

Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

September 2, 2025

Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting at 7:00pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Kerri Baird, Jeff Davis, and Justin Ferguson. Leonard Woehler was absent.

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney, *Kris Novotny, Public Works Director,*
Sheriff Ronneberg

Public: Lee Andreas, Buster Bullock, Linda Brunckhorst, Mark Curry, Linda Carlson, Pam Stene, Dick Christ, Jamie Hauge, Jason Hauge, Jupiter Flores, and Colter Todd

Mayor DeBoer opened the Public Hearing on Resolution No. 1048: A Resolution to Adopt the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Public Comment: Mark Curry asked what it would cost to replace all the water and sewer lines that need to be replaced. Linda Brunckhorst asked how the city is going to pay for the new City Hall building if it's not included in the budget. She also stated that we removed the pool liner from the budget, but if we are moving City Hall and we don't have to pay rent such as using the Dugout, could we still put the pool liner in. She stated that Sweet Grass Recycles has offered to pay for the recycling costs for residents to recycle cardboard and suggested that the city take that money out of the solid waste budget. She is frustrated because the Council needs to do their due diligence with outside partners who might be willing to help. She thinks that if the public brings something to their attention, the Council should follow up on it rather than the public having to do the work.

Councilman Ferguson would like to move \$100,000 from unforeseen costs in water and sewer and apply it as extra principal to the water loan as well as the wastewater treatment loan. Kris would like to keep the money in unforeseen costs and then if it is not spent by the end of the fiscal year, then we can apply it to the loans. Councilman Ferguson would also like to see the pool liner put back into the budget. Councilman Davis stated he would like to wait and see what happens with City Hall, and if we end up having extra money from rent, we can put it towards a pool liner. He thinks we need to move forward with the budget presented.

Mayor DeBoer closed the Public Hearing at 7:20pm and opened the Regular City Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18th Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting as amended, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported that there were 336 complaints, 9 cases, and 23 citations for the month of August. He stated that Labor Day went well. Councilman Davis asked Sheriff Ronneberg for a recommendation on how to take care of violations of city ordinances. Sheriff Ronneberg stated that the Animal Control Officer already has the ability to write citations for city code violations. He would like

the public to call the department when there is a parking violation. Councilman Ferguson added that he would like to see the state paint the angled parking lines on McLeod St. Jamie Hauge said there are also many vehicles that extend into the driving lane while parked on McLeod St. Lee Andreas stated that there are semis driving on 4th St and asked if it was legal for them to do so.

Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, stated that a valve at the Water Treatment Plant was in manual mode instead of automatic and they lost pressure for a while, but it was quickly fixed. He had to purchase safety equipment for the ponds at the lagoon and MMIA is asking the city to put a safety policy for the lagoons in place. He is currently working on the policy and will bring it to the Council for approval. The department will be patching potholes this week. Dick Christ asked for clarification on what happened at the Water Treatment Plant when pressure was lost. He wants to know why the alarms didn't go off and who is responsible for checking the alarms. Kris explained that one of the operators left the valve on manual not automatic. Dick Christ was not satisfied with the explanation.

Mayor DeBoer explained that when we started the remodel of city hall it was found that the building was not structurally sound, the engineer would not sign off on it, and the building needs to be demolished. Councilman Ferguson has talked to a couple of contractors and they told him that it was not out of line to have a second engineer come in and take a look at City Hall. He would like to see a pause on the demo until the other engineers have a look and see what they think. Councilman Davis clarified that they would like an engineer to come in and look at the back section and see if it can be saved. He contacted one company who stated it would be about \$500-\$700 for him to come. Councilman Ferguson is concerned if the demolition of City Hall is within the scope of the City Hall remodel contract or if we need to have a separate contract for the demolition. He would also like to know the cost of the demolition. Jim Lippert stated that he thought the city wanted to move forward with the demolition, but agrees that we need a new contract and to amend the resolution. The Council discussed possible options for City Hall.

Public Comment: Pam Stene stated that Senior Pantry has freezers, refrigerators, and food to consider. They will have food delivered in a week and wants to make sure that food distribution will be ok for next week. She is concerned about where Senior Pantry can go for a year. Lee Andreas asked what the demolition is going to cost. He stated that if we purchase another building for City Hall, we should pave the existing City Hall lot for larger vehicle parking. Dick Christ asked for clarification on why City Hall was being demolished.

After much discussion, Councilman Ferguson made a motion to pause the demolition of City Hall, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

The Dugout Rental Agreement was not discussed.

Kris Novotny presented the estimated costs to reroute the water line on the Whistle Creek property. The cost to move the transmission main is \$195,000 and the cost is \$215,000 to reroute the overflow line. Kris presented his proposal included in the packet. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the proposal for the cost of rerouting the water line at Whistle Creek, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Kris Novotny stated that they had a request from Bullock Contracting to purchase bulk water as they had in the past. This would extend at least to the end of September at 50,000 gallons a day at the new rates

passed in the policy. Public Comment: Mark Curry asked the new rate for the bulk water. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the sale of bulk water to Bullock Contracting, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried with Councilman Ferguson and Councilwoman Baird voting aye. Councilman Davis voted nay.

Councilman Davis made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1048: A Resolution to Adopt the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

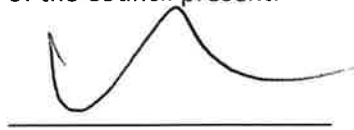
Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the claims, payroll, and overtime for August 2025, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Jim Lippert would like a little more direction on how to amend the resolution and amend the current contract with Circle T to address the demolition and get a cost estimate from Colter Todd. He will also check with Lana King to see if the Dugout can be used for a temporary City Hall.

Councilman Ferguson noted an article in the paper about a letter that was given to the mayor before the last City Council meeting and felt that the Council should have been made aware of the letter rather than seeing it in the paper.

Public Comment: None

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilwoman Baird made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg DeBoer', written over a horizontal line.

Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hope Mosness', written over a horizontal line.

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer

