

September 15, 2025

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
September 15, 2025**

The city council of the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota, met in Council Chambers on Monday, September 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Bochenski presiding. Present at roll call were Council Members Weigel, Osowski, Berg, Lunski, Fridolfs and Vein - 6; absent :Sande - 1. (Sande joined the meeting at 5:48 p.m.)

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

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Bochenski commented on various community events including the Alerus Center Conference Center grand reopening after renovations; Children's Museum fundraiser event; UND AI and Autonomy Conference; Fashion Affair Fundraiser; and visit to Mountainbrooke Recovery Center.

PRESENTATION – RED RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE

Collin Hanson, Community Development provided information to City Council on the steps underway to address the disbanding of Red River Valley Community Action (RRVCA) and impact to the programs they used to administer. At this time, the Community Development department is taking calls that would have gone to RRVCA and connecting citizens to the organizations that are housing those programs on an interim basis. He also provided information on properties owned by RRVCA, Ernie's Place (owned outright), Tri-Plex (constructed with pass through federal funds and a 20 yr covenant to stay affordable housing and which the City and Bremer Bank hold mortgages) and Gateway Dr main office building (also has a mortgage with Bremer Bank). Staff will reach out to Bremer and discuss options and will continue to work with other organizations over the next couple of months on determining a solution for various programs.

PRESENTATION – HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING DISCISSION UPDATE

City Administrator Feland and Tess Wall, Public Health Director, updated the City Council on meetings that have occurred with other organizations. The following individuals provided information on their organizations and services they provide to address this need: Elton Hendrickson, Homeless Helpers; Kayle Hochstetler, Spectra Health; Coiya Tompkins Inma, CVIC; Dr. Rose Julius, NE Human Services Medical Director; Cody Geffre, Altru Health; Police Chief Jason Freedman and Jonathon Holt, ND Governor's Office. Council Members had an opportunity to ask questions of the various service providers and staff. More meetings are planned to continue the conversation of collaboration, Health Services Hub, and Housing Needs, especially for displaced families.

**ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4929, 2026 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS
BILL. ADOPT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING 2026 FEES, AND
APPROVE 2026 SALARY PLAN**

A public hearing was held on an ordinance entitled "The annual appropriations bill for 2026, appropriating the sums of money necessary to defray expenses and liabilities of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and making the annual tax levy for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 ", with no in person public comment received, electronically submitted comments were distributed to City Council for their review.

September 15, 2025

Maureen Storstad, Finance Director, summarized the Mayor's 2026 Budget, that it includes Economic Development Scenario 1, a change in the CIP cost share, and that a compilation of questions and answers submitted by Council Members have been provided to all City Council Members for their information.

Council Members shared various comments on items included in the budget. Storstad clarified that when the budget is approved for 2026, that sets the legal limit which will correlate to the 3% cap for future years as approved by the ND Legislature this session. Topics of discussion were The Nest and if location is appropriate and should funding be continued; concerns with homeless and their impact on the downtown community, that situations seen in our community are common across the nation in cities.

Council Member Lunski moved and Council Member Osowski seconded to remove the \$130,000 funding for The Nest. Motion failed 3-4, with Weigel, Berg, Fridolfs and Vein dissenting.

Council Member Weigel moved to give final approval of Ordinance 4929 establishing the 2026 budget as presented, including adopting the resolution establishing 2026 Fees, 2026 Salary Plan, CIP Cost Share policy change to 70/30 for Special Assessments, 911 Dispatchers joining the NDPERS Public Safety Defined Benefit Pension Plan effective 01/01/2026, and Economic Development Scenario #1, and to also include a contingency for funding of The Nest – that a report come back to City Council with information on various other locations it could operate and parameters for clients length of stay.

Council Members discussed the motion components and budget; commenting further on level of economic development spending; need for more police officers; concerns looking forward to 2027 budget and maybe look at bringing in Park Dist to City as some other communities do; concerns with amount of sick leave accrual; The HIVE management and performance; Recycling program; Base Retention Program; and the Downtown Greenway Park Project.

Council Member Sande moved and Council Member Lunski seconded to include that when the City bonds for the Altru Sports Complex, that the Greenway Park Project should also be included in the bond. City Attorney Gaustad referred to his memo on use of the sales tax approved for construction of the Altru Sports Complex and continued source of capital funding for the Alerus Center and legally should make sure those obligations are funded before looking to add more uses for the sales tax funds. Following discussion, Sande withdrew his motion and Lunski concurred with motion withdrawal. This could be discussed as a separate issue in the future.

Council Members also showed consensus for using any alcohol compliance failure revenue to fund education and training in that area. This can be enacted as a policy and not needed to be included in the ordinance.

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

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4926, AMENDING CITY CODE
SECTION 18-0302 (14)(b)(9) RELATED TO MULTI-FAMILY
PARKING REQUIREMENTS

A public hearing was held on an ordinance entitled "An ordinance to amend the text of the Land Development Code, Chapter XVIII of the Grand Forks City Code of 1987, as amended, amending Section 18-0302(14)(B)(9) Multi-Family Parking Requirements", with one comment received from Anita Bostad.

Ryan Brooks, City Planner, provided information that at one time we had a lower limit, raised it to make us the highest in the state, and now lowering it to a different level, which is still on the high end as compared to other similar communities in the State. He also summarized usage data that they had compiled from

September 15, 2025

various complexes showing that there was adequate parking with empty stalls under the current limits. This adjustment would not pertain to single family or duplex housing rentals.

Motion by Council Member Sande, second by Council Member Berg to approve Ordinance No. 4926. Motion passed 6-1, with Council Member Osowski dissenting.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4927, RELATING TO USE OF
MOBILITY DEVICES ON THE GREENWAY

A public hearing was held on an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to amend Grand Forks City Code Section 14-0402, and creating 14-0420 relating to the use of mobility devices on the Greenway”, with no public comment received. City Attorney Gaustad provided information on minor edits to the ordinance since first reading including addition of language to clarify permitting process and that this is to enhance the ability of those with a mobility need for access to the Greenway. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Lunski seconded to give final approval of Ordinance No. 4927. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4928, AMENDING CITY CODE
RELATING TO VARIOUS TRAFFIC FINES TO BE COMPLIANT
WITH CENTURY CODE

A public hearing was held on an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to amend Grand Forks City Code Sections 8-1503 and 8-0516 so as to update the Ordinance of Grand forks to be in compliance with the new laws under the updated Century Code”, with no public comment received. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Sande seconded to give final approval of Ordinance No. 4928. Motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

The following individual addressed the city council: Mike McMenamy Dan Kasowski, Denis MacLeod, Mary Kaponen and Anita Bostad.

ACTION ITEMS CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1) Approved participation in the Opioid Litigation settlement with Purdue Pharma LP Bankruptcy Plan.
- 2) Adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance, calling for bids, and setting the sale date of October 20, 2025 for the \$15,965,000 Refunding Improvement Bonds, Series 2025F.
- 3) Gave preliminary approval of an ordinance to amend city code relating to alcohol compliance.
- 4) Approved a Cost Participation and Maintenance Agreement with ND DOT and Plans and Specifications for Project No. 8841, Demers Ave Concrete Panel Replacement (CPR), Grinding, Dowel Retrofit, Mill & Overlay (Washington St – N 6th St) & Ramps.
- 5) Approved an Update to the ADA Transition Plan, Project No. 8688, applying to infrastructure in the right of way.

September 15, 2025

6) Approved a Letter of No Objection and authorized submission to the Grand Forks Water Resource District for Project No. 8975, 2025 Drain #4 Water Resource District Improvement.

7) Awarded annual Public Work bids: Bid #2025-58, Contingent Snow Hauling & Spring Clean-up for the 2025/2026 season to Gowan Construction in the amount of \$99,720; Bid #2025-9, Street Marking Paint for 2026 season to Diamond Vogel in the amount of \$58,240 and Sherwin Williams in the amount of \$52,320; and Bid #2025-10, Salt for Ice Control for the 2025/2026 season to NSC Minerals in the amount of \$131.44 per ton, all awards include approval of any necessary budget amendment.

8) Gave final approval of the replat of Lot D, Block 1 of the Replat of Lot A, Block 1 of the Replat of Block 1, Summers Subdivision, subject to the conditions on or attached to the review copy, located at 2313 N Washington St

9) Gave final approval of the replat of part of Lot 7, Block 1, Heartland West Addition, formerly known as part of Heartland Business Center Association, subject to the conditions shown on or attached to the review copy, located at 3003 Heartland Drive

10) Gave final approval of the plat of Demers Eighth Resubdivision, subject to conditions shown on or attached to the review copy, located at 2500 & 2600 Demers Ave

11) Gave preliminary approval of a request to vacate utility easements lying in the 2500 & 2600 blocks of Demers Ave, and set a public hearing for October 20, 2025 for consideration of final approval.

ACTION ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

1) Considered a Professional Services Agreement Authorization No. 50 for Gas Collection Feasibility Study, Project No. 9053 with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company in the amount of \$64,800, along with associated budget amendment. Council Member Weigel moved and Council Member Berg seconded to approve the agreement. Motion passed 6-1, with Council Member Osowski dissenting.

2) Considered a request to vacate the sidewalk easement located adjacent to 1510 Charwood Court. While this easement was created a number of years ago, no sidewalk was ever installed. Council Members discussed that this should not be allowed in the future and if sidewalk easements are recorded, it should be required to install the sidewalk with the development of the area. Recently there have been incidents of stalking type behavior in the easement area towards residents, leading to the request to have the easement vacated. The utility easement in this area will be maintained. Residents have been working with the police department to address the situation as well and this will provide one more tool to use to address the concerns. Motion by Council Member Berg and second by Council Member Weigel to give preliminary approval of the request and set a public hearing for October 20, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Considered an ordinance to amend City Code relating to amend the number of votes needed to pass a change to the zoning for a property. Council Members discussed that simple majority is required in several similar cities within the state, with our ordinance requiring a 75% approval. Discussion also included the radius from a proposed project that should receive notification of a proposed change. It was noted that the zoning is one of the most important attributes to a parcel so any change in action is significant. Motion by Council Member Sande, second by Council Member Osowski to deny the ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

September 15, 2025

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information was provided for City Council's information: Investment Portfolio Summary as of August 31, 2025.

APPROVE VENDOR LIST

Vendor list 25-19, dated September 15, 2025, in the amount of \$1,215,044.64 was presented. It was moved by Council Member Lunski and seconded by Council Member Sande to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes from the September 2, 2025, City Council meeting were presented. Council Member Weigel moved and Council Member Berg seconded to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Members Osowski commented regarding personal safety and right to open carry in the state.

Council Member Berg commented regarding the variety of events and items happening in the city and encouraged all to get involved.

Council Member Sande commented regarding jurisdiction for zoning over state owned property. City Attorney Gaustad explained that a meeting has been held with Attorney General's Office and the matter is still under review.

ADJOURNMENT


Motion by Council Member Lunski and second by Council Member Osowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Approved:



Brandon Bochenski, Mayor