

REGULAR MEETING DE SMET COMMON COUNCIL

February 11, 2026

The De Smet Common Council met in regular session on February 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., with the following present: Council members, George Cavanaugh, Bret Jensen, Dane Coughlin, Lowell Hansen, Pam Spader, Mayor Gary Wolkow arriving later in the meeting, Finance Officer Tracey Larson, and City Attorney Todd Wilkinson. Absent: none.

President Hansen called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The meeting started with the council and those from the public reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the minutes of January 14, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes, all voting aye, motion carried.

CLAIMS: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Jensen, to approve paying the claims as presented, all voting aye, motion carried. The claims are as follows: PAYROLL \$37,109.13; OASI Benefit 2,838.84; Aflac, ins. premium 95.03; Dearborn National, life insurance 88.00; Delta Dental of South Dakota 471.92; VSP 159.60; The Health Pool of SD, health insurance premium 7,657.26; SDRS, retirement benefit 4,120.36; CMI Architectural, door lock 483.50; American Bank & Trust, supplies 60.00; Allegra, supplies 675.09; AMG-Avera Occupational Medicine, drug testing annual fee 109.80; Anderson Lumber, supplies 14.46; Aubrey Hart, meter deposit refund 125.00; Avid Hawk, monthly website fee 35.00; Bruce Penner, deposit refund 50.00; Building Sprinkler, EC sprinkler inspection 350.00; Carlton Penner, meter deposit refund 125.00; Center Point Large Print, books 94.54; Chesterman Company, supplies 189.70; City of De Smet, utilities 644.90; City of De Smet, postage & supplies 53.16; Collaborative Summer Library, supplies 302.45; TwoTrees Technologies, off-site backup software 129.42; Connie Bitner, meter deposit refund 125.00; Cook's Illustrated, magazine renewal 44.95; Cook's Wastepaper & Recycling, residential garbage collection 7335.48; Country Living, magazine renewal 14.97; Cowboy Country Store, fuel & supplies 355.63; CR Corner, fuel 672.33; Dakota Family Chiropractic, meter deposit refund 150.00; DANR-Fiscal Office, annual dues 50.00; De Smet Development Corp, community guide ad 785.00; De Smet Trustworthy Hardware, supplies 52.13; Department of Health, water labs 36.00; Display Sales, flag poles & brackets 1453.44; Dustbusters Enterprises, 2025 mag water 7911.63; Efraimson Electric, repair beacon light 341.83; Ferguson Waterworks #2516, water meters 6006.85; First District Association, 2026 annual dues 1639.09; Glacial Lakes & Prairies, marketing 1005.00; Hawkins, water chemicals 20.00; Innovative Office Solutions, supplies 1732.98; Kasy Surat, deposit refund 30.00; Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, install power to projectors 1565.69; Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, maintenance contract 220.00; Kingsbury County Auditor, law enforcement contract 6933.33; Kingsbury County Treasurer, pump house land tax 180.00; Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, utilities 1193.40; Kingsbury Journal, publishing 339.01; Kingsbury Journal, newspaper renewal 65.00; Kristina Poe, ½ meter deposit refund 75.00; Kristy Hubbard, reimburse

for mileage 82.65; Mary Lou Johnson Luther Trust, meter deposit refund 75.00; Maynard's De Smet, supplies 51.94; Maynard's De Smet, supplies 25.96; Mckinley Bickett, meter deposit refund 125.00; Mediacom, utilities 122.20; Merle Litwiller, meter deposit refund 125.00; Napa De Smet, repairs & maintenance 123.46; Northern Plains, deposit refund 315.00; Northwestern, utilities 1949.81; O'Keefe Implement, repairs & supplies 484.08; Office Peeps, library copier contract 66.14; Office Peeps, supplies & office copier contract 481.25; Olson's Pest Technicians, museum pest control 75.00; Ottertail Power Company, utilities 4430.44; Overdrive, one year renewal SD digital co 600.00; Palmlund Auto, tires 999.96; SD Department of Revenue, garbage sales tax 494.74; Share Corp, weed spray 12103.62; The Penworthy Company, books 527.29; TrueNorth Steel, repair & maint 4011.32; Tyler Poe, ½ meter deposit refund 75.00; Valley Fibercom, utilities 392.67; Visa, utilities & supplies 595.79; Wilkinson Law Prof, legal fees 4122.50; Helms & Associates, airport SRE project 1,470.00; Helms & Associates, airport apron project 5,280.02; and VISA, replacement ck 1,420.54.

SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSES: An application for a special liquor license was submitted by Lu Ann Klinkel, owner of Klinkel's III, for March 28, 2026, at the De Smet Legion Hall from 5:00 pm - 11:00 am. Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Spader, to approve a special liquor license to Lu Ann Klinkel, owner of Klinkel's III for March 28, 2026, from 5:00 - 11:00 pm at the Legion Hall, all voting aye, motion carried.

EQUALIZATION: Tammy Anderson, Director of Equalization for Kingsbury County met with the council to give an annual update. Anderson informed the council that assessment notices will be mailed out at the end of February. Property owners have until March 12, 2026, to file an appeal of their assessed value. The appeal process has not changed from previous years. Most property owners will see their assessed value decrease. SB216 changed property growth. Some property owners will see an increase due to improvements.

Motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Spader, to approve holding the Equalization Meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5:00 pm, at City Hall, all voting aye, motion carried.

KRISTA O'DEA: Krista O'Dea representing her and her husband Nathan, inquired into the status of the backup that occurred at their residence on August 17, 2025. O'Dea was informed that an email was received stating that the insurance company is waiting for four property owners to submit their expenses. This email update was also sent to the property owners. The smoke testing date will be set when the Rural Water Association starts setting their spring schedule.

MARK & LINDA HARRIS: Mark & Linda Harris inquired about the status of the neighbor that had built an addition that they feel is over the property line onto their property.

SAVE STATION & TOWER: Wade Hoefert met with the council to give an update on the Save Station & Tower Project. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$7,000.00. He would like to place the Save Station in front of City Hall. He has obtained donations for concrete and electrical work. \$1,875.00 has been raised to date. Hoefert asked to approval of the location, electric connection, and care of repair and maintenance, and donation from the City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chad Kruse, owner of De Smet Flowers & Gifts, presented a photo of the water that is pooling behind the shop. Engineer Carter Klapperich looked at this area and tried to contact

the contractor. Klapperich will continue to work on resolving this with the contractor. Mark Siefkes informed the council that when residents vote, it should be by ballot vote for privacy; there is a flaw in the lighting by his property and interferes with his sleep; dog licenses, and the jake brake ordinance.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAIN STREET & WATER TOWER PROJECTS: April Bueller and Carter Klapperich, Engineers for IMEG met with the council to discuss the infrastructure projects, water tower, and Main Street project updates. Klapperich reported that they are still working to get the 2nd Street & Chase Street project closed out. There is an area on 2nd Street and Sherwood Ave. that is not draining properly. Klapperich presented a plan to install an oversized drain that will connect to the drain on 3rd Street and Sherwood Ave. Also discussed was replacing the manhole on Sherwood. The estimate to replace the manhole is \$15,000.00. The drainage correction will take approximately one week to complete. The council agreed with the design plans presented for the drainage on Sherwood Ave. The manhole will not be included at this time. IMEG had an engineer in De Smet the previous week that met with city staff to discuss water discoloration. They will review the well records and look for options.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Jensen to go into executive session to discuss contracts, litigation, and personnel at 5:50 pm, all voting aye, motion carried. Mayor Wolkow declared the council out of executive session at 6:37 pm.

HIRING SEASONAL & STREET DEPT. STAFF: Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by McCune, to approve hiring Sohpia Gigov, head lifeguard at \$15.00/hour and \$750 for the season as head lifeguard; Audi Currier, head lifeguard at \$15.00/hour and \$750 for the season as head lifeguard; Owen Anderson as lifeguard at \$14.75/hour; Adalyn Gorss as lifeguard at \$15.00/hour; Jordan Botkin as lifeguard at \$15.00/hour; Savannah Larson as lifeguard at \$15.00/hour; Allie Schaefer as lifeguard at \$ 14.50/hour; Dawn Whitten as softball coach at \$1,275.00 for the 2026 season; Josh Starnes as softball coach at \$1,275.00 for the 2026 season; Alecia Erstad as softball coach at \$1,275.00 for the 2026 season; Aaron Grubb as baseball coach at \$1,275.00 for the 2026 season, Ryan Sauter as baseball coach at \$1,275.00 for the 2026 season; and Ryan Petersen, as department assistant at \$25.00/hour, all voting aye, motion carried.

WATER & SEWER: Jason Springer, Supt. of Water & Sewer, informed the council that he has been replacing water meters. Some of the meters that are being replaced were installed in 2005. He has spent \$6,000.00 of the \$10,000.00 that was budgeted for meter replacement. Supt. Springer asked the council if another \$10,000.00 could be allocated for meter replacement. The council asked if there were any grants available for meters. Grant funding will be looked into. 22 1/2 blocks in De Smet, all voting aye, motion carried.

PROJECT PAYMENTS: Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Coughlin, to approve the project pay requests - Helms, pay request #12 (final), airport SRE project \$1,470.00; and Helms, pay request #2, airport apron reconstruction project \$5,280.02, all voting aye, motion carried. Airport project payments are reimbursed 95% by Federal and State grant funds.

LIBRARY: A library policy for reconsideration of library materials was presented to the council. Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, to table the library policy until another library policy

defining the library patron is updated, all voting aye, motion carried.

DE SMET HOUSING BOARD MEMBER: Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Coughlin, to approve appointing Grace Aughenbaugh to the De Smet Housing Board and replacing Mike Warne, all voting aye, motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBER: Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Coughlin, to approve Kristopher Warne as a De Smet Volunteer Fireman member replacing Monte Albrecht, all voting aye, motion carried.

DISTRICT 2 ANNUAL MEETING: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by McCune, to approve Gary Wolkow, Pam Spader, Bret Jensen, and Tracey Larson attending the District 2 Annual Meeting on March 25, 2026, all voting aye, motion carried.

SAVE STATION DONATION: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve donating \$1,000 to the Save Station project, all voting aye, motion carried.

2024 AUDIT REPORT: Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Jensen, to approve the 2024 Audit Report completed by ELO CPA's & Advisors, all voting aye, motion carried.

DE SMET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: De Smet Development Coordinator, Grace Aughenbaugh informed the council that the 2026 De Smet Community Guides final edits are being made; she attended the SD Tourism Conference in January to promote De Smet; De Smet has been selected to host the Dakota Resources regional conference in March; the Main Street Committee continues to meet; the GOED and Aughenbaugh toured DeSCo; and the De Smet Chamber has started planning for Old Settler's Days. They are making the Old Settler's days 250th themed for America's 250th anniversary.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Coughlin, to approve the January 2026 Cash Balances Report, all voting aye, motion carried.

OVERTIME: Motion by Spader, seconded by McCune, to approve the overtime hours for the month of January as presented, all voted aye, motion carried.

OTHER: Other non-action items of discussion were as follows: 1) the January law enforcement report.

ADJOURN: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on motion by Hansen.

Gary Wolkow, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracey Larson, Finance Officer

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