

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA  
October 6, 2025**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trish Mohr's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class from St. Michael's School.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Bochenski commented on the partnership program with Gate City Bank providing lower interest loans for home improvement projects and encouraged citizens to check it out. He also commented on various recent community events including the Longest Table Event; Valley Senior Living Oktoberfest; Wake Up to UND Event where they celebrated record breaking student enrollment numbers; bring a mystery reader at Trish Mohr's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class, and visited with exchange students from Kanuma, Japan, a community that donated money to fund creation of the Japanese Garden in Sertoma Park after the 1997 flood.

**PROCLAMATION – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

Mayor Bochenski read a proclamation declaring the week of October 5-11, 2025 as Fire Prevention Week.

**ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4930, RELATING TO  
ALCOHOL COMPLIANCE**

A public hearing was held on an ordinance entitled "An ordinance to enact Grand Forks City Code Section 21-0237 so as to impose sanctions upon liquor license holders for selling alcohol in violation of City Code Section 9-0115 or City Code Section 21-0225 and state law", with no comments received. Motion by Council Member Berg and second by Council Member Lunski to give final approval of Ordinance No. 4930. Motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

The following individual addressed the city council: Payton Bakke and Paula Valgren. One electronic comment from Josh Mason was distributed for City Councils review and information.

**ACTION ITEMS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1) Approved reappointments to the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission of Paul Conlon (Member-at-large) for a term expiring September 20, 2027 and Ms. Jacey Johnson (Legal Representative) to a term expiring October 10, 2027.

2) Approved a land purchase agreements for Project No. 9052, South End Drainway Expansion (S 34<sup>th</sup> St to S 38<sup>th</sup> St) in the total amount of \$74,430.00. Purchase agreements are with: 1) Sanford North in the amount of \$32,707.50 for 2 parcels and 2) Guy A Useldinger, LLLP, Timmothy J. Useldinger, LLLP, and Kevin J. Useldinger, LLLP 3 parcels for a total amount of \$43,912.50.

## ACTION ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

1) Considered the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) Interim Financing Agreement Serie F Approval, with a document as revised on October 6, 2025. City Administrator Feland provided a summary of the project including: work of Sen Hoeven on getting federal assistance with this project; approval to use the McCluske Canal; update on Thompson Aker water rights the city and others hold in Lake Ashtabula, with Grand Forks having a Priority 1 ranking; research on Red Lake River water rights; and Cost shares for the project.

City Attorney Gaustad reviewed changes to the proposed agreement, with latest resulting from a meeting earlier this afternoon. There are some concerns with some changes requested by Garrison Diversion, which we will consult with our bond counsel on to make sure that the requested wording would not impact other bonds of the City. He explained that Fargo also has similar concerns and has the same bond counsel we use, Dorsey Whitney, and will also be reaching out for clarification. If approval is give on the agreement, suggestion is to make it subject to final review of the City Attorney, Bond Counsel and Mayor, as City's representative on the LAWA.

The funding structure for the project was reviewed, noting that the loan will be taken out by Garrison Diversion through the state with 2% interest and cities will pay Garrison. He also provided information on the split delivery that is planned, with Garrison handling water through the McCluskey Canal, then Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) working with delivery after that point, which provides for more local control of the distribution. It as also noted that East Grand Forks has a small allocation contained within the City of Grand Forks nomination. Funding for the Grand Forks share is coming from the newly created Drought Management Fund with a four cent per thousand gallon fee on the utility bill.

Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Berg seconded to approve the agreement subject to final review and approval of the Bond Counsel, City Attorney and Mayor. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Considered an application for a Grand Forks Renaissance Zone Project GF-88: Suit Haus LLC. Through the Renaissance Zone Program, the lease/leaseholder can apply to the State for an exemption of a portion of State income tax for up to 8 years, and while there is no City tax exemption included, City approval is required. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Berg seconded to approve the application. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Considered acceptance of Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for Fire Department Self—Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Replacement. Fire Chief Marcott explained that this will fund replacement of the departments SCBA equipment, which is aging and in need of replacement to meet current equipment codes. The total project replacement cost is \$499,227, with the Federal AFG Grant share being \$453,872.73 and a local match of \$45,384.27, which will come from a FEMA AFG Grant FY2024. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Berg seconded to approve acceptance of the grant and authorize execution of agreements and bidding process per federal and city regulations. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Considered the 2026 CSG allocation process. Collin Hanson, Community Development Manager, explained that the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) had met to discuss funding priority areas and requirements, including a presentation from the homelessness and housing working group, after which they concurred with their initial determination to have open applications this year and not designate a target community need for this years applications. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Lunski seconded to approve the 2026 CSG allocation process, along with any necessary budget transfers.

5) Considered Altru Sports Complex (ASC) Project Phase I and II updates and ASC Phase II Approvals. City Council heard summarized information on the project Phase I construction, that for Phase I bids came

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in very favorably, allowing for consideration of proceeding with Phase II at this time and still remaining within the overall project budget. A proposal to approve proceeding with Schematic Design for Phase II with the four court option including approving a schematic design agreement with JLG in the amount of \$270, 259.20 and a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) pre-construction agreement in the amount of \$25,000.00. City Council discussed the impact of proceeding with the Phase II bidding including adding the management of the four courts to the operational load of the Park District. Mayor Bochenski commented regarding the project that will bring excitement and vitality to the community.

Council Member Weigel moved and Council Member Fridolfs seconded to approve the ASC Phase II (four court option) Schematic Design Agreement with JLG in the amount of \$270,259.20 and Approve ASC Phase II (four court option) CMAR Pre-Construction Agreement in the amount of \$25,000.00. Motion passed 5-1 with Council Member Osowski dissenting.

#### APPROVE VENDOR LIST

Vendor list 25-20, dated October 6, 2025, in the amount of \$3,384,882.92 and Engineers Estimates dated September 30, 2025 in the amount of \$16,273,449.68 was presented. It was moved by Council Member Berg and seconded by Council Member Lunski to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes from the September 15, 2025, City Council meeting were presented. Council Member Berg moved and Council Member Weigel seconded to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Feland informed City Council of items that will be placed on upcoming agendas including the Brookstone and Beacon development projects and the PSAP Transition Plan.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Fridolfs informed all that the Alerus Center will host a UAS Summit & Expo with participation from Congressional Delegation and other noted dignitaries.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Osowski and second by Council Member Lunski to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen Storstad  
City Auditor

Approved:



Brandon Bochenski, Mayor

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