



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

6/9/2026 - MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of City Commissioners met on June 9, 2026, at 5:15 PM in the Tom Baker Meeting Room, City/County Office Building, 221 North Fifth Street, Bismarck, North Dakota. Commissioners Connelly, Cleary, Risch, Zenker, and Mayor Schmitz were present.

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

June 23, 2026
July 14, 2026 & July 28, 2026
August 11, 2026 & August 25, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

Together, we deliver exceptional public service.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSION

1. PROCLAMATION

A. Britta Curl-Salemme

Mayor Schmitz read a proclamation declaring June 18, 2026, as Britta Curl-Salemme Day and signed a Certificate of Achievement to be presented to her at a later date.

B. David St. Peter

Mayor Schmitz read a proclamation declaring June 25, 2026, as Dave St. Peter day.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

A. [Public Comment Policy](#): Restricted to items on the Consent Agenda, Regular Agenda, or the Prior City Commission Agenda, excluding public hearing items.

A. Trevor Vannett addressed the Commission in support of Regular Agenda Item 4.A.

B. Jeff Stewart addressed the Commission in support of Regular Agenda Item 4.D to ensure children's safety.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Zenker moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, and Commissioner Cleary 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: 1132804-1133000.

D. Consider the request for approval from the Administration Department for the following:

1. Gaming site authorization renewals.

E. Consider the request for approval from the Bismarck Airport for the following:

1. Development Agreement and Ground Lease Agreement with Infinity Aviation LLC for Hangar Development.

2. Sponsorship for the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) 2026 Annual Conference.

F. Consider the request for approval from the Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Department for the following:

1. Permission to apply for BisMan Community Foundation Grant.

2. Permission to apply for North Dakota Health and Human Services Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Community Block Grant Funding for 2026-2029.

G. Consider the request for approval from the Engineering Department for the following:

1. Close Avenue A between 24th Street and 25th Street on August 28, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM for an event hosted by Grace Lutheran Brethren Church.
 2. Close 4th Street from Broadway Avenue north to the parking ramp driveway and also the Broadway Avenue parking lane east of 4th Street on Thursdays from July 9, 2026, through August 13, 2026, from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
 3. Close 4th Street between Rosser Avenue and Avenue A on August 29, 2026, from 2:30 PM to 7:00 PM for the 3rd annual Block Party on 4th community event.
 4. Resolutions for declaring petitions have been received, creating the district, ordering the preparation of the engineer's report, approving the engineer's report, and directing the preparation of the plans and specifications for Park Improvement District No. PI 007.
 5. Amendment No. 5 with Apex Engineering Group, Inc. for design services related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) South Bismarck Flood Control Project.
 6. Resolution approving contracts and bonds for previously awarded special assessment projects.
 7. Dedication and acceptance of a sidewalk easement at 707 Airport Road.
- H. Consider the request for approval from the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library for the following:
1. Appointment of Brent Ekstrom and Cecile Wehrman to serve three-year terms on the Library Board of Directors.
- I. Consider the request for approval from the Planning Department for the following:

1. Permission for Bis-Man Transit to submit Section 5339 SFY2027 Mid-Year Grant Application.
 2. Permission for Bis-Man Transit to purchase the REI bus camera system upgrades.
 3. Graham Addition, a minor subdivision final plat, where the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval.
 4. Vacate platted setback lines in Stein's Fourth Addition.
 5. Introduction of and call for a public hearing on Ordinance 6669, an annexation of Lot 45, Block 4, Silver Ranch Fifth Addition and the adjoining Davies Drive right-of-way, where the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval.
 6. Introduction of and call for a public hearing on Ordinance 6670, a zoning map amendment from the A – Agricultural zoning district to the R10 – Residential and P – Public zoning district, and major subdivision final plat titled Boulder Ridge Eighth Addition, where the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval.
 7. Introduction of and call for a public hearing on a major subdivision final plat titled Clear Sky Second Addition and Ordinance 6671, a zoning map amendment from the R5 – Residential and A – Agricultural zoning districts to the R5 – Residential zoning district, where the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval.
- J. Consider the request for approval from the Public Works - Service Operations Department for the following:
1. Permission to donate or dispose of outdated Traffic Signal Controllers and Malfunction Management Units (MMU) to interested city governments within North Dakota.
 2. Permission to approve change orders and amendment to contracts for the Library Restroom Renovation.

K. Consider the request for approval from the Public Works - Utility Operations Department for the following:

1. Task Order No. 8 with Apex Engineering for Collection System Master Planning.

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

A. Consider the request from the Bis-Man Transit Board to establish a Bus Voucher Program.

Diedre Hughes, Executive Director of Bis-Man Transit, presented a request for Bis-Man Transit (Transit) to authorize the use of \$5,000 in public transportation sales tax funding for the purchase of Capital Area Transit (CAT) fixed-route bus passes. Director Hughes explained that the Transit Finance Board and Mayor Schmitz met in May, and recommended that the City Commission authorize \$5,000 in sales tax funding be used to purchase fixed-route CAT bus passes. Under the recommended structure, the City would determine which agencies are eligible to receive passes, and each approved agency would track and report its own distribution data. Transit would only facilitate the distribution of pre-purchased passes and would not determine agency eligibility, trip purposes, or program rules.

During discussion, it was clarified that structuring the funds as a direct grant to the transit system would create complications with federal funding requirements, and a bulk-purchase model avoids such issues. The Transit Board recommended using one-day or one-way passes to simplify tracking and ensure clearer usage reporting. Commissioners discussed that 2026 would function as a pilot year for the program with future decisions to be addressed in upcoming budget cycles. The potential role of the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) in vetting agency applications was also raised, and staff confirmed that CDAC could assist if requested by the Commission.

Commissioner Zenker moved to approve as presented and Commissioner Cleary seconded.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Connelly noted that the funding offers useful flexibility, and although transit has had a rough history, it's been managed responsibly. Many community transportation needs remain unmet, and some people even lose jobs because they can't reach workplaces like Bobcat, and Transit can't always adapt. With few other service providers available, they're in a difficult spot but are pushing forward by exploring new ideas and solutions. They emphasize the need to keep momentum going.
- Mayor Schmitz asked the Commission if they wanted to utilize the CDAC to vet the applications and gather information for the Commission.
- Commissioner Risch asked if the Transit Board could vet the applications and asked if the \$5,000 would be an adequate amount to meet the needs.

- Commissioner Zenker recommended allocating the funds and letting City Administration determine the necessary means to manage it.

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

- B. Consider the recommendation from the Vision Fund Committee to support a Flex PACE program interest buy-down for Maximized Chiropractic.

Noah Vroman of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber EDC introduced a Vision Fund Flex PACE interest buy-down request of up to \$107,692.36 for Maximized Chiropractic. Dr. Alex Coleman, owner of Maximized Chiropractic in Bismarck, presented an overview of the clinic's growth and plans for expansion. The clinic has doubled in staff in the last two years and intends to double again with the addition of expanded pediatric therapy services. The practice focuses on prenatal, pediatric, and family care and has recently added pediatric occupational therapy to address gaps in coordinated care for local families. Dr. Coleman highlighted challenges within the community, including fragmented pediatric care and the transfer of University of Mary therapy graduates out of the state due to limited local opportunities and lower salaries, and noted the clinic's ability to offer higher-than-average wages due to its established operational model. The proposed project involves purchasing and renovating the building at 1720 Burnt Boat Drive with \$600,000 to \$700,000 immediately going to modernize the facility and create flexible long-term community value. The first phase of the expansion is expected to create four new high-paying therapy positions, with additional growth anticipated by 2028. The long-term vision is to strengthen access to preventative healthcare for young families in Bismarck while contributing to local workforce retention and economic activity.

Commissioner Connelly moved to approve as presented and Commissioner Zenker seconded.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Connelly noted that the program is not a tax break but rather an actual loan.

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

- C. Public hearing on Ordinance 6665, a zoning map amendment from the A – Agricultural and MA – Industrial zoning districts to the MA – Industrial zoning district, Ordinance 6666, an annexation, and JMAC Industrial Second Addition, a major subdivision final plat.

Daniel Nairn, Planning Director, introduced Ordinance 6665, a zoning map amendment from the A – Agricultural and MA – Industrial zoning districts to the MA – Industrial zoning district, and Ordinance 6666, an annexation, and JMAC Industrial Second Addition, a major subdivision final plat for public hearing and approval.

Mayor Schmitz opened the public hearing.

- Landon Niemiller, a representative of Swenson, Hagen & Company, noted that the 40-foot strip is being added to clean up the property boundary and bring it into alignment with the rest of the already annexed, AG zoned land. The second addition largely mirrors the first, with only minor lot line adjustments to improve marketability and allow room for future turning lanes on 19th. Final development

details will be determined later through the developers agreement and applicable codes.

Commissioner Risch moved to approve as presented and Commissioner Zenker seconded.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Zenker noted that he thinks it is a good project as it provides industrial shovel ready land.

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

D. Public hearing on Ordinance 6667 to amend Section 12-03-08 of the City of Bismarck Code of Ordinances relating to Violations of Registration Provisions and to enact Section 12-05-12 of the City of Bismarck Code of Ordinances relating to Speed in School Zone.

Mayor Schmitz opened the public hearing.

- Dr. Fastnacht, Superintendent of Bismarck Public Schools, voiced support for proposed revisions that would let the City Engineer adjust school zones when needed. He emphasized the school district's ongoing collaboration with the City and highlighted the importance of student safety. Dr. Fastnacht stated that the school district supports the changes as another step toward improving safety in school zones.

Commissioner Cleary moved to approve as presented and Commissioner Risch seconded.

Discussion:

- Mayor Schmitz noted that this policy applies to all school zones, whether public or private, and wants to ensure that funding is secured for signage and lights, and that he supports additional funding for the items if they fall outside of the current budget.

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

E. Public hearing on Ordinance 6668 to amend Title 7-01 of the City of Bismarck Code of Ordinances, relating to purchasing thresholds.

Eric Lund, Acting Director, introduced Ordinance 6668, which addresses procurement thresholds to match the adopted procurement policy. The only significant change to Section 7-01-03 is updating and clarifying the language and increasing the purchasing threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000, to align with the newly adopted procurement policy.

Mayor Schmitz opened the public hearing. No public comment was received.

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

- F. Consider the request to release part of the stormwater and drainage easement on Lot 2, Block 1, Frank Addition.

Daniel Nairn, Planning Director, presented a request for the release of part of the stormwater and drainage easement on Lot 2, Block 1, Frank Addition. The request is to release a small 2.5-foot portion of the stormwater and drainage easement, so the adjacent parking lot can extend slightly onto it. City Engineering and the Planning Department recommend approval of the change.

Mayor Schmitz opened the public hearing. NO public comment was received.

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

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Risch noted that he received complaints from residents with concern about e-bikes and e-scooters being ridden too fast and by children who are too young. He added that the Police Department has received complaints about unsafe behavior such as riding on sidewalks and running red lights. The Police and Legal Departments are working together on a new ordinance to address the concerns as the current technology has outpaced local rules. Commissioner Risch added that he wants the public to know that the City is taking the issue seriously and that new regulations are being developed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.