

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
February 17, 2026**

The city council of the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota, met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Bochenski presiding. Present at roll call were Council Members Weigel, Osowski, Berg, Lunski, Fridolfs, Vein and Sande - 7; absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor and City Council.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Bochenski expressed condolences to the family of Cynthia Pic, Grand Forks County Commissioner, who passed away recently; congratulated Sgt. Jason Dvorak on his retirements from the Police Department after 29 years of service; Sen, Hoeven announcement of \$100 million for Grand Forks High-Teach Aerospace Ecosystem in Federal 2026 spending bill; as well as commenting on various community events attended.

**PRESENTATION – POLICE DEPARTMENT DOWNTOWN
PLAN AND COPS GRANT UPDATES**

Chief Freedman provided information to City Council on continued work to address issues in the downtown area and measures that are being implemented including increased lighting, cameras in Town Square, and community engagement. He also provided an update on staffing and the COPS Grant, which will include one officer dedicated to downtown issues. Current staffing is at 95 officers, vacant positions will need to be filled, before new officers under the COPS grant are brought on board. This may delay the dedicated downtown focused officer, but the area will be addressed in another way with existing officers until all positions are filled. Council Member Osowski asked questions regarding cameras and a list of other locations the city has monitored cameras. Freedman also stated they are looking at a plan for handling any spillover to other areas of the community that may occur due to measures implemented downtown.

PROCLAMATION – FREEDOM WEEK, FEBRUARY 15-21, 2026

Mayor Bochenski read a proclamation designating February 15-21, 2026 as Freedom Week. He also congratulated the student essay contest winners he had the pleasure to meet at the Sertoma Club meeting where awards were given out.

**ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4942, AMENDING THE
ZONING MAP RELATING TO DAY-HUD PUD
AMENDMENT NO. 3**

City Council considered an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone and exclude from the Day-Hud PUD (Planned Unit Development), Concept Development Plan, Amendment No. 2 and to include within the Day-Hud PUD (Planned Unit Development), Concept Development Plan, Amendment No. 3, all of Columbia Mall Addition, Columbia Mall 4th Resubdivision, Columbia Mall 5th Resubdivision, Columbia Mall 6th Resubdivision, Columbia Mall 7th Resubdivision, and Columbia Mall 8th Resubdivision, to the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota”.

Mayor Bochenski opened a public hearing, There were no comments and the public hearing was closed. One electronic comment was submitted from Evan Shtulman. Council Member Vein commented about the new proposal and that it was nice to see interest in reviving the mall, but wondered if this is right option at

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this time or if there should be more exploration of options. Council Member Sande commented that having a local development group take an interest in improving the mall should be given a chance with their proposal, noting that they have done similar projects in the community with good results. Council Member Sande moved and Council Member Osowski seconded, to give final approval and adopt Ordinance No. 4942. Motion passed 6-1, with Council Member Vein dissenting.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4943, AMENDING THE STREET
AND HIGHWAY PLAN TO DEDICATE RIGHT OF WAY
ON THE PLAT OF GRAND PARK FIRST ADDITION

City Council considered an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to amend the Street and Highway Plan of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, to include the public rights-of-way shown as dedicated on the Plat of Grand Park First Addition to the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota”. Mayor Bochenski opened a public hearing, there were no comments and the public hearing was closed. Council Member Berg moved and Council Member Vein seconded to give final approval and adoption of Ordinance No. 4943. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4944, AMENDING THE
ZONING MAP RELATING TO GRAND VALLEY PUD,
AMENDMENT NO. 1

City Council considered an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone and exclude from the A-2 Agricultural Urban Reserve District and to include within the Grand Valley PUD (Planned Unit Development), Concept Development Plan, Amendment No. 1, all of Grand Park First Addition to the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota”. Mayor Bochenski opened a public hearing, there were no comments and the public hearing was closed. Council Member Berg moved and Council Member Lunski seconded to give final approval and adoption of Ordinance No. 4944. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 4945, RELATING TO
ANNEXATION OF AN UNPLATTED PARCEL
(TO BECOME GRAND PARK FIRST ADDITION)

City Council considered an ordinance entitled “An ordinance to annex lands described as follows: that part of the East half of the Northwest Quarter and the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 33, Township 151 North, Range 50 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Grand Forks County, North Dakota”. Mayor Bochenski opened the public hearing, there were no comments and the public hearing was closed. Motion by Council Member Vein, second by Council Member Berg to give final approval and adoption of Ordinance No. 4945. Motion passed unanimously.

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) Adopted a resolution to approve the plans and specifications for Project No.. 8922, District No. 613, Hwy 81 & Associated Area Sanitary Sewer, Phase 4.
- 2) Awarded the bid for Project No. 9002, 2026 Inlet Protection Services, to low bidder, Midwest Planning, LLC. in the amount of \$48,268.80.

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- 3) Approved a Preliminary Engineering Reimbursement Agreement for Project No.. 9103, 32nd Ave S & 17th St Left Turn Lane Realignment with the NDDOT.
- 4) Approved Plans and Specifications for Project No. 8999, 2026 Sanitary Sewer Repairs; Project No. 9000, 2026 Watermain Repairs and Project No. 9001, 2026 Storm Sewer Repairs.
- 5) Adopted resolutions approving the plans and specifications for Project Nos. 9010.1-4, District Nos. 799.1-4, Mill & Overlay for S 4th St (Railroad to Gertrude Ave), Bruce Ave (S 5th St to County Ramp), Division Ave (S 5th St to S 3rd St), & Gertrude Ave (S 4th St to mid-block between S 3rd St and S 4th St); Mill & Overlay for 17th Ave S (Cherry St to Belmont Road); Mill & Overlay for S 26th St (24th Ave S to 26th Ave S) & 26th Ave S (S Columbia Rd to S 25th St); and Mill & Overlay for 62nd Ave S (Columbia Rd to S Washington St).
- 6) Approved plans and specifications for Project No. 9067.1-3, 2026 Fog & Scrub Seal: Belmont Rd (Roundabout to 17th Ave S); Belmont Road (Park Drive to 32nd Ave S); and Lincoln Drive (Belmont to Almonte).
- 7) Authorized purchase of a Tandem Dump Truck for Water Distribution in an amount not to exceed \$130,000. The department will be looking at a late model year used vehicle which will meet the needs of the department at a lower cost than purchasing a new vehicle. Pre-authorization is sought so that when a vehicle is identified the department can complete the purchase before the vehicle is sold.
- 8) Approve material purchase of pumps for installation as part of Project No. 9065, Upgrade Lift Station #5, from Electric Pump in the amount of \$385,617.00.
- 9) Approve material purchase of actuators for installation as part of Project No. 9088, Flood Station Actuator Replacement, with Kodru Mooney in the amount of \$201,484.00.
- 10) Introduced a Street and Highway Ordinance to dedicate rights-of-way and gave preliminary approval of the plat of Grand Reserve First Addition, located at 1400-1900 Block of 32nd Ave S, subject to the conditions shown on or attached to the review copy.
- 11) Introduced an ordinance and gave preliminary approval of a request to amend the zoning map to rezone and exclude from the Desoto PUD Amendment No. 2, and to include within the Desoto PUD (Planned Unit Development), Concept Development Plan, Amendment No. 3, all of Lot A, Block 1, Desoto Third Resubdivision to the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, Lot 1, Block 2, and Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 3 Desoto Second Addition to the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and all those Unplatted portions of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 151 North, Range 50 west of the 5th Principal Meridian, City of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

ACTION ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

- 1) Considered award of Bid #2026-1, 2026 Water Meter Bids, with the low bidder for residential water meters to Winwater Works in the amount of \$57,700.00 and to the best bid for commercial and fire rated meters to Badger Meter in the amount of \$103,751.32. Council Member Osowski commented on the new meters and that if anyone encounters issues that the meter doesn't seem to be functioning properly to call the city or contact her. Council Member Sande moved and Council Member Fridolfs seconded to approve the staff recommendation. Motion passed 6-1 with Council Member Osowski dissenting.
- 2) Considered adoption of a preferred growth rate for the City of Grand Forks, with a recommendation from The Fork MPO to adopt a preferred growth rate of 0.8% annual growth rate for the City of Grand Forks.

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Council Member Vein stated that after discussions at Committee of the Whole and following the meeting he is comfortable with the recommended rate. Council Member Osowski moved and Council Member Lunski seconded to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following was presented for City Council's information: Investment Portfolio Summary as of January 31, 2026.

APPROVE VENDOR LIST AND ENGINEERS ESTIMATES

Vendor list 26-04, dated February 17, 2026, in the amount of \$5,425,236.44 was presented. It was moved by Council Member Sande and seconded by Council Member Berg to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes from February 2, 2026, City Council meeting were presented. Council Member Berg moved and Council Member Lunski seconded to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

City Administrator Feland informed City Council that City Engineer Al Grasser has announced his retirement this spring after 40 years of service to the City of Grand Forks.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Several Council Members echoed condolences to the family of Cynthia Pic and congratulations and appreciation to Al Grasser on the retirement announcement.

Council Member Berg commented regarding the citizen comment period and possibility of revisiting it in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Approved:



Brandon Bochenski, Mayor