after approval from FEMA
 - (this can take 6-12 months after submission for approval that the levy would remove the area from the flood plain.)
 - County: 75% of remainder amount can be covered by Cass Co. Flood Sales Tax
 - This can go up to 90%
 - Preliminary cost from this estimate is roughly \$84,822 for the town.
 - Asked for the financial excel sheet to be emailed to me to have for viewing
- Long term:
 - Lift station estimated to be replaced in 20-30 years
 - City will be responsible for all maintenance fees each year
 - Concern from resident regarding increase cost of snow removal with the removal of some trees from the tree row
 - Mayor stated that there is nothing the council can do as that is private tree row
- How to read maps provided:
 - Green is the 100 year flood map
 - Orange is 500 year flood map
 - Maps provided are hard to read- will be posted to website
 - Moores will be sending an easier to read map by end of month
 - Maps are based off a survey completed in 2008
- Flood insurance:
 - Few residents in town now have to pay flood insurance- never had to prior
 - If you do not have a mortgage or have a mobile home- you do not have to pay insurance
 - If a resident has been added to the FEMA Flood zone: they can attest with LOMA (Letter of Map Amendment)
 - Requires land survey and paperwork to be submitted
 - Base elevation needs to be higher then the 100 year flood elevation
 - They figure out elevation using Ground survey- GPS
- Tentative timeline:
 - Final revision design was submitted in 2024
 - Received some comments in Oct. 2024 made changes
 - Delayed responses back with government shutdowns

- Hoping for construction in 2027 but probably 2028
 - Waiting for voting until we have all of the financial plan, construction right of ways and permits. We do not know all of the cost sharing of every category at this time.
 - Various information:
 - Some interior ditches will be worked on but not all
 - City lots near the project will be sold to the project
 - No bidding is required as it is "improvements for the town"
 - The City Council makes this decision
 - Voting: Per Moores Engineering Employees- the amount of votes has to exceed the benefits
 - If you actively paying for flood insurance or would benefit in other ways more then other residents, you have more voting rights then someone that is not in the flood zone or wouldnt benefit as much
 - \$1 of your assessment value = 1 vote
 - Water resource district makes this decision
 - Residents HAVE TO VOTE YES OR NO FOR THEIR VOTES TO COUNT
 - The vote count is based off the balance received
 - Some people think by not voting, that is an automatic NO, this is incorrect. You have to vote yes or no for it be counted.
 - 50% + 1 is required to pass.
 - More information will be provided as we receive the information.
 - Website: has a map that you can zoom in on to see things more detailed (Very slow website though)
 - <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search>
- Council member attendance:
 - Attendance for 2025
 - Scott 9/11
 - Cody 9/11
 - Merle 10/11
 - Jon 6/11
 - Tony 11/11
 - Tasha spoke to members of local councils and no one in the area has attendance policies
 - Some council know when busy seasons are and certain people will simply not be there.
 - Jon recommended virtual option
 - Mayor states it would be too costly as there is poor service and no wifi at the meeting
 - Discussion to have set amount of excused absences
 - Disapproval for this because who decides what is excused vs not
 - Many of our council members have jobs that require last minute change in schedule
 - Tasha offered to switch days every other month
 - Example: Even months be Mondays and Odd Months be Thursday (or a different day)
 - Declined by Mayor and 1 council member
 - Mayor asked for notification when you will not be attending the meeting earlier then the day of.

City of Fargo	\$14.00	Water Test for December
Otter tail	\$267.99	Street Ligthing Acct. 6002521
Otter tail	\$95.42	Pump House Acct. 6002522
Otter tail	\$53.58	Sewer Lift Acct 6002523
Otter tail	\$164.71	Town Hall/AHB Acct. 6029884
Otter tail	\$49.96	Picnic Shelter Acct. 6048170
City of Casselton	\$911.00	January Garbage- price increase (30) small totes, (2) 350, (3) 450
Tony Roth	\$1,000.00	Mayor for Dec. 2025 to Nov. 2026
Cody Cashman	\$300.00	City Council Member for Dec. 2025 to Nov. 2026
Scott McConnel	\$300.00	City Council Memberfor Dec. 2025 to Nov. 2026
Merle Myers	\$300.00	City Council Member for Dec. 2025 to Nov. 2026
Jon Prien	\$300.00	City Council Member for Dec. 2025 to Nov. 2026
Tasha Pond	\$516.81	January 2026 time sheet- auditor
Total	\$8,566.73	