

January 5, 2026

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA  
January 5, 2026**

The city council of the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota, met in Council Chambers on Monday, January 5, 2026, 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Bochenski presiding. Present at roll call were Council Members Weigel, Osowski, Berg, Lunski, Fridolfs, and Sande - 6; absent: Vein (joined at 5:34 p.m.) - 1

Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Council.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Bochenski informed the public that this week on street maintenance days city will be working to open streets curb to curb and cut back snow on berms. Residents are asked to make sure their vehicles are off the street on their street maintenance day to assist street department in their snow removal efforts.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

The following individual addressed City Council with comments: Craig Spicer.

**ACTION ITEMS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1) Approved the list of designated depositories for 2026. Financial Institutions approved were: Alerus Financial, American Federal Corporation, Bell Bank, Choice Financial Holdings, Inc, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Old National Bancorp, U.S. Bancorp, and Wells Fargo.

2) Approved North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) Cybersecurity Grant in the amount of \$94,640.00, and accept award bid to low bidder High Point Networks in the amount of \$120,715.36, along with any associated budget amendment/transfer. This will fund a purchase of a new HPE Alletra MP Storage Appliance to replace the existing unit, which will become a high availability redundant mass storage appliance.

3) Approved Change Order No. 1 for Project No. 8864, 2025 Flood Outlet Repair (Flood Station 209), with Gowan Construction in the amount of \$24,660.00.

4) Approve Task Order Engineering Agreement for Project No. 8577, District No. 362, Hwy 81 & Area Watermain Phase III, with AE2S in the amount of \$227,490.00.

5) Approved Task Order Engineering Agreement for Project No. 8922, District No. 612, Hwy 81 & Associated Area Sanitary Sewer Phase IV with Webster, Foster & Weston (WFW) in the amount of \$209,560.00.

6) Awarded the contract for Project No. 9076, 2026-2027 Electrical Services Contract to Fusion Automation in the amount of \$247,890.00, along with any necessary budget amendments.

7) Approved Task Order Engineering Services Agreement for Project No. 9065, Upgrade Lift Station #5, with Webster, Foster & Weston (WFW) for design, bidding and construction administration in the amount of \$216,520.00.

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8) Approved 2026 Sole Source Chemical purchase of required chemicals for the ultra-filtration (UF) and reverse osmosis (RO) membranes directly from the manufacturer of the UF?RO membranes for the Grand Forks Regional Water Treatment Plant.

#### ACTION ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

1) Considered an amendment to City Code to add a definition of canned cocktails and make various language code updates referencing canned cocktails on various classes of license as well as updating for clarity and consistency. Council Members discussed canned cocktails and asked staff to research whether appropriate to add to Class 3 (On/Off-Sale Beer & Wine) Alcoholic Beverage Licenses as well. The reference to the types of containers allowed for canned cocktails was also discussed with preference to not restrict to cans only and allow other types of containers with an ounce limitation. Motion by Council Member Osowski, second by Council Member Fridolfs to give preliminary approval and introduce the ordinance with change for container type. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Considered applications for five-year property tax exemption of improvements to various commercial and residential properties. It was noted that one application included for the property at 1632 Nordonna Circle did not meet the requirement that the structure be at least 25 years old. Applications for the following properties meet requirements and are recommended to be approved: 2810 19<sup>th</sup> Ave S \$12,386; 2299 Bethesda Circle \$9,020; 2503 Crescent Dr \$3,667; 2508 Chestnut St \$1,630; 1926 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave S \$1,630; 1618 Dellwood Ct \$1,852; 3681 Lynwood Circle \$1,737; 1614 Baron Blvd \$1,985; 418 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave S \$1,760; 2118 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N \$981; 108 Pembina Ct \$889; 1817 12<sup>th</sup> Ave N \$755; 1423 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N \$680; 2815 Legend Lane \$963; 1803 S 19<sup>th</sup> St \$741; 1518 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N \$735; 1113 S 12<sup>th</sup> St \$741; 1710 S 17<sup>th</sup> St \$814; 801 Boyd Dr \$741; and 421 N 19<sup>th</sup> St \$882. Council Member Sande expressed a conflict with this item and asked to be recused from voting. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Berg seconded to allow Council Member Sande to vote on this item. Motion failed unanimously, so Council Member Sande will be recused. Motion by Council Member Osowski, second by Council Member Berg to approve applications except for the non-eligible property. Motion passed 6 votes affirmative with Council Member Sande recused.

3) Considered bids for 2026 Chemical Requirements for Water and Wastewater Treatment. City Council discussed the chemical list, with some expressing a desire to eliminate the addition of fluoride use in the water. Motion by Council Member Osowski, second by Council Member Fridolfs to not authorize the purchase of fluoride for use in water treatment. Motion failed 3-4, with Council Members Weigel, Berg, Sande and Vein dissenting. Motion by Council Member Sande, second by Council Member Berg to approve the bid awards as recommended. Motion passed 5-2, with Council Members Osowski and Fridolfs dissenting.

#### APPROVE VENDOR LIST

Vendor list 26-01, dated January 5, 2026, in the amount of \$2,382,772.79 was presented. It was moved by Council Member Berg and seconded by Council Member Weigel to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

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

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#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

City Administrator Feland provided information to the City Council on the following:

1) Construction and connections for storm ponds on the Agristo property, requirements for ponds and funding for those projects as has been approved by City Council. He also provided information on other infrastructure work that is occurring in the Highway 81 area, including that meetings have been held with property owners in the area to keep them up-to-date on work in the area. Further updates will also continue to be provided to City Council at future meetings.

2) staff continues to have conversations with Oak View Group on the public plaza for the Beacon property with a planned update to City Council at an upcoming meeting. Currently under discussion is a 15 year PILOT to replace the previously approved Tax Increment Financing for the project. Update is planned for later in January or February.

3) Third party review of the Enclave tax incentive request is in process.

4) Altru Sports Complex continues to remain on track and within budget. An update on Phase 2 and Operation and Maintenance pieces will be coming to City Council at a late January or early February meetings.

5) Engineering continues to work with NDDOT on the 42<sup>nd</sup> St Underpass, with a plan to advertise for bids in February.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Osowski commented she has gotten calls on home day cares and learning centers that have been cropping up and like to see them get reported to the correct jurisdiction for follow-up.

Council Member Sande asked Chief Freedman to get together following the meeting for a couple of questions..

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Osowski and second by Council Member Berg to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Storstad  
City Auditor

Approved:

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor