

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Monday, March 10, 2025

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm, on Monday, March 10, 2025 at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Dwight Lundgren, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Dean Haarstick, and James Stenger. Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Deputy Clerk Sarah Stone; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Attorney Tom Winters; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; Garrett Mosiman UMN, Daniel Handeen UMN; and Citizens Vanessa Perry, Carol Albright, Jordan Grossman, and Sherri Hanson.

Call to Order

Mayor Dwight Lundgren called the meeting to order.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger to approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Council Minutes of February 10, 2025
 - B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$ 42,440.46.
 - C. Liquor Store bills for January 2025 totaling. \$59,987.33
 - D. Late water/sewer bills
 - E. 2025 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
 - F. General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
 - G. 2025 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances
 - H. Committee Reports: Planning Commission, Park Advisory Board and Event Center
- Motion passed unanimously.

Energy -Building Assessment and Benchmarking Report

1. Daniel Handeen UMN and Garrett Mosiman UMN; Gave presentation on energy efficiency and clean energy integration for municipal buildings.
2. Climate Resiliency Board. Lammers discussed having a committee for energy efficiency. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke. Julie Bruhn volunteered to be on board.

City Insurance

Sherri Hanson discussed deductibles and city boardwalk coverage.

Vergas Community Club – Looney Days

Vanessa Perry requested the 2025 parade route be the same as 2024 and allow street closings. Motion made by Stenger, seconded by Pinke to approve same route as 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Cannabis Business Lammers discussed Cannabis regulations between Ottertail County and City of Vergas ordinances. Motion made by Albright and Seconded by Stenger to update to Ottertail County draft ordinance for Cannabis sales with stores being able to operate in the commercial district. Motion passed unanimously. Pinke made a motion to have a public hearing on March 31st, 2025, seconded by Stenger to have public hearing on 3/31/2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Municipal Building Committee

Theisen discussed Liquor Store updates and would like to have a public meeting for the community. Motion made by Pinke, seconded by Stenger to have meeting directly after Cannabis hearing on March 31st, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Water and Sewer

Lammers asked permission to apply for grants for the replacement of copper/lead lines. Motion made by Stenger, seconded by Pinke to allow Lammers to get estimates on replacements. Motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development Authority/ Housing Redevelopment Authority EDA/HRA

Grossman discussed a contract with CEDA and EDA/HRA. If approved, we will be required to sign a contract for 2024/2025. EDA/HRA requested the Council to help pay \$10,000 for hiring CEDA. Motion made by Stenger, seconded by Pinke to approve \$5,000 for 2024 and \$5,000 for EDA/HRA to use for contracted employees. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Utilities Superintendent

Lift station on Scharf Ave needs repair. Motion made by Albright, seconded by Stenger for DuFrane to get bids for repairs. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Lammers provided written report.

Mayor's Minute

Lundgren discussed having Sanford clinic come to Vergas and solutions to get daycare into town. Newly elected officials report was provided by Lundgren.

Information & Announcements

Training:

- A. MN Clerks and Finance Officers – March 17 -21, 2025 in Brooklyn Center (Lammers)
- B. LMC, Loss Control Workshop March 26 in Alexandria (DuFrane, Engebretson, Lammers)
- C. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA) April 20-23, 2025 (Theisen) Alexandria Arrowwood
- D. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 25-27, 2025, in Duluth (Mayor, Council & Lammers)
- E 16th Annual Operator Expo (MN Rural Water) August 20, 2025, DuFrane, Engebretson)
- F. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 18-19, 2025 (Lammers)

Events:

- A. Local Board of Review, April 09, 2025, Vergas Event Center Council Chambers, 1:00 pm (Mayor, Council and Lammers)
- B. Household Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, June 26, 2025, 10:00 - 2:00

Adjournment

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The business for which the meeting was called was completed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer
Julie Lammers, CMC

Recorded By Sarah Stone
Deputy Clerk