

REGULAR MEETING DE SMET COMMON COUNCIL

June 8, 2026

The De Smet Common Council met in regular session on June 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., with the following present: Council members, George Cavanaugh, Bret Jensen, Dustin McCune, Pam Spader, Mykel Anderson (arriving later), Lowell Hansen, Mayor Gary Wolkow, Finance Officer Tracey Larson, and City Attorney Todd Wilkinson. Absent: None.

Mayor Gary Wolkow 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:** The Main Street ribbon cutting with a light lunch will be held on Friday, June 12, 2026, Old Settler Days will be starting on Saturday, June 13, 2026, and the Restricted Use Site will be closed on Saturday.

**MINUTES:** Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the minutes of May 13, 2026, Regular Meeting, May 27, 2026, Special Meeting, and June 4, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes, all voting aye, motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by McCune, to approve paying the claims as presented, all voting aye, motion carried. The claims are as follows: PAYROLL \$40,353.32; OASI Benefit 3,087.00; Aflac, ins. premium 95.03; Madison National, life insurance 24.00; Delta Dental of South Dakota 471.92; VSP 159.60; The Health Pool of SD, health insurance 7,657.26; SDRS, retirement benefit 4,219.62; Postmaster, variance postage 77.89; Mediacom, utilities 122.20; Visa, utilities, repairs and supplies 1,904.99; Aaron Grubb, reimburse for supplies 412.02; Anderson Lumber, supplies, 107.97; Angelia Everson, meter deposit refund 75.00; Hawk, monthly website fee 35.00; B-Cake, old settlers day cakes 180.00; Bruce Penner, deposit refund re-issue 50.00; Butler Machinery, repairs & maint 726.44; Center Point Large Print, books 82.46; City of De Smet, utilities 2,110.48; City of De Smet, supplies & postage 21.38; TwoTrees Technologies, off-site backup and software 79.42; Cook's Wastepaper & Recycling, residential garbage collection 7,432.89; Cowboy Country Store, supplies 142.23; CR Corner, fuel 1,253.03; CR Mechanical, repair & maint 221.41; Division of Criminal Investigation, background checks 330.00; De Smet Trustworthy Hardware, supplies & repair, 224.33; Department of Health, water labs 226.00; Duininck, repairs & maint 4,359.25; Hawkins, water chemicals 5259.42; Heiman, repairs & maint 1,403.00; Innovative Office Solutions, supplies 1,101.04; Jessica Wilkinson, deposit refund re-issue 30.00; Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, maint contract 220.00; Kingsbury County Auditor, law enforcement contract 6,933.33; Kingsbury County Sheriff, fingerprinting 110.00; Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, utilities 211.75; Kingsbury Journal, publishing 626.97; Kingsbury Journal, publishing 93.50; Kristy Hubbard, reimburse for supplies 133.85; Lake Preston School District, deposit refund 30.00; Lyle Signs, supplies 42.95; M&J Bouncy House Rental, old settlers day supplies 2,500.00; Mack Landscaping, repairs & maint 846.12; Maynards De Smet, supplies 640.32; Maynards De Smet, library supplies 53.05; MC&R Pools, repairs and supplies 758.12; Micro Marketing, books 481.08; Midstate Agronomy, supplies 691.13; Mogens Heros, old settlers

day supplies 1,300.00; Napa De Smet, supplies 25.01; Northwestern, utilities 226.50; O'Keefe Implement, supplies, 25.54; Office Peeps, library supplies 136.97; Office Peeps, supplies 146.14; Olsons Pest Technicians, pest control 75.00; Ottertail Power Company, utilities 4,855.47; DANR, water supplies 600.00; SD Department of Revenue, garbage sales tax 499.65; Share Corp, sewer chemicals 3,773.24; The Main Stop, supplies & fuel 1,065.59; Penworthy, library books 165.77; Tracey Larson, reimburse for supplies 57.18; USA Today Media Corp, water publishing 84.80; USPS, library supplies 78.00; Valley Fibercom, utilities 388.32; Vicki Dylla, deposit refund 50.00; Z&S Dust Control Systems, repairs & maint 8,297.25; Postmaster, variance Blake Hojer 77.89; Helms & Associates, airport 10,560.03; Halme, 425995.42; Austreim Excavating, LLC, Sherwood Storm Sewer project 80,315.63; Helms & Associates, airport taxi lane project 7,920.02; IMEG, Calumet Project - water 3,683.00; IMEG, Calumet Project - water tower project 1,610.00; IMEG, Calumet Project - sewer 12,636.00.

**ZONING:** Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Spader, that the Council to be convened as the Board of Adjustment, all voting aye, motion carried. The Board of Adjustment was called to order by Mayor Wolkow.

This being the date and time public noticed for the hearing on Variance Application #122 submitted by Seth Wallen for Blake Hojer, Hojer met with the board to discuss the variance application. Hojer has requested a variance to allow them to construct a new unattached garage structure, to be placed closer than 25 feet from the front primary property line (East lot line), on the following legally described property: E 75' N OL J (Lot 4 OL J) 28-111-56 Davison's SD, De Smet, Kingsbury County, South Dakota, and addressed as 801 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW, De Smet, South Dakota.

Notice of the hearing was properly given by certified mail and by publication of the Notice of Hearing in conformity with Section 3.04.05 of the City Zoning Ordinance. Nobody from the public appeared for discussion of the variance application.

The location of the proposed construction was reviewed by the zoning board. Upon conclusion of the hearing and the Board having considered the application and evidence presented, enters its findings as follows:

1. That property legally described as E 75' N OL J (Lot 4 OL J) 28-111-56 Davison's SD, De Smet, Kingsbury County, South Dakota, is located within the city limits of the City of De Smet and the Board of Adjustment has jurisdiction over the application.
2. That the property is currently zoned "R-2" General Residential District.
3. That adjacent properties to the North, South, West, and East are all zoned "R-2 General Residential".
4. That Chapter 5.01 General Terms states that in the case of through lots and corner lots, there will be no rear yard, but only front and side yards.
5. That the Area Regulations of the "R-2 General Residential" zoning require a Primary front yard set-back of twenty-five

- (25) feet, a Secondary front yard set-back of fifteen (15) feet, and side yards of six (6) feet.
6. That the proposed unattached garage structure wall would be constructed two feet six inches (2'6") for the from the primary front (east) property line, and the overhang will be
  7. That the proposed residential structure will be set back four (4) feet from the side (west) property line.
  8. That the proposed unattached garage structure will be set back 27'6" from the Side (south) property line.
  9. That the applicant has filed the required application for the variance application and the notice of hearing was properly given.
  10. That none of the adjacent property owners presented any objections to the proposed variance.
  11. That the restrictive size and shape of the residential lot deems it necessary to grant a variance.
  12. That the proposed residential structure would be set back at a distance that is consistent with a structure on an adjacent lot.
  13. That granting of the variance will not be injurious to the neighborhood, or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare.
  14. That the reasons set forth in the application justify granting a variance.

**VARIANCE:** Motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Cavanaugh, to recommend approval of the variance application #122 as submitted to Seth Wallen for Blake Hojer for an unattached garage structure, all voting aye, motion carried.

Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by McCune, to reconvene as the City Council, all voting aye, motion carried.

**VARIANCES:** Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve variance application #122 as submitted to Seth Wallen for Blake Hojer for an unattached garage structure, all voting aye, motion carried.

**BUILDING and DEMO PERMITS:** Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the building permit application submitted by Blake Hojer for an unattached garage, all voting aye, motion carried. Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Jensen, to approve the building permit application submitted by The Locker for a deck with ramp and concrete patio area, and table the fence until the adjacent street can be vacated, all voting aye, motion carried. Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the building permit submitted by Jenni Ransom for an 8' x 8' deck with steps, all voting aye, motion carried. Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Spader, to approve the demo permit submitted by Dustin McCune to demolish a small residential structure on his property, all voting aye, motion carried.

**SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSES:** One application for a special liquor license was submitted by Reid McDaniels, owner of Prairie Fire & Grill, for June 13, 2026, to be held at the parking lot of the Prairie Fire Bar & Grill from 6:00 pm - 12:00 am. Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by McCune, to approve the special liquor license to Reid McDaniels, owner of Prairie Fire & Grill, for June 13, 2026, to be held at the parking lot of the Prairie Fire Bar & Grill from 6:00 pm - 12:00 am , all voting aye, motion carried.

**INSURANCE CLAIM:** City Attorney, Todd Wilkinson, informed the council and public that he has communicated with the insurance company adjuster. The insurance company is waiting for responses from two homeowners' insurance companies before a resolution can be made. Amanda Fields thanked the council for holding a special meeting to discuss the insurance claim, and Krista O'Dea asked how the homeowners would be contacted.

**MARK & LINDA HARRIS:** Mark & Linda Harris met with the council regarding a neighbor's garage they feel is built over the property line and on their property. Attorney Wilkinson stated that he has DOT maps for the Zoning Officers for measuring the lots.

**CLAUS SMITH:** Claus Smith informed the council that after the special meeting to review the water study, he has been working with a business to get their filter systems working correctly. He is also working to get a tour of the Brookings Water Plant.

**Jessica McCune:** Jessica McCune met with the council to inquire about organizing a city-wide clean-up as a Junior class fundraiser. The event if planned would be held at the end of July and beginning of August.

Council person Anderson arrived at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Stan Myer stated that many of his water questions were answered at the special meeting for the water study and inquired about the insurance claim. Todd Wilkinson thanked and appreciated De Smet voters for their support in voting for him as the District 8 State Representative.

**INFRASTRUCTURE, MAIN STREET & SHERWOOD PROJECTS:** Karen DeGeest and Carter Klapperich, Engineers for IMEG met with the council to discuss the infrastructure projects and Sherwood project updates. Engineer Klapperich reported that Halme Inc. is working on punch list items and still has a few items left to complete. A final walk-through meeting will be scheduled and cracking in the sidewalks continues to be discussed. The 5% retainage of project expenses is still being held. The EPA met with Engineer DeGeest in De Smet on May 19, 2026, in De Smet to discuss the American Iron & Steel requirements. The storm sewer project on Sherwood Avenue was completed on May 27, 2026. One change order is requested for the asphalt quantity used. With the recent rain, the storm sewer appears to be working well and looks good. An updated quote for flow testing was presented to the Council. If the Council decided to hire the flow monitoring to be done, it would be completed in late fall or early spring. Engineer Klapperich asked for a one-year warranty walk through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Chase Street project to be scheduled for June.

**CHANGE ORDER #1 - SHERWOOD STORM SEWER:** Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Jensen, to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$5,315.63 for asphalt quantities for the Sherwood Ave. storm sewer project, all voting aye, motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Anderson to go into executive session to discuss consult with the City Attorney about potential litigation at 6:05 pm, all voting aye, motion carried. Mayor Wolkow declared the council out of executive session at 6:25 pm.

**STATE WATER PLAN:** Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by McCune, to table submitting an application for water infrastructure improvements to the State Water Plan, all voting aye, motion carried.

**EVENT CENTER & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS:** Kristy Hubbard, Event Center Director informed the council that the swimming pool is open and good. She has two days when there are not any lifeguards available and will need to have the pool closed. The Event Center is busy with rentals every weekend.

**RECORD DESTRUCTION:** Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Hanson, to approve destroying the listed records presented, all voting aye, motion carried.

**PROJECT PAYMENTS:** Motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Hanson, to approve the project pay requests - Helms, pay request #6, airport design apron reconstruction project \$7,920.02; IMEG, pay request, pay request #11, Water Main Street project \$3,683.00; IMEG, pay request #11, Sewer Main Street project \$12,363.00; IMEG, Water Tower project \$1,610.00; Austriem Construction, pay request #1, Sherwood Ave. storm sewer \$80,315.63, all voting aye, motion carried. Airport project payments are reimbursed 95% by Federal and State grant funds.

**DE SMET DEVELOPMENT CORP:** Grace Aughenbaugh, Director for the De Smet Development Corporation, reported that the semi-annual meeting will be held on June 9, 2026, at 7:00 am at the Oxbow; the Development Corporation was awarded a grant for half of the expense for a housing study; the UK times reporter that writes about the United States and Canada was in De Smet for a couple days is doing a story about the Ingall's sites for the release of the Netflix show; three employees from SESD Tourism spent a day in De Smet to take photos and videos that they will share on their social media accounts; there will be a short delay in the Main Street building lighting due to electric needs; and there will be a ribbon cutting on Saturday, June 13, 2026 for the welcome arch dedication.

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

**OVERTIME:** Motion by Jensen, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the overtime hours for the month of May as presented, all voted aye, motion carried.

**OTHER:** Other non-action items of discussion were as follows: 1) the May law enforcement report; and 2) the water allocation permit meeting in Pierre on July 8, 2026.

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

To comply with SDCL 6-1-10. Publication of Payroll information, the payroll changes as follows: Part-time office staff, Karen Hansen, \$23.76 per hour effective June 1, 2026.

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Gary Wolkow, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tracey Larson, Finance Officer

Published once at the approximate cost of \$ \_\_\_\_\_