



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

1/27/2026 - MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of City Commissioners met on January 27, 2026, at 5:15 PM in the Tom Baker Meeting Room, City/County Office Building, 221 North Fifth Street, Bismarck, North Dakota. Commissioners Risch, Zenker, Connelly, and Cleary were present. Mayor Schmitz attended the meeting via Teams.

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

February 10, 2026 & February 24, 2026

March 10, 2026 & March 24, 2026

April 14, 2026 & April 28, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

Together, we deliver exceptional public service.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSION

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Restricted to items on the Consent Agenda, Regular Agenda, or the Prior City Commission Agenda excluding public hearing items.

No public comment was received.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Risch moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Commissioner Zenker seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

A. Consider approval of minutes

B. Consider approval of personnel actions

C. Consider approval of expenditures

Vouchers: 1130146-1130493.

- D. Consider the request for approval from the Administration Department for the following:
1. Receive notice of the DRAFT Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to be made available for a 30-day public comment period.
 2. Provide a letter of support to the North Dakota Opportunity Fund Loan Program for applicant Green Foods 2 Go Inc.
- E. Consider the request for approval from the Bismarck Airport for the following:
1. Recommendation from the Selection Committee for Air Service Development Consultant and Award Contract to Crawford Murphy and Tilly (CMT).
- F. Consider the request for approval from the Engineering Department for the following:
1. Close various streets downtown from Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5:00 PM until Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 11:00 PM for the Downtowners Street Fair.
 2. Resolutions creating the district and ordering the preparation of the preliminary report for Street Improvement District SI 596.
 3. Resolutions creating the district, ordering the preparation of the preliminary report, approving the preliminary report and directing the preparation of the plans and specifications for Street Improvement District SI 597.
 4. Resolution approving the resolution of necessity for Street Improvement District SI 595.
 5. Introduction of and call for a public hearing to approve a non-exclusive right of way occupancy agreement with Gateway Infrastructure LLC.

6. Encroachment agreement with OTB-Bismarck North LLC (dba) Les Schwab Tires to place a pylon sign.
- G. Consider the request for approval from the Finance Department for the following:
1. Applications for abatement.
- H. Consider the request for approval from the Planning Department for the following:
1. Introduction of and call for a public hearing on Ordinance 6653, an annexation of Lots 2-11, Block 2, Lots 4-14, Block 11, and Lots 1-6, Block 12, Promontory Point VI Addition and the adjoining rights-of-way of McLintock Drive, Moreales Drive, and Monreo Drive, where the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval.
 2. Recommendation of Gray & Pape for the Downtown District Survey project.
 3. Permission for the Historic Preservation Commission to apply for the 2026 Historic Preservation Fund Grant.
- I. Consider the request for approval from the Public Works - Service Operations Department for the following:
1. Permission to award Architectural Services for the Police Headquarters to JLG Architects.
 2. Permission to award Architectural Services for Fire Station 1 Re-Roof Project to EAPC Architects Engineers.
 3. Permission to sell or dispose of City Assets at Public Sale.
- J. Consider the request for approval from the Public Works - Utility Operations Department for the following:

1. Permission to apply for grant funding from the North Dakota State Water Commission for water infrastructure.

3. **REGULAR AGENDA**

- A. Consider the request to receive a presentation for the Community Conversation Forum on Homelessness Summary from the Bismarck Human Relations Committee (HRC).

Sargianna Wutzke and Katie Houle, members of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee, presented the results of the most recent Community Conversations Forum on Homelessness.

The Commission received the report.

- B. Consider accepting the final Community Triage Center Planning Report prepared by Health Management Associates (HMA) and authorizing Bismarck–Burleigh Public Health to proceed with phase two of this project.

Renae Moch, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Director, presented the final report on the comprehensive planning and feasibility study for a Community Triage Center conducted by Health Management Associates (HMA). Director Moch outlined key findings, recommendations, and next steps for the project. Key findings emphasized that there is no one-size-fits-all model, but that successful triage centers rely on integrated, collaborative systems with 24/7 low-barrier access, medical detox and crisis stabilization, strong care coordination, and shared governance across partners. Director Moch also noted that funding must be braided from multiple sources, with Medicaid reimbursement as a critical long-term component, supplemented by hospitals, grants, and philanthropy. Director Moch stated that HMA recommends a collective impact governance approach with the creation of an established organization to coordinate partners and funding. Director Moch explained that phase one is now complete and that staff is requesting permission to move to phase two, which focuses on formal governance, partner roles, funding alignment, and implementation readiness.

- [Presentation](#)

Mayor Schmitz moved to accept the report and authorize Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health to proceed to phase two, and Commissioner Zenker seconded.

Commissioner Connelly commented that he was concerned about the tax impact that the center might have on middle-class residents.

Commissioner Risch commented that taxpayers are already bearing high costs as the Police Department repeatedly handles mental health and substance abuse cases without lasting solutions. Commissioner Risch also noted that a triage center could reduce the strain on police, jails, and emergency rooms while sharing costs with community partners.

Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

- C. Consider the request to receive a presentation on the request for approval for the implementation of an internship and recruitment program created by the Bismarck Police Department and University of Mary.

Jason Stugelmeyer, Police Chief, presented information on a recruitment program the Bismarck Police Department (BPD) would like to implement. The BPD would like to partner with the University of Mary (UOM) to attract criminal justice students. The UOM would provide a scholarship program in which selected students would complete their final four semesters as interns with the BPD at no cost. The students would be vetted by BPD and given the opportunity to apply for permanent positions after graduating. Chief Stugelmeyer explained that the program would not add training costs beyond the normal new-hire expenses and the program is expected to strengthen long-term recruitment.

The general consensus of the Commission is to support the program and for Chief Stugelmeyer to move forward.

- D. Public hearing on an application to transfer the Class F-1 alcohol license from Charras B, Inc., (dba) Charras and Tequila to Team Charras Bismarck, LLC (dba) Charras and Tequila at 4503 Skyline Crossings.

Chair Cleary opened the public hearing. No public comment was received.

Commissioner Zenker moved to approve the item as presented, and Commissioner Risch seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

- E. Public hearing on Ordinance 6651, a zoning ordinance text amendment to revise Sections 14-03-06, 14-04-01, 14-04-01.1, and 14-04-17 of the City Code of Ordinances related to rural accessory structure size.

Isak Johnson, City Planner, presented Ordinance 6651, a request for approval of a zoning ordinance text amendment to update rural accessory structure size regulations to align with Burleigh County's zoning ordinance. The primary change would replace the city's current tiered size limits and special use permit options with a uniform standard allowing accessory structures up to 4% of a parcel's size. The amendment also includes a minor cleanup to remove an outdated wall height reference in the Agricultural District. Analysis shows limited nonconforming impacts, no adverse effects on public health or welfare, consistency with the comprehensive plan and state law, and no public opposition. Mr. Johnson noted that both staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval.

Chair Cleary opened the public hearing. No public comment was received.

Commissioner Connelly moved to approve the item as presented and Commissioner Risch seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

- F. Public hearing on Ordinance 6652 to amend Sections 9-01-01, 9-01-02, 9-02-10, 9-03-10, 9-04-02, 9-05-02 and 9-06-06 of the City of Bismarck Code of Ordinances relating to definition of terms, employees covered; exceptions, administrative officer and duties, employment list, updating of plan, annual leave and grievance procedures.

Chair Cleary opened the public hearing. No public comment was received.

Commissioner Zenker moved to approve the item as presented, and Commissioner Connelly seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

- G. Consider the request for resolutions receiving bids, ordering preparation of the engineer's statement and awarding contract for Highway Construction Project HC 174(Street Improvement District SI 593).

Gabe Schell, City Engineer, requested that Item G be moved to the next Commission meeting. Engineer Schell explained that Engineering had applied for funding through the North Dakota Department of Transportation's Flexfund Program, and they are waiting to find out if the funding will be awarded.

Commissioner Zenker moved to continue the item to the February 10, 2026, meeting, and Commissioner Connelly seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

- H. Consider the request for resolutions receiving bids, ordering preparation of the engineer's statement, and awarding contract for Highway Construction Project HC 173 & Sewer Improvement District SE 576-Part A.

Gabe Schell, City Engineer, presented the bid results for Highway Construction Project HC 173/Sewer Improvement District SE 576-Part A and recommended awarding the contracts to Central Specialties, Inc. for \$9,940,797.02. Engineer Schell noted that project HC 173 would be funded through the half-cent sales tax and that SE 576 Part A thorough special assessments.

- [Project Budget](#)

Commissioner Zenker moved to approve the item as presented, and Commissioner Connelly seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

- I. Consider the request to receive an update on the public input received and provide direction for the proposed half-cent sales tax extension for roadways.

Gabe Schell, City Engineer, presented information on public input received regarding the proposed half-cent sales tax extension for roadways. Engineer Schell noted that engagement included a small in-person meeting, an online story map, and 122 survey responses with key takeaways including prioritizing arterial and community beneficial projects, considering equitable cost-sharing for local and collector roads, and a sunset term for the tax. Engineer Schell emphasized that it is important to have consistent, fair criteria for selecting projects and ensuring alignment with broader development and infrastructure plans. Engineer Schell explained that next steps would include finalizing the project list, drafting the Home Rule Charter language by March 2026. Should the Commission choose to place the question on the June ballot, City Staff would work to provide public education and information prior to the June election.

- [Presentation](#)

The Commission provided direction for Engineer Schell to move forward with creating the project list with a sunset of 10 years.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.