

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Monday, May 12, 2025

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 12, 2025, at the Vergas Event Center and on Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Dwight Lundgren, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, James Stenger, and Dean Haarstick: Absent: none. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Citizens Paul Sonnenberg, Marsha Huddleston, and Loren Menz.

Call to Order

Mayor Dwight Lundgren called the meeting to order.

Citizens' Concerns

A letter from Mary Ditterich was provided to the Council, and the Event Center advisory board will respond. Marsha Huddleston stated that the minutes from last month had Paul Pinke absent, and then he seconded the adjournment motion. Huddleston explained how to take minutes when someone is late. Lammers thanked Huddleston for catching the error on motion, as Pinke had never attended the meeting. Huddleston questioned crosswalks, wanting to know when they would be repainted, as paint did not last three months. Lammers explained that the crosswalks were installed temporarily last year, and the county will be installing permanent crosswalks this year, as they were unable to engrave crosswalks into the road.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to approve the agenda with the removal of the Planning Commission and EDA/HRA minutes from the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- A. Council Minutes of April 14, 2025
 - B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$39,824.06.
 - C. Liquor Store bills for March 2025 totaling \$61,260.24.
 - 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. Certify to Taxes
 - 1. 281 W Hill St. – Animal Licenses and letter fee \$48.00
 - 2. 301 N Detroit Road – Animal Licenses and letter fee \$56.00
 - 3. 110 Co Hwy 35 -Animal License and letter fee \$40.00
 - I Committee Reports: Park Advisory Board and EDA/HRA
- The motion passed unanimously.

Cannabis Business

Lammers reviewed 1st reading of the Cannabis Ordinance, which can be approved at next month's meeting.

Events and Street Closings

Thursday's Music and Food Trucks

Otter Coffee presented a work request for garbage cans to be emptied on Thursday mornings and for traffic cones to be placed. A request was made for Council approval to hold music and food events on Main Street starting at 5:00 pm on Thursdays during the summer. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to allow Otter Coffee to hold events on Thursdays on Main Street if they stay in the parking lanes. No one may sit in a traffic lane. The motion passed unanimously. DuFrane stated that the garbage belongs to Otter Coffee, and city employees do not have time to take out garbage cans every Thursday. He also requested that they purchase their cones. DuFrane stated, "We have a beautiful park, why are they not using it?" Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to deny work order request. The motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to allow them to use city garbage cans and cones if they pick them up at the city shop. The motion passed unanimously.

Shops and Hops

Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, for the Vergas Community Club to hold Shops and Hops on Saturday, June 7, closing Main Street at 2 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

City Insurance

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to raise the property insurance deductible to \$5,000 and add \$250,000 RCT insurance on the boardwalk effective September 1, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Minute

Lundgren discussed Great Plains adding natural gas to Diane Avenue and Eva Street this year, and he is working on adding it to Scharf Avenue in the future.

Committee Reports

Municipal Building Committee

Stenger reviewed the minutes of the Municipal Building committee meeting held on May 8, 2025 (available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to replace the sewer line before the parking lot is paved. The motion passed unanimously. Discussed the slope of the cemented area and replacing the sidewalk in front of the municipal building. Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to approve the municipal building awning project and replace the sidewalk with funds from the sidewalk fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission

Albright reviewed the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held on March 24, 2025 (available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to approve the zoning request to add C-2. The motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to approve Resolution 2025-003 regarding Local Government Units (LGA) administrative authority responsibility given to Otter Tail County (complete copy of resolution located at the city office). The motion passed unanimously.

Streets/Sidewalks/Yard Waste

Calcium Chloride (Dust Control)

Albright brought copies of the policies from neighboring townships and cities regarding whether homeowners or government entities are responsible for dust control. Paul Sonnenberg stated that some townships do not charge for a dust guard. Huddleston noted that Edna Township, where she lives, does not charge. Albright had a copy of Edna Township policy, which states landowners need to apply for and pay for a dust guard. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, for the city to apply dust control on Glenn Street from Pelican Avenue to W Lake Street and Lake Street to County Road 17. The motion passed unanimously. Glenn Street was graded last Friday, and Sonnenberg questioned the addition of a speed limit sign. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to add two 30-mile speed limit signs on Glenn Street, one by W Lake Street and one closer to Pelican Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Utilities Superintendent

Wastewater

DuFrane stated that the lift station on Frazee Avenue went down, and there is damage to the inside of it. he has had the pumps pulled, and the galvanized pumps are torn up. He will keep the Water and Sewer committee updated on the progress.

Parks

Docks will be put in as soon as the weather cooperates. The wind and rain have caused the park's employees to wait.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Lammers provided a written report. Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to accept Sarah Stone's resignation. The motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to hire Rachel Nustad as Deputy Clerk at step 1 beginning June 2, 2025. The motion passed unanimously. Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to allow Julie Lammers overtime for May and June to be paid out as earned instead of converting to compensation time. The motion passed unanimously.

Information & Announcements

Training:

- A. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 25-27, 2025, in Duluth (Mayor, Council & Lammers)
- B 16th Annual Operator Expo (MN Rural Water) August 20, 2025, DuFrane, Engebretson)
- CD. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 18-19, 2025 (Lammers)

Events:

- A. Vergas and Frazee Special Collaboration Meeting, Wednesday, May 21 at 5 pm (Council and Lammers)
- B. Household Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, June 26, 2025, 10:00 - 2:00
- C. Birds of a Feather, Friday, June 27, 2025, 3:00 pm, 140 East Linden (Event Center)

Adjournment

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The business for which the meeting was called was completed and adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer
Julie Lammers, CMC