

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF DEVILS LAKE, ND
JULY 20, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held on July 20, 2026, with the following members present: President Moe and Commissioners Hach, Knowski, Uhlenkamp, and Pierce.

MEETING ITEMS

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2026

Commissioner Knowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Hach seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 3) Approval of Minutes – July 6, 2026

Commissioner Uhlenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- 1) Years of Service – Richard Godman (25 years with Sanitation Department)

President Moe thanked Richard Godman for his 25 years with the Sanitation Department.

- 2) Years of Service – Helen Carlson (35 years with Engineering Department)

President Moe thanked Helen Carlson for her 35 years with the Engineering Department.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – 5:30 PM

BID OPENINGS – 5:30 PM

VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS

- 1) Forward Devils Lake – Release of Funds (\$53,800)

Brady Ash, Executive Director of Forward Devils Lake, gave an update on the projects that he has done and potential projects he is working on. Brady said that one discussion he has been having is about data centers. He said there have been conversations about a data center and he has been in contact with companies regarding this. Commissioner Pierce asked if there was any interest in other businesses coming to Devils Lake. Brady said that there will be a Jimmy John's coming, but other than that, they are just working on some expansion projects. Commissioner Uhlenkamp made a motion to release the funds in the amount of \$53,800. Commissioner Knowski seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS

Commissioner Pierce – The Fire Chief said that they are working on a couple of projects and are hoping to get more information within the next month.

Commissioner Uhlenkamp – The City Engineer said that the Street Department has seen an increase in mosquito counts, so spraying will happen when weather allows.

Commissioner Uhlenkamp said that there was a library meeting last week and they discussed a leak in the roof. They are looking for bids on that project. She mentioned that there is not an update from the LRLEC meeting that they had last week.

Commissioner Hach – The City Engineer said that the Sanitation Department is discussing on how they would like to proceed with the new garbage cans. He said the automated truck will be coming in the September/October timeframe. The Engineering Department has met with contractors on the projects and those should be starting here in the near future.

The Airport Manager said that if anyone sees a job opening for the airport online, do not do anything with it, as it is not legit. He also gave an update on actual numbers for boardings at the airport.

The Police Chief said that the calls for service continue to rise. He said that they are continuing with the downtown foot patrol. He mentioned that they did an alert training last week and thanked Chief Bennett for the use of the facility.

Commissioner Knowski – The City Engineer said that the Utility Plant is going to be harvesting lemna this week. They are also working on some things at the water plant.

The City Assessor said that Dustin is going to Nashville August 18-21 and all the expenses will be paid for. Commissioner Knowski made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. He also said that there is a Planning Commission meeting this Thursday at 7am.

The City Auditor said that they have closed on two (2) of the HIF homes. He gave an update regarding our 2022 audit.

The City Attorney said that there is a second reading of an ordinance on the agenda, other than that there is nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Second Reading – Ordinance 1040 – Chapter 9.74 – Tobacco Retailers

A second reading of Ordinance 1040 – Chapter 9.74 – Tobacco Retailers was held. Commissioner Pierce made a motion to approve Ordinance 1040. Commissioner Uhlenkamp seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

2) Sunnyside Childcare Center – 115 5th Ave NE

Brady Ash, Executive Director of Forward Devils Lake, gave an update on Sunnyside Childcare Center and possible next steps moving forward. He met with the owner of Sunnyside Childcare regarding the lease, possible payment obligations, and the building. He said that the owner asked if she could stay in the building through the month of August due to the amount of stuff that is still in the building. She also discussed leaving the contents in the building to let a new person see what the setup could look like if a daycare was to go back into that building. He said that the RFP is open to anyone, not just someone looking to open daycare. Commissioner Pierce asked if there has been any progress with removing stuff from that building and if 11 days is enough time to get everything out. Brady said that the last time he was there, he noticed there was stuff getting packed up. Brady mentioned that the city purchasing the content was an option that was thrown out. President Moe and the Commission said that we (city) do not want to be owners of content that is in the building. Brady said that there is some equipment that is staying in the building (kitchen items and the washer and dryer). President Moe said that he would like to see an appraisal value of these items. Brady went through the RFP qualifications and explained how to process is going to work. Brady also said that once proposals start coming in, there will need to be a selection committee to review the applications. Commissioner Uhlenkamp made a motion to approve the RFP. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

3) 2027 Budget

The City Auditor said there is a 3% property tax cap, so our max increase on dollars levied is \$65,606. He also said that a lot of the new growth is in a TIF district, so we will not see that until the TIF is paid off. The current CPI is 4.4%, so the placeholder in the budget is 3%. Each percentage we use costs the general fund around \$42,000. He also said that the public safety was due for the salary review, but we have not heard from our HR consultant about that.

The preliminary budget must be approved and sent to the County by August 10th. Two (2) special meetings have been proposed: July 29th at noon and on August 5th at noon. Commissioner Uhlenkamp said that Wednesday is not a good day for her and that July 28th would work better.

CONSENT AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

1) Pay Estimate #3 – 2026 Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk

Commissioner Knowski made a motion to approve pay estimate #3 – curb, gutter, sidewalk. Commissioner Uhlenkamp seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

CITIZEN COMMENT

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1) June 2026 Financial Report

LIST OF BILLS

Commissioner Pierce made a motion to approve the list of bills as submitted. Commissioner Hach seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

ROB JOHNSON
INTERIM CITY AUDITOR/CITY ASSESSOR

JIM MOE
PRESIDENT OF CITY COMMISSION