

August 4, 2025

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
August 4, 2025**

The city council of the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota, met in Council Chambers on Monday, August 4, 2025, 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Bochenski presiding. Present at roll call were Council Members Weigel, Osowski, Berg, Lunski, Fridolfs, Sande and Vein - 7; absent: None.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor and City Council.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Bochenski congratulated Dale Bergman, Public Transportation Director on his retirement after 39 years with the City of Grand Forks, in which he moved up from being a mechanic to the director. He also commented on recent conversations with United and SkyWest regarding Air Service Expansion.

PRESENTATION – 2025 SUMMER INTERN BRIEFING

Haley Rosaasen, Human Resource Manager, shared information on the 2025 Summer Intern Program. Each intern shared highlights of their experience and their supervisors shared information on the value that came to their department from participating in the program.

**ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4919, AMENDING CITY CODE
FOR VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE CHANGED TO CENTURY CODE**

A public hearing was held on an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to amend Grand Forks City Code §8-0105; §8-0615; §8-1503; §8-0701; §9-0103; and §9-0120 so as to update the Ordinances of Grand Forks to be in compliance with the new laws under the updated Century Code”, with no public comment received. Council Member Sande moved and Council Member Osowski seconded to give final approval of the request and adopt Ordinance No. 4919. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION DETERMINING INSUFFICIENCY
OF PROTEST ON REQUEST TO VACATE TWO
BIKEWAY & PEDESTRIAN EASEMENTS, AND TWO
SIDEWALK EASEMENTS, LOCATED NEAR BETHESDA CIRCLE**

City Auditor reported that no protests had been received. Mayor Bochenski opened the public hearing on a request to vacate two bikeway and pedestrian easements and two sidewalk easements, located 2200-2400 Bethesda Circle. One online comment was received from Tony Hollingsworth and two in-person speakers, Jane Crocker and Terry Dullum, provided comments. City Council reviewed the map of the area, noting the location of the area requested to be vacated, with the bath being at the back of the residential units along the coulee. It was noted that the path is approximately two blocks long and a dead end and no current ability or plan to continue the path to the north due to private property ownership. Bethesda Circle is a private road, which is common for townhome developments. The townhome association would maintain the road. Council Members discussed that moving forward if paths are intended, then they should be required to be put in at the time that the development is completed. Council Member Weigel moved and Council Member Osowski seconded to adopt a resolution determining an insufficiency of protest and approving the request. Motion passed unanimously.

August 4, 2025

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

The following individual addressed the city council on action items: Kimberly Forness Wilson, and Debra Pflughoeft Hassett.

Several electronic comments were attached and also provided to City Council for their information.

ACTION ITEMS CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Sande moved, and Council Member Vein seconded to approve the following items on consent agenda, with the motion passing unanimously.

1) Approved reappointments to the Civil Service Commission of Patsy Nies, for a term to expire April 2028 and Keith Reitmeier for a term to expire June 2028.

2) Adopted Resolutions authorizing the issuance of and appropriating the special assessments for the \$1,160,000 Refunding Improvement Bonds, Series 2025C (SRF) to finance the construction of the watermain in Korynta-Lemm 6th Resubdivision.

3) Adopted the Resolutions authorizing the issuance of and appropriating the special assessments for the \$9,200,000 Refunding Improvement Bonds, Series 2025D (SRF) to finance the construction of the Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, Storm Pond & Lift Station in Korynta-Lemm 6th Resubdivision, Project Nos. 8703, 8705, and 8706.

4) Introduced an ordinance and gave preliminary approval to amendment of Grand Forks City Code relating to Class 5 (Hotel/Motel) Alcoholic Beverage License definition, with modification to allow for license holders of this class of license to obtain Class 11 Special Event permits for off-site events.

5) Approved creation of the special assessment districts for newly annexed properties:

- a) Project #4236.7, District #353.7 – Sanitary Sewer 24th Ave S
- b) Project #4704.25, District #14 – Permanent Flood Protection
- c) Project #5048.13, District #563.11 – Paving S 42nd St
- d) Project #5940.5, District #620.5 – Paving S 20th St (40th-44th Ave S)
- e) Project #5988.6, District #627.6 – Paving 40th Ave S (S 20th St to S Washington St)
- f) Project #7435.3, District #691.3 – Paving Rehab – North 42nd Street
- g) Project #7588.3, District #530.3 – Sanitary Sewer N 39th St, N 36th St, and 20th Ave N
- h) Project #7648.3, District #535.3 – Stormwater Pond N 36th St & 20th Ave N
- i) Project #7650.3, District #536.3 – Storm Sewer N 36th St, N 39th St & 20th Ave N
- j) Project #7653.4, District #332.4 – Watermain N 39th ST & 27th Ave N
- k) Project #7654.2, District #705.2 – Paving & Street lights for N 39th ST
- l) Project #7903.2, District #552.2 – Sanitary Sewer for Opportunity Park 1st Resub.
- m) Project #7904.2, District #338.2 – Watermain for Opportunity Park 1st Resub.
- n) Project #7905.2, District #553.2 – Storm Sewer for Opportunity Park 1st Resub.
- o) Project #7906.3, District #543.3 Pond Expansion for Opportunity Park 1st Resub.
- p) Project #7907.12, District #723.2 – Paving & Street Lighting – Opportunity Park (S 42nd St Paving)
- q) Project #7907.22, District #723.2 – Paving & Street Lighting – Opportunity Park (36th Ave S Paving)
- r) Project #7907.32, District #723.2 – Paving & Street Lighting – Opportunity Park (S 42nd St Street Lighting)
- s) Project #7907.42, District #723.2 – Paving & Street Lighting – Opportunity Park (36th Ave S Street Lighting)
- t) Project #8066.1, District #568.1 – Sanitary Sewer for S 19th St (40th – 44th Ave S)
- u) Project #8209.1, District #349.1 – Watermain for S 19th St (40th Ave S to 44th Ave S)
- v) Project #8210.1, District #577.1 – Storm Sewer for S 19th St (40th Ave S to 44th Ave S)
- w) Project #8211.1, District #578.1 – Stormwater Pond for Edgewood Village 2nd Resub.
- x) Project #8212.1, District #750.1 – Paving S 19th St (40th Ave S to 44th Ave S) & 44th Ave S (S 17th ST to S 19th St)

August 4, 2025

- y) Project #8214.1, District #751.1 – Paving 44th Ave S (17th St. to East Side of SED)
- z) Project #8260.1, District #579.1 – 44th Ave S Box Culvert in SED
- aa) Project #8261.1, District #350.1 – 44th Ave S Watermain Connection thru SED
- bb) Project #8312.41, District #755.41 – Concrete Panel Repair 24th Ave S (S 34th St to S 42nd St)

6) Approved the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Signature of Authority for TrAMS Grants changeover of staff to designate Kristi Slominski as the authorized signer.

7) Approved the Cities Area Transit (CAT) Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan changes and signature updates to include Kristi Slominski as the authorized individual.

8) Approved the Cities Area Transit (CAT) Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) changes and signature updates to designate Kristi Slominski as the authorized individual.

ACTION ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

1) Considered the 2026 Mayor's Budget. Maureen Storstad, Finance Director, provided a recap of the budget which includes a 0.25 mill reduction, which brings the budget to an overall 2.97% increase and is under the 3% cap established by 2025 legislative action; sets an estimated 2-26 mill value at \$307,036 as compared to the 2025 actual mill value of \$294,460; includes a change in the allocation of the 1% General Sales Tax to be 53% General Fund, 15.5% Economic Development Fund and 31.5% Infrastructure; Provides for a 2026 General Fund Budget of \$54 million and an overall budget for all funds of \$229.7 million (net of \$19.4 million); Includes a salary increase for employees of 4.4% (2.5% step and 1.9% ECI); Includes a transfer of PSAP personnel to the NDPERS Public Safety Pension Plan; Funding for various capital needs and personnel changes; makes changes in funding for various initiatives under the economic development fund (Air Base Enhancement reduce to \$100,000; Beautification reduce to \$100,000; EDC reduce to \$250,000; and discontinue funding for Arts, Events and Human Needs Programs); and various fee changes.

City Council discussed the proposed mayor's budget including funding for a proposed Greenway project that is also an item on tonight's agenda; potential funding scenarios to allow for some funding of arts, human needs, Capital project at the Red River BMX track, and Children's Museum.

Council Member Sande moved and Council Member Osowski seconded to give preliminary approval of the budget including inclusion of Scenario 1 which was Mayor's Baseline Budget, funding for items in Economic Development Fund (one year of funding for Human Needs and Arts at \$159,135 each; \$650,000 BMX Contribution with \$100,000 Repayment over 10 years; Greenway Downtown Project moving forward with local share repayment to Fund 4154 over 20 years), and inclusion of the PSAP Employees in the NDPERS Public Safety Pension Plan; Introduce the ordinance, set the public hearing for September 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

City Council continued discussion on various items that would be included in the budget including the salary increase amount, which is slightly lower than plan design and comparison of some of the proposed scenarios for inclusion of funding for various items in Fund 2163, Greenway and BMX capital projects. It was noted that the scenario 1 still includes no funding for events, but Visit Greater Grand Forks will continue to provide a funding program to support community events without city contribution.

Upon call for the question, motion passed 6-1 with Council Member Osowski dissenting.

2) Approved Red River BMX request for funding of capital projects for the Hugo's Raceway as discussed for the Budget of \$650,000, with \$100,000 repayment over 10 years. Council Member Sande moved and

August 4, 2025

Council Member Fridolfs seconded to approve the request. Motion passed 6-1 with Council Member Osowski dissenting.

3) Approved acceptance of the Grant Funding Agreement between North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department with City of Grand Forks for Downtown Gateway and Greenway Project – Phase I, Project No. 8525, subject to final review and approval of the City Attorney and any necessary budget amendment. The grant award of \$3,489,750.00 with a 1:1 local match for the total project cost of \$6,979,500.00. The grant match would be initially funded from Fund 4154m, which would be repaid over 20 years. Council Member Berg moved and Council Member Fridolfs seconded the motion, which passed 6-1 with Council Member Osowski dissenting.

4) Considered an application from the Children’s Museum for site authorization at Rhombus Guys, 312 Kittson Ave. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Weigel seconded to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously. Council Member Osowski commented that she is glad to see entities trying different funding sources including gaming and would like to continue the discussion of changes in gaming regulations at a future meeting.

5) Considered the Public Transportation Director Employment Agreement with Kristi Slominski. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Berg seconded to approve the agreement. Motion passed 6-1 with Council Member Vein dissenting. Council Member Vein noted that he is in favor of the applicant, but still believes department heads should be Civil Service not contract. Council Members also congratulated Mr. Bergman on his service and impact on public transportation in the community.

6) Considered the Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Council Member Sande moved and Council Member Osowski seconded to approve the plan with removal of the concepts relating to removing parking on University Avenue and the right-in/right-out on South Washington St., which means the removal of the exhibits from the appendix. Council Members discussed concerns with leaving these items in the plan even as technical options that may not ever come forward for implementation. Upon call for the question, the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information was provided for City Council’s information: Statement of Changes in Cash Balances as of June 30, 2025 and Investment Portfolio Management Summary as of June 30, 2025.

APPROVE VENDOR LIST AND ENGINEER ESTIMATE

Vendor list 25-16, dated August 4, 2025, in the amount of \$1,675,639.72 and Engineers estimates dated July 31, 2025 in the amount of \$12,217,689.09 was presented. It was moved by Council Member Sande and seconded by Council Member Weigel to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes from the July 21, 2025, City Council meeting were presented. Council Member Lunski moved and Council Member Sande seconded to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Feland commented on upcoming agenda items.

August 4, 2025

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Members congratulated Mr. Bergman on his retirement.

Council Member Lunski encouraged all to check out the Wednesday Bites by Town Square over lunch hour.

Council Member Sande commented regarding paths in developments and the importance of how we handle that going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Osowski and second by Council Member Sande to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen Storstad
City Auditor



Approved:

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor