



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N.
February 9, 2026 - 5:30 PM**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

Present (8): Ryan Nelson, Nicole Mattson, Heather Nesemeier, Emily Moore, Deb White, Sebastian McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson, Lisa Borgen (attended remotely for work duties 5:52pm)

Present Not Voting (1): Shelly Carlson

Absent (0):

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Amendments

Council members White, Moore, and Mattson requested an addition to the agenda to discuss response to any future ICE activities in Moorhead. In addition, Siham Amedy's Ward 1 appointment to the Moorhead Economic Development Authority was added to agenda item 8A. Appointments to Boards and Committees.

Motion to Approve Amended Agenda made by Nicole Mattson and seconded by Heather Nesemeier.

For 7: Ryan Nelson, Nicole Mattson, Heather Nesemeier, Emily Moore, Deb White, Sebastian McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

4. Consent Agenda

Motion to Approve made by Heather Nesemeier and seconded by Nicole Mattson.

For 7: Ryan Nelson, Nicole Mattson, Heather Nesemeier, Emily Moore, Deb White, Sebastian McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

5. Recognitions/Presentations

A. MoorHeart Recognition: Sydni Kreps

Governmental Affairs Director Lisa Bode presented the MoorHeart Award to Sydni Kreps owner of More Than Words bookstore in Moorhead for her work advocating and fundraising to address food security in the community.

B. Presentation: 2025 Development Report

Community Development Director Kristie Leshovsky shared an overview of Moorhead's 2025 Development Report.

6. Approve Minutes

A. January 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve made by Emily Moore and seconded by Sebastian McDougall.

For 7: Ryan Nelson, Nicole Mattson, Heather Nesemeier, Emily Moore, Deb White, Sebastian McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

7. Citizens Addressing the Council (Time Reserved: 15 Minutes)

A Moorhead resident addressed the City Council about concerns related to immigration control and enforcement in Minnesota.

8. *Mayor and Council Appointments

A. *Resolution for Appointments to Boards and Committees

9. Public Hearings (5:45 pm)

10. Community Development Department

A. Resolution to Approve Minnesota Department of Commerce Microgrids at Community Lifeline Facility Grant and Budget Adjustment #26-002

Assistant City Planner Ethan Johnk shared information on a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce to install a hydrogen and battery storage system at City Hall to serve as a back-up energy source for IT servers. During an outage, the back-up will ensure uninterrupted clean power before, during, and after disruptive events. Joel Jorgenson, founder of BWR Innovations, spoke with the City Council about the technology and opportunity.

Motion to Approve Items 10A. & B. made by Ryan Nelson and seconded by Heather Nesemeier.

For 7: Ryan Nelson, Nicole Mattson, Heather Nesemeier, Emily Moore, Deb White, Sebastian McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

B. Resolution to Approve Agreement with BWR Innovations (Microgrids at Community Lifeline Facilities Grant)

C. Resolution to Approve Conditional Use Permit for Housing Shelter at 502 & 512 3rd Ave S

City Planner Robin Huston shared information on the Conditional Use Permit for a Youthworks transitional housing project at 502 and 512 3 Ave S. The CUP is unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. Youthworks CEO Mark Heinert shared information about the project and the nonprofit organization.

Motion to Approve made by Heather Nesemeier and seconded by Deb White.

For 8: Ryan Nelson, Nicole Mattson, Heather Nesemeier, Emily Moore, Deb White, Lisa Borgen, Sebastian McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

D. *Resolution to Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Clay County Public Health and Budget Adjustment #26-007

- E. *Resolution to Approve Minor Subdivision - 2706 20th Ave S - Parcel 58.506.0045
- F. *Resolution of Concurrence for Orderly Annexation - Moorhead Township
- G. *Resolution of Concurrence for Orderly Annexation - Oakport Township
- H. *Resolution to Approve Conditional Use Permit for Temporary Wireless Telecommunications Tower at 1817 11th St N
- I. *Resolution to Approve Conditional Use Permit for Excavation & Construction in the Floodway and Flood Fringe at Bluestem Center
- J. *Resolution to Approve Preliminary and Final Plat for Prairie Parkway 4th Addition
- K. *Resolution to Approve Developer's Agreement for Prairie Parkway 4th Addition

11. Economic Development

12. Engineering Department

- A. *Resolution to Approve Plans & Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids for Partridge Creek Addition Street & Utility Improvements, Stormwater Pond and 28th St S Improvements (Eng. No. 25-A6-03)
- B. *Resolution to Receive Report, Order Plans & Specifications, and Call for a Public Hearing for 20th, 22nd, & 23rd Ave S and 6th & 7th St S Underground Utility and Street Improvements (Eng. No. 26-A2-04)
- C. *Resolution to Receive Report, Order Plans & Specifications, and Call for a Public Hearing for 18th St N, 21st St N, 53rd Ave N, 52nd Ave N, 51st Ave N, 49th Ave N, and Crystal Creek Dr Bituminous Mill & Overlay (Eng. No. 26-A2-02)
- D. *Resolution to Receive Report, Order Plans & Specifications, and Call for a Public Hearing for the Final Bituminous Wear Course in Prairie Parkway 1st, Prairie Meadows 5th, and Village Green 7th Additions (Eng. No. 26-A2-05)
- E. *Resolution to Approve Plans & Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids for the Final Bituminous Wear Course in Prairie Parkway 1st, Prairie Meadows 5th, and Village Green 7th Additions (Eng. No. 26-A2-05)
- F. *Resolution to Award Bid for the Belsly Swale Off-site Stormwater Credit Improvement Project, Phase 2 (Eng. No. 25-05-02)
- G. *Resolution to Order Report, Receive Report, Order Plans & Specifications, Approve Plans & Specifications, and Authorize Advertisement for Bids for Prairie Parkway 3rd Addition Street & Utility Improvements (Eng. No. 26-A6-02)

13. Fire Department

14. Moorhead Public Service

15. Parks and Recreation Department

16. Police Department

17. Public Works

18. Administration

- A. *Resolution to Approve Trollwood Performing Arts School 2026 Operating Budget & Annual Report
- B. *Resolution to Approve Pay Equity Implementation Report

19. Mayor and Council Reports

Council member Nelson attended a Red River Regional Dispatch Board meeting and is elected as chair in 2026.

Council member Nesemeier attended the Moorhead Public Housing Agency and Clay County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings.

Council member Lisa Borgen attended the Cold Weather Summit, the annual meeting of the Building and Industry Association of FM, and Legislative Work Group meeting.

Council member Hendrickson presented Moorhead information at the Clay County Joint Powers Committee's Intergovernmental Retreat on January 30.

Mayor Carlson participated in an interview with Kurdish TV and attended a Fargo Moorhead Chinese New Year Festival. Mayor Carlson attended a Barzani Charitable Foundation Event. The Mayor also expressed appreciation to Essentia Health for purchasing the Wells Fargo building and investing in downtown Moorhead. Mayor Carlson thanked Council member Borgen for stepping in to assist with the announcement, as well as Council member Hendrickson for presenting at the Intergovernmental Retreat the same day. Mayor Carlson shared updates from the Building and Industry Association's annual meeting.

20. City Manager Reports

City Manager Mahli shared an experience witnessing plow truck drivers struggling in an eastern US city after a heavy snowfall and thanked heavy plow truck drivers and supervisors in Moorhead for their skill, organization, and great work.

21. Executive Session

22. New Business

Council members White, Moore, and Mattson requested a discussion on response(s) to any future ICE activities in Moorhead.

Motion to direct City Manager and staff to draft information and bring it to the next City Council meeting that prohibits divisions of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security involved with immigration enforcement and border patrol from using city-owned recreation areas including City parks and parking lots, Moorhead Public Library, golf courses, and the Hjemkomst Center as staging immigration enforcement operations made by Deb White and seconded by Nicole Mattson.

Motion to Table Discussion made by Lisa Borgen and seconded by Ryan Nelson
For 5: Hendrickson, Nelson, McDougall, Borgen, Carlson
Against 4: White, Mattson, Nesemeier, Moore
Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

Motion to discuss options regarding a response and preparation for federal immigration enforcement activities in Moorhead at the next City Council workshop made by Nicole Mattson and seconded by Heather Nesemeier.

For 5: Hendrickson, White, Mattson, Nesemeier,
Moore Against 3: Nelson, McDougall, Borgen

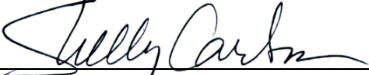
Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

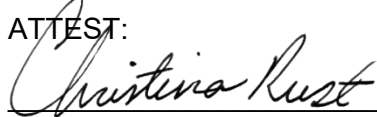
23. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 06:59 PM.

APPROVED BY:


MICHELLE (SHELLY) A. CARLSON, Mayor

ATTEST:


CHRISTINA RUST, City Clerk

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.