

City Council
2026 August Council Meeting
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Id number 267-094-2170 password 56587
6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 18, 2026

1. Call to Order

2. Citizens' Concerns

3. Agenda Additions and Deletions

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Council Minutes of July 21, 2026
- B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills
- C. Liquor Store bills for July 2026
- D. Late water/sewer bills
- E. 2026 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
- F. General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
- G. 2026 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances
- H. Committee Reports
 - 1. Planning Commission
 - 2. EDA/HRA

5. Committee Reports

- A. Water/Sewer
- B. Park Board
- C. Streets/Sidewalks/Yard Waste

6. Staff Reports

- A. Engineering
- B. Utilities Superintendent
- C. Clerk-Treasurer
- D. Liquor Store Manager

7. Information & Announcements

Employee 2026 Trainings:

- A. LMC Clerk's Academy, Sept. 10-11, 2026, Staples, MN (Deputy Clerk)
- B. Clerk's Advanced Academy- September 10-11, 2026, in Otsego, MN (Clerk-Treasurer)
- C. 2026 Northern Operator Expo, September 23, 2026, in Grand Rapids, MN (DuFrane and Engebretson)

8. Adjournment

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Files Attached

- City Council Minutes 7.21.26.pdf
- 08.2026 City Bill Listing.pdf
- 08.2026 Claims List for Approval.pdf
- 07.2026 Liquor Store Bill Listing.pdf
- 08.2026 past_due_customers.pdf
- 07.2026 Investment Schedule & Bond Schedule.pdf
- 08.2026 General Fund_Special Revenue Money Market Account Report.pdf
- 7.31.26 Statement of Reciepts, Disbursements and Balances.pdf
- Planning Commission Minutes 7.27.26.pdf
- 7.15.26 EDA.HRA Minutes.pdf

**CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Tuesday, July 21, 2026**

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 PM, on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at the Vergas Event Center and on a Zoom for a hybrid regular public hearing.

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Julie Bruhn, Mayor	P	P	P	P/P	P	P	P/P					
Bruce Albright, Member	P	P	P	P/P	P	A	P/A					
Paul Pinke, Member	P	P	P	P/P	P	P	A/P					
Dean Haarstick, Member	P	P	P	P/P	P	P	P/A					
James Stenger, Member	P	P	P	P/P	P	P	P/P					
Julie Lammers, Clerk-Treasurer	P	P	P	P/P	P	P	P/P					
Mike Dufrane, Utilities Superintendent	P	A	A	A/A	P	A	P/P					
Kyle Theisen, Liquor Store Manager	P	A	A	A/A	A	A						

P: Present. A: Absent N/A: No meeting

Present via Zoom: Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum, Engineer Blaine Green of Widseth, and citizens Marcia Huddleston and Michael Miller.

Present in person: Attorney Karen Skoyles

Call to Order

Mayor Julie Bruhn called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

None.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Park Board

Lammers reported on two items brought forward by the Park Board.

North Star Ski Team Dock Storage Request: The Park Board recommended permitting the North Star Ski Team to store their dock on the Long Lake Beach during the winter months, positioned near where the City's own dock is stored. DuFrane indicated the team would arrange for a local business to remove the dock from the lake and confirmed it would not obstruct the parking lot or walking trail. The Council expressed concern about consistency, with Lammers noting that another property owner had previously been denied permission to store personal property on City land. Members acknowledged that while the ski team serves a community function, allowing one outside party to store equipment on City property could open the door to additional similar requests. The suggestion was made to table the request, explore whether alternative storage locations might be available to the ski team, and allow more time for community input before making a decision.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to table the dock storage request was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bathhouse Demolition Request: The Park Board recommended that the existing bathhouse be demolished and replaced with porta-potties until a new bathhouse can be constructed, with the intent to pursue fundraising and grant writing in the interim. Lammers presented cost estimates that had not been available to the Park Board at the time of their recommendation. Demolition of the existing structure was estimated at approximately \$7,000, and porta-potty rental for four units would cost approximately \$1,360 per week, or roughly \$16,320 per summer season. With no defined timeline for new bathhouse construction—potentially two to three years—the cumulative cost could reach \$40,000 or more in addition to demolition expenses. Stenger noted the ongoing financial exposure given the absence of a construction timeline.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to deny approval at this time and to notify the Park Board of the associated costs. The motion passed unanimously.

CDH-Vergas Fire Board

Bruhn reported that the CDH Vergas Fire Board accepted a proposal from West Central Initiative and Holsen Solar to proceed with the installation of solar panels on the fire hall. All townships and the City approved the plan. Three resolutions were presented for Council action.

Resolution – City of Vergas as Fiscal Agent for Solar Project:

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to approve resolution 2026-009 regarding the resolution authorizing the City of Vergas to act as fiscal agent for the CDH-Vergas Fire Board solar project (complete copy of the resolution is located at the City Office). The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution – Acceptance of Solar Proposal:

Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to approve resolution 2026-010 regarding the resolution to accept solar proposal from Holsen Solar (complete copy of the resolution is located at the City Office). The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution – Solar Project Financing through West Central Initiative:

Mayor Bruhn noted that financing through the West Central Initiative carries a zero-percent interest rate, consistent with how the City financed its own solar project. The initiative covers upfront loan costs and expenses.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to approve resolution 2026-011 regarding the resolution to support seeking solar project financing from West Central Initiative (complete copy of the resolution is located at the City Office). The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Engineering

Green reported that the primary noteworthy update was the completion of the lead service line investigation. City staff, led by DuFrane, were able to confirm and document the remaining unknowns in the system. The updated information is expected to be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health within the week, effectively closing out the investigative phase of the lead service line compliance effort.

Utilities Superintendent

Water Tower Fence: DuFrane presented four quotes from Eastman Fence for fencing around the water tower site. He recommended proposal number 4 and proposed extending the fence to the wood line, adding approximately 75 linear feet beyond the originally quoted scope. The additional fencing would cost \$2000, bringing the total project cost to \$15,990. Lammers confirmed that the grant covering this project was for \$15,000, with the remaining \$2000 to be funded from the water fund. Council concurred that the full perimeter should be enclosed provided all specifications and requirements were met.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to approve proposal number 4 for the well site fence at a total cost of \$15,990. The motion passed unanimously.

Lift Station Failure: DuFrane reported that Lift Station No. 4 experienced a failure the previous Thursday, taking out both pumps, starters, and capacitors simultaneously. The cause was attributed in part to a foreign object—a stuffed animal—that had damaged one pump, while the second pump was an older unit. Additionally, a nearby household had been consuming an abnormally high volume of water—approximately 250 gallons per hour—from June 12 through July 18, contributing to the circumstances surrounding the failure. A water audit was conducted on that property. The station was restored to full operation by the morning of the meeting. Total repair cost was \$10,806.09, with additional pumping fees also to be invoiced. All costs will be charged to the sewer fund.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to authorize payment of the lift station No. 4 repair costs of \$10,806.09. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bruhn expressed concern about the sewer fund's financial position, noting the recent audit had already indicated challenges, and asked that the Water and Sewer Committee prioritize a budget review. Lammers confirmed the Water and Sewer Committee would be meeting in early August and a report would be available for the next council meeting.

Resolution – Acceptance of Traffic Cones from the State: DuFrane reported that 50 traffic cones, surplus items the state had intended to discard, were obtained at no cost through a contact at the state prison. The cones, valued at approximately \$18 each, had already been delivered.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to approve the resolution 2026-008 regarding the resolution accepting the donation of fifty (50) traffic cones from the State of Minnesota (complete copy of the resolution is located at the City Office). The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer

Deputy Clerk Training – League of Minnesota Cities Clerk's Academy: Lammers requested authorization for the Deputy Clerk to attend the League of Minnesota Cities Clerk's Academy in Staples on September 10–11, 2026. Lammers noted this coincides with her own attendance at the MCFOA Advanced Academy, which would necessitate closing the City Office on September 10th. She indicated that urgent matters could be handled through the Liquor Store and that she would remain accessible by email.

Motion by Pinke, seconded by Stenger, to approve the Deputy Clerk's attendance at the LMC Clerk's Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

Website Refresh Project: Lammers presented options for updating the City's website, driven by two needs: transitioning from a .com to a .gov domain, and achieving ADA compliance as now required by the federal government for smaller cities. The current vendor, PaulNet, quoted \$1,450 for a refresh of the existing site, with a .gov domain migration available for \$200. Lammers noted that outside vendors capable of building an entirely new website had quoted \$5,000–\$10,000. Bruhn noted that website usability had been identified as a concern in the City's Comprehensive Plan and expressed a preference for a more substantive redesign rather than a minimal refresh. Council agreed it would be preferable to gather additional quotes and develop a clearer vision for the new site before committing to any option.

Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to table the website refresh project pending additional quotes and input on desired features. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Report: Lammers distributed revised budget documents showing expenditures against the full annual budget rather than the mid-year estimate format previously provided through the City's CTAS accounting system. She noted these figures run through July 21st and include partial July expenses. The Water and Sewer Committee will meet ahead of the August council meeting to begin the budget process. Lammers also noted she had begun preliminary discussions with all committees regarding their needs for the coming year.

Event Center Coordinator

Lammers reported that rental revenue is approximately \$3,000 ahead of the same period last year. Social media advertising by Event Center Coordinator Rachel Nustad has been credited with increased visibility and bookings, including events already booked into 2027. On the capital side, two furnaces (approximately 30 years old) and two air conditioners at the Event Center required replacement, along with a refrigerator previously approved by the Council. The total cost for HVAC replacement was \$31,328, which will be recorded as a capital outlay expense. Lammers noted that the city had historically spent \$25,000–\$30,000 annually subsidizing the Event Center, and the new, more efficient equipment is expected to reduce operating costs. Utility rebates from the gas company were also anticipated. Additionally, the Event Center's solar installation came online in the second week of July.

Liquor Store Manager

Lammers reported that liquor store sales are up 22.3 percent through the first six months of 2026. However, overall spending is running approximately \$50,000 behind budget. The store's new manager has been on board for two weeks and is progressing well in training. The city budgeted a \$30,000 transfer from the liquor store to the general fund; no transfer has been made to date in 2026.

LMC Conference Review by Mayor and Council Members

Bruhn provided a written review of the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference. Bruhn highlighted several sessions she attended, including presentations on visual storytelling for public communications, navigating infrastructure funding (featuring the City of Floodwood's success in securing significant housing funding), and a panel on energy efficiency in which she participated on behalf of Vergas. She also attended the Small Minnesota Cities network and Minnesota Energy Coalition sessions. Legislatively, Bruhn noted this was a bonding year rather than a budget year, making it a relatively quiet session. One item of note passing was a new requirement for massage therapists to obtain licensure and criminal background checks. Proposed zoning legislation did not advance. Looking ahead, the League indicated priorities for the next legislative session would include data centers, LGA tied to inflation, local sales tax reform, transportation funding, housing and zoning, and challenges surrounding the availability of municipal auditors. Bruhn highlighted the value of the vendor fair, where Vergas made useful contacts. Stenger also noted that the conference's increased focus on sessions tailored to small cities was a welcome improvement, and echoed the Floodwood session's message about the importance of proactive planning and readiness to act when funding opportunities arise.

Information & Announcements

Mayor Bruhn announced that the Vergas Energy and Resiliency Plan has been published and is available on the City website. The plan was announced at the LMC Conference and generated significant interest from other municipalities. Local office filings are open July 14–28 for the positions of Mayor and two Council Members, with a \$2.00 filing fee.

Employee 2026 Trainings:

- A. 16th Annual Operator Expo (MN Rural Water) – August 25, 2026, for the Utilities Superintendent and Maintenance Operator.
- B. Clerk's Advanced Academy – September 10–11, 2026, in Otsego, MN, for the Clerk-Treasurer.
- C. Clerks Academy – September 10-11, 2026, in Staples, MN, for the Deputy Clerk.

Adjournment

Motion by Stenger, seconded by Pinke, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The business for which the meeting was called was completed and adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Recorded by
Deputy Clerk
Rachel Nustad (assisted by ClerkMinutes)

Julie Lammers, CMC
Vergas City Clerk-Treasurer

CITY OF VERGAS
 Bill Listing for July 22 to Aug. 12, 2026

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
City of Vergas	Payroll	11,868.47
ERIS	GIS, License	1,211.00
Internal Revenue Services	Withholding Tax	7,171.08
Lake Region Electric	Sign, electricity	66.32
Loons Nest	Election, food	26.00
Midwest Pump Works	Sewer, replace 2 pumps in lift station 4	10,806.09
MN Dept. Revenue	Withholding Tax	311.38
MN Paid Leave	Paid Leave	201.46
Northland Bond Services	St, Bond Interest	495.00
Public Employees Retirement Assoc.	Payroll	2,310.85
Vergas State Bank	HSA contributions	610.00
Vergas State Bank	Tax Abatement Bond payment	6,815.90
Vergas State Bank	Bond Interest	7,878.25
Total for bills paid between Council Meetings		\$49,771.80

Date Range : 8/14/2026 To 8/19/2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
08/18/2026	Chelsey Aasness	Event, return deposit 8-1-2026	26170	\$75.00	100-45110-999-	EVENT CENTER	\$75.00
08/18/2026	Aqua Solutions Spraying	Beach, spraying	26171	\$1,500.00	100-45210-300-	Parks	\$1,500.00
08/18/2026	Art Anderson Septic Tank Pumping	Swr, lift station pumping Beach, Inv 47752, 47779, 47741, 47740	26172*	\$2,711.63	100-45210-210-	Parks	\$2,711.63
08/18/2026	ASP of Moorhead, Inc	Event, security gaurds 08/08/2026	26173	\$175.00	100-45110-300-	EVENT CENTER	\$175.00
08/18/2026	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota	Employees Health Insurance Premium Aug 2026	26174	\$4,344.53	100-41405-131- 601-49440-131- 602-49490-131- 100-43110-131- 100-45210-131- 609-49751-131-	Clerk Water Utilities - Administration and General Sewer Utilities - Administration and General Highways, Streets & Roadways Parks Liquor Store - Manager - Off-Sale	\$454.21 \$780.33 \$780.33 \$326.12 \$326.12 \$1,677.42
08/18/2026	Michael DuFrane	St, Park, Sewer, Water, cell phone reimbursment	26175	\$75.00	601-49440-321- 602-49490-321- 100-43110-321- 100-45210-321-	Water Utilities - Administration and General Sewer Utilities - Administration and General Highways, Streets & Roadways Parks	\$18.75 \$18.75 \$18.75 \$18.75
08/18/2026	Dacotah Paper Company	Parks, supplies (Inv 59520, 99719, 82682, 33769, 84839, 84840, 9093, 1655)	26176	\$81.06	100-45210-210-	Parks	\$81.06

Date Range : 8/14/2026 To 8/19/2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
08/18/2026	Driveway Service	St, crushed asphalt	26177	\$577.50	100-43110-210-	Highways, Streets & Roadways	\$577.50
08/18/2026	Elan Financial Services	Ls, bags Gen, programs	26178	\$1,964.55	609-49751-210-	Liquor Store - Manager - Off-Sale	\$902.00
					100-49751-200-	Liquor Store - Manager - Off-Sale	\$1,062.55
08/18/2026	Matthew Engebretson	St, Pk, cell phone reimbursement	26179	\$25.00	100-43110-321- 100-45210-321-	Highways, Streets & Roadways Parks	\$12.50 \$12.50
08/18/2026	Frazee-Vergas Forum	Event, ads	26180	\$55.00	100-45110-340-	EVENT CENTER	\$55.00
08/18/2026	Kristen Frovarp	Event, return deposit 8.8.26300.	26181	\$300.00	100-45110-999-	EVENT CENTER	\$300.00
08/18/2026	Gopher State One Call	Wtr, Swr, One Calls	26182	\$1.35	602-49490-210- 601-49440-210-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General Water Utilities - Administration and General	\$0.67 \$0.68
08/18/2026	Hansons Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Event, furnace/air repairs	26183	\$445.95	609-49751-530-	Liquor Store - Manager - Off-Sale	\$445.95
08/18/2026	Kerry Ingberg	LS, reimbursed cell phone	26184	\$25.00	609-49751-321-	Liquor Store - Manager - Off-Sale	\$25.00
08/18/2026	JH Signs & Designs, Inc	Golf Cart Permits	26185	\$35.00	100-41010-210-	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$35.00

Date Range : 8/14/2026 To 8/19/2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
08/18/2026	Lakes Area Jetting, LLC	Sewer, vacuumed out lift station INv 42854 42730 &	26186	\$2,525.00			
					602-49490-400-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$1,625.00
					602-49490-400-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$900.00
08/18/2026	Lakes Community Cooperative	Streets, operating fuel	26187	\$194.92			
					100-45210-210-	Parks	\$194.92
08/18/2026	Julie Lammers	All Depts, reimbursed phone	26188	\$75.00			
					100-41405-321-	Clerk	\$25.00
					601-49440-321-	Water Utilities - Administration and General	\$25.00
					602-49490-321-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$25.00
08/18/2026	Midwest Pump Works	Wastewater, service agreement	26189	\$1,305.00			
					602-49490-300-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$1,305.00
08/18/2026	Olson Oil Co.	Pk., St, LS, operating supplies	26190	\$706.51			
					100-43110-210-	Highways, Streets & Roadways	\$447.99
					100-45210-210-	Parks	\$191.99
					609-49751-210-	Liquor Store - Manager - Off-Sale	\$66.53
08/18/2026	Otter Tail Power Company	All depts, utility	26191	\$2,142.07			
					602-49490-380-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$347.77
					100-43160-380-	Street Lighting	\$681.36
					100-45110-380-	EVENT CENTER	\$449.40
					100-45210-380-	Parks	\$219.88
					601-49440-380-	Water Utilities - Administration and General	\$272.36
					100-41010-380-	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$66.19
					100-43010-380-	City Shop	\$105.11

Date Range : 8/14/2026 To 8/19/2026

Date	Vendor	Description	Claim #	Total	Account #	Account Name	Detail
08/18/2026	Productive Alternatives, Inc.	Event Center, 2026 Cleaning Inv#7987	26192	\$108.52	100-45110-300-	EVENT CENTER	\$108.52
08/18/2026	Steve's Sanitation, Inc.	Event, Parks, Solid Waste	26193	\$514.84	100-45210-384- 100-45110-384-	Parks EVENT CENTER	\$307.80 \$207.04
08/18/2026	Ramstad, Skoyles & Bakken, PA	Attorney fees	26194	\$171.75	100-41010-304-	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$171.75
08/18/2026	RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc	Wastewater, 2026 Chemicals Inv D092925	26195	\$389.79	602-49490-218-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$389.79
08/18/2026	TEAM LAB	Parks, cherry block	26196	\$180.00	100-45210-210-	Parks	\$180.00
08/18/2026	Vergas Auto Repair	Street, fix tire-off vehicle	26197	\$27.29	100-43110-220-	Highways, Streets & Roadways	\$27.29
08/18/2026	Vergas Hardware	All Depts, supplies	26198	\$173.45	100-43010-210- 100-45210-210- 100-45110-210- 609-49751-210- 100-41010-210- 601-49440-210- 100-43110-210- 602-49490-210-	City Shop Parks EVENT CENTER Liquor Store - Manager - Off-Sale GENERAL GOVERNMENT Water Utilities - Administration and General Highways, Streets & Roadways Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$3.18 \$72.54 \$26.13 \$23.37 \$9.49 \$1.99 \$26.96 \$9.79
08/18/2026	Vestis	Event, rugs and supplies Inv 2520813730	26199	\$160.04	100-45110-210-	EVENT CENTER	\$160.04
08/18/2026	Victor Lundeen Company	All Depts, Check Blanks	26200	\$494.62			

Date Range : 8/14/2026 To 8/19/2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
					100-43110-200-	Highways, Streets & Roadways	\$123.65
					100-45210-200-	Parks	\$123.65
					601-49440-200-	Water Utilities - Administration and General	\$123.66
					602-49490-200-	Sewer Utilities - Administration and General	\$123.66
Total For Selected Claims				\$21,560.37			\$21,560.37

Bruce E Albright	City Council/Town Board	Date
Dean Haarstick	City Council/Town Board	Date
James Stenger	City Council/Town Board	Date
Julie A Bruhn	City Council/Town Board, Mayor	Date
Paul Pinke	City Council/Town Board	Date

City of Vergas Liquor Store Checks Paid in July 2026

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>
Absolute Ice		\$1,709.90
Artisan Beer Company		1,002.35
Arvig Communications	Internet, Security	314.07
Bergseth Bros		34,983.32
Beverage Wholesalers		7,848.23
Breakthru Beverage MN Wine and Spirits		11,188.39
City of Vergas	Utility	71.24
City of Vergas	Payroll	10,529.41
Colonial Life	Employee reimbursed Insurance	102.52
Corporate Technologies	Computer Software	1,071.00
Dacotah Paper Company	Bathroom supplies	295.92
D-S Beverage		34,470.78
Elan Financial Services	Supplies	929.83
Fricke Consultin Sale	POS System	165.00
Great Plains Natural Gas	Utility	55.35
Internal Revenue Service	Withholding Tax	2,952.84
Johnson Brothers Liquor Co		19,870.29
Kerry Ingberg	Cell phone reimbursed	25.00
Merchant Service	Credit Card Fees	2,338.54
MN Dept. of Revenue	Withholding Tax	434.61
MN Dept. of Revenue	Sales Tax	9,796.00
MN Life Ins Company	Employee Life Insurance	21.00
MN Paid Leave	Leave	240.02
Otter Tail Power Company	Utility	487.33
Paustis Wine Company		220.00
PERA	Payroll	1,751.16
Phillips Wine & Spirits		10,940.78
Southern Wine & Spirits of MN		20,797.50
Vergas Hardware	Supplies	54.77
Vergas State Bank	HSA Contributions	105.00
Vestis	Mats	137.88
Viking Coca-Cola Bottling Co		650.44
	Total	175,560.47
	ATM Payment	466.25
	July Receipts	160,470.25
July Operating Income (Loss)		(\$15,556.47)
	Jan- June Operating Income (Loss)	(\$50,348.60)
2026 Total Operating Income (Loss)		(\$65,905.07)

Route	Sort	Account #	Customer Name	Status	Parcel #	Service Address	Aged Days	Past Due Amt.	Total Balance	Deposit Balance	Last Pymt. Date	Last Pymt. Amount	Meter #	Meter Type	Pay Plan
2	0	570	Licence, Tony	Active	82000990127000	350 S Pelican Ave	127	81.16	435.78	0.00	04/21/2026	222.00	92089898	WATER	No
Total							Count: 1	81.16	435.78						

City of Vergas Investments

	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>12/31/25</u>	<u>Purchase</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Interest Earned</u>	<u>07/31/26</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>
General Fund	325657	283,731.72	0.00	43,161.31	1,224.85	241,795.26	0.75%	MMDA
2019 Street Debt Fund	325657	203,073.29	175,000.00	0.00	983.90	379,057.19	0.75%	MMDA
Parking Lot/Alley	325657	138,334.17	0.00	138,334.17	0.00	0.00		
Liquor Store Fund	325657	77,360.14	0.00	77,360.14	0.00	0.00		
Sewer Reserve	19753	28,962.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,962.87	3.50%	12/27/2026
Sewer and Water Debt Service	19759	39,441.07	0.00	0.00	992.19	40,433.26	2.50%	7/17/2027
Liquor Fund	20338	156,645.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	156,645.95	2.50%	12/14/2026
Totals		927,549.21	175,000.00	258,855.62	3,200.94	846,894.53		

City of Vergas Bond Schedule

Title	<u>Purchase Date</u>	<u>Req. Balance</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2025</u>	<u>Interest Paid in 2026</u>	<u>Balance 7/31/2026</u>	<u>Amount Paid in 2026</u>
Street Debt Service Fund									
General Obligation Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2015A	12/15/2015	\$299,000.00	2.42%	Vergas State Bank	2/1/27	61,000.00	1,245.50	33,000.00	28,000.00
General Obligation Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2019A (412)	6/11/2019	\$985,000.00	3.26%	First National Bank of Omaha	2/1/40	785,000.00	12,030.63	740,000.00	45,000.00
Taxable Lease, 2023	10/24/2023	\$230,000.00	5.90%	Vergas State Bank	2/1/39	224,000.00	13,566.50	213,000.00	11,000.00
Parking Lot, 2025	9/10/2025	\$147,000.00	5.20%	Vergas State Bank	2/1/36	147,000.00	6,815.90	147,000.00	0.00
Water Fund									
General Obligation Water Revenue Note, Series 2022A	2/1/2022	\$132,000.00	3.25%	Vergas State Bank	2/1/32	95,000.00	1,770.00	82,000.00	13,000.00
Total		\$1,793,000.00				1,312,000.00		1,215,000.00	97,000.00

2019 Street Project/General Fund/Special Revenue Money Market Account

	01/01/2026		2026	2026		
	Balance	Interest	Interest	Purchased	2026 sold	7/31/2026
Uncommitted Funds	142,961.85	16.16%	546.52	0.00	43,160.71	100,347.66
City Shop	8,694.12	1.41%	42.14	0.00	0.00	8,736.26
Easements	5,297.58	0.86%	25.59	0.00	0.00	5,323.17
Event Center	973.41	0.16%	4.72	0.00	0.00	978.13
Event Center Electronic Sign	10,178.27	1.65%	49.26	0.00	0.00	10,227.53
General	14,755.40	2.39%	67.80	0.00	0.00	14,823.20
Park	36,099.65	5.84%	174.97	0.00	0.00	36,274.62
Sand Seal (Seal Coating)	13,194.65	2.14%	63.88	0.00	0.00	13,258.53
Sidewalk	7,928.17	1.28%	38.46	0.00	0.00	7,966.63
Street Improvements/Equipment	42,138.70	6.82%	204.21	0.00	0.00	42,342.91
Yard Waste	1,509.32	0.24%	7.30	0.00	0.00	1,516.62
Liquor Store	77,360.14	0.00%	0.00	0.00	77,360.14	0.00
2025 Parking Lot Alley Project	138,334.77	0.00%	0.00	0.00	138,334.77	0.00
2019 Street Project	203,073.29	61.05%	983.90	175,000.00	0.00	379,057.19
Balance	702,499.32	100.00%	2,208.75	\$175,000.00	\$258,855.62	620,852.45 ***

***Committed total should not drop below \$170,000 or be above \$290,000 at the end of the year.

Current Committed Total 241,795.26

As on 7/31/2026

Fund	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Sale of Investments	Transfers In	Disbursements	Purchase of Investments	Transfers Out	Ending Balance	Investment Balance	Total Balance
General Fund	3,690.95	326,958.99	43,160.71	0.00	270,014.67	704.42	18,879.00	84,212.56	73,509.50	157,722.06
Small Cities Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Street Debt Service*	(100,356.37)	7,227.08	0.00	8,879.00	28,808.25	0.00	0.00	(113,058.54)	0.00	(113,058.54)
SEWER AND WATER DEBT SERVICE	886.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	886.02	0.00	886.02
Long Lake Trail Extension Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019 Street Project	210,303.98	26,269.14	0.00	0.00	68,510.01	175,544.12	0.00	(7,481.01)	377,757.29	370,276.28
Street Project 2006*	38,487.48	4,074.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42,562.29	110,000.00	152,562.29
Government Services Office	(33,525.74)	7,999.25	0.00	0.00	17,945.50	0.00	0.00	(43,471.99)	0.00	(43,471.99)
Water	189,970.30	92,112.56	0.00	0.00	66,436.29	248.53	0.00	215,398.04	15,508.74	230,906.78
Sewage Collection and Disposal	(188,595.55)	89,158.67	0.00	0.00	63,460.96	1,249.12	0.00	(164,146.96)	54,392.85	(109,754.11)
Municipal Liquor Store	13,836.10	589,731.24	77,360.74	0.00	651,796.93	1,952.71	0.00	27,178.44	217,224.09	244,402.53
Vergas EDA	50,175.73	3,899.59	0.00	10,000.00	29,676.19	0.00	0.00	34,399.13	0.00	34,399.13
Gen Obligation Tax Abatement Bond	(89,049.27)	40,710.90	138,334.17	0.00	55,174.47	0.00	0.00	34,821.33	0.00	34,821.33
Total :	95,823.63	1,188,142.23	258,855.62	18,879.00	1,251,823.27	179,698.90	18,879.00	111,299.31	848,392.47	959,691.78

City of Vergas Planning Commission Minutes
Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Government Services Building and Zoom

The City of Vergas Planning Commission held a regular hybrid meeting on Monday, July 27, 2026, on Zoom and at the Vergas Government Services Building.

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alex Ohman, Chair	A	P	P	P	P	A	P					
Bruce Albright, Liaison	P	P	P	P	P	P	A					
Dave Johnston, Member	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Rebecca Hasse, Member	P	P	P	A	A	P	P					
Jim Courneya, Member	P	A	P	P	P	P	P					
Julie Lammers, Clerk-Treasurer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
Mike Dufrane, Utilities Superintendent	P	A	A	A	P	P	P					

P: Present. A: Absent N/A: No Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Ohman called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda Additions or Deletions

Lammers requested the addition of a construction permit application for 415 Dianne Avenue.

Motion by Ohman, seconded by Courneya, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Motion by Hasse, seconded by Johnston, to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Council Recommendations

None.

Permits

Active Construction Permits

Did not review.

Construction Permit Applications

Clerk Approved

351 S Pelican Ave – Lammers reported that she had administratively approved a permit for shingling the garage at 351 S Pelican Avenue. No further action was required.

Needing Approval

410 Scharf Ave E. – Lammers presented an application from the church at 410 Scharf Ave E. to install a 6x6 patio area and a 34x5 sidewalk. The project was described as connecting two existing in-place sidewalks with a route running parallel to Scharf Avenue along the back of the right-of-way, also incorporating a small bench area. The purpose is to provide pedestrian access to the church's book nook. To remain within the 25% impervious surface allowance, the existing book nook structure will be removed. The Commission confirmed that because no new building is being constructed, county review is not required. The project was confirmed to comply with city zoning requirements.

Motion by Ohman, seconded by Johnston, to approve the construction permit for 410 Scharf Ave E. for the 6x6 patio area and 34x5 sidewalk. The motion passed unanimously.

415 Dianne Ave – Lammers presented an application for a 40×56 house and garage combination with a 24×30 driveway pad on a vacant lot at 415 Dianne Avenue, located between two existing properties. Key details included: setback of 50 feet from the road (approximately 30 feet from road right-of-way), a 10-foot setback from the nearest property line, 170 feet from the rear property line, and a total impervious surface of 2,960 square feet (14.8% of the lot). All setback and coverage requirements were confirmed to be met.

Motion by Courneya, seconded by Johnston, to approve the construction permit for 415 Dianne Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Grade and Fill Permits

660 W Glenn St – Create Building Pad for 1,600 Sq. Ft.

Lammers presented a grade and fill permit application for 660 W Glenn Street. The applicant intends to create a building pad for a future 1,600 square foot home. The grading area will be 100 feet in length by 50 feet in width, with black dirt, sand, and gravel to be brought in.

Motion by Hasse, seconded by Courneya, to approve the grade and fill permit for 660 W Glenn Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Nuisance Properties

Lammers provided a status update on nuisance properties. Two vehicles that had been added to the nuisance list the prior month were confirmed as resolved.

- **130 Elm Street East** — Lammers reported that despite a commitment from the property owner to clean up the property by the prior week, the site remains non-compliant and has reportedly worsened. Garbage containers have been left out for over a week, and additional items including furniture and a stair lift have been pushed to the garage area. The property is a rental owned by BJ Holdings LLC, registered to Bruce Johnson of Fargo, ND, who has not responded to any correspondence. The Commission noted that without owner engagement, the violations will likely continue. The Commission agreed to refer the matter to the City Attorney.

Motion by Hasse, seconded by Johnston, to refer the nuisance property at 130 Elm Street East to the City Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

- **101 E Mill Street** — Reported issues include cars, boats, and garbage. The Commission agreed to send a second notice letter.
- **160 S 1st Avenue** — This property was previously discussed, with the owner appearing at the June meeting. Issues include accumulated wood, appliances, and miscellaneous items in the yard. The Commission acknowledged that the owner uses some items for his business (including a cast iron stove for welding/casting work) and has expressed a willingness to cooperate. The consensus was that while working equipment such as tractors may be acceptable, miscellaneous debris, old appliances, and partial equipment must be cleaned up. Ohman volunteered to speak with the owner directly before the next meeting with the intent to provide specific, actionable direction. The second notice letter was tabled pending that conversation.
- **170 1st Avenue** — Reported for unlicensed vehicles. Ohman agreed to follow up as part of his conversation with the property owner. Letter tabled pending discussion.
- **339 E Frazee Avenue** — Reported for trash throughout the yard. DuFrane noted he had driven by earlier that day and the property appeared to have been cleaned up, likely in preparation for an upcoming event. The Commission agreed to remove this property from the active list.
- **340 Unit Avenue** — The Commission noted the property was previously removed from the nuisance list on May 18, 2026 and confirmed no further action is needed.
- **840 E Scharf Avenue** — The property owner has been planning to build on the rear lot and has a large quantity of lumber/rafters stored in the yard, along with a camper. The owner indicated the materials will remain until construction begins, but offered to have her sons move the lumber to the east side of the house if requested. A neighboring resident has continued to raise concerns. The Commission agreed that moving the materials to the side yard would likely satisfy neighbor

complaints. Lammers agreed to contact the owner and request the lumber be relocated to the east side of the house before the next meeting. Regarding the camper, it was noted that placement and occupancy restrictions are governed by the subdivision's covenants rather than city ordinance, and is a matter for the HOA or covenant holders.

- **390 S Pelican Avenue** — Previously reported for unlicensed vehicles. Lammers confirmed all vehicles have since been licensed. Removed from the list.
- **219 Frazee Avenue East** — Previously reported for an unlicensed vehicle. The vehicle has been removed. Resolved.
- **431 Lake Street West** — Reported for unlicensed vehicles and a camper. The owner called and indicated he would license his vehicles and would move the camper farther back on the property if required. The property was described as containing a school bus, multiple boats, and trailers largely hidden behind brush at the far end of West Lake Street. The Commission agreed to send a second notice letter.
- **306 Frazee Avenue East** — The owner received a permit for a fence, which has not yet been installed. The owner stated accumulated wood will be removed when conditions allow for burning, all vehicles have been licensed, and a dozer on the property cannot be economically moved (estimated \$2,000 to relocate). The fence, once erected, would screen the dozer from view. The Commission agreed to allow one additional month for the fence to be installed before taking further action.
- **201 Hill Street** — Reported for demolition derby vehicles. The owner previously attended a meeting and asked specifically what he needed to do to come into compliance. He stated he keeps only four vehicles outside the garage and brings them out only when working on them. The Commission discussed the unique nature of demo derby vehicles in a small-town context and noted the owner's neighbor on the same dead-end street also keeps demo cars and has no objection. No decision was reached on a course of action; the matter was carried forward for continued discussion.

The Commission made a broad motion to formalize the various property-specific actions discussed.

Motion by Ohman, seconded by Johnston, to send second notice letters to 101 E Mill Street and 431 Lake Street West; to table action on 160 S 1st Avenue and 170 1st Avenue pending direct staff outreach; to contact the owner of 840 E Scharf Avenue regarding relocation of lumber; to allow one additional month for fence installation at 306 Frazee Avenue East; and to remove 339 E Frazee Avenue from the nuisance list. The motion passed unanimously.

City Ordinance Update

§ 91.06 Kennels

Lammers presented research on how neighboring municipalities regulate dog limits, compiled in response to a prior Commission request. The current Vergas ordinance classifies the keeping of three or more dogs as a kennel and declares it a nuisance. The research showed a range of approaches: Otter Tail County has no formal limit; Battle Lake mirrors the current Vergas ordinance; Pelican Rapids allows up to four dogs per dwelling; Lake Park allows up to three dogs over six months of age but permits more by special council permit; Hawley allows four dogs and requires a kennel license for four or more; Detroit Lakes limits households to two dogs unless animals are spayed/neutered; and Perham uses a threshold of three or more.

The context for the review was noted: multiple residents have requested permission to keep four dogs, and the City is currently aware of households licensing only three of four dogs they own. Lammers also noted that one resident trains service/assistance dogs, creating a particular need for flexibility.

The Commission favored the Lake Park model (§ 9.1.23), which maintains the three-dog limit but allows more than three dogs by special permit approved by the council on a case-by-case basis. Ohman formally recommended the Commission adopt language consistent with Lake Park § 9.1.23 as an addition to the current ordinance. Lammers confirmed she would incorporate this direction into the ordinance update currently underway.

Camper Ordinance

Lammers introduced the need to establish a clear City policy on campers, noting she has received complaints from residents on both sides — those wishing to keep campers on their property and those objecting to neighbors doing so. She also noted one pending application from a resident wishing to use a camper on their lot for the season while planning to build within the next year or two.

Key reference points discussed included the County Ordinance, which allows campers within 1,000 feet of a lake for up to 14 days, and the need to distinguish between camper storage and occupied camping. Commission members expressed broad support for a

flexible approach that accommodates short-term use, citing the town's active event calendar (e.g., Looney Days) and the common situation of family members visiting and staying in campers. The Commission was not in favor of prohibiting camper use outright.

Concerns raised included: the need to prevent campers from being used as long-term dwellings on vacant lots (which would suppress property tax value compared to home construction); ensuring proper waste disposal; and clarity on what constitutes a "camper" given that some are used as storage sheds. The Commission agreed that a 14-day occupancy limit, modeled on county ordinance language, was a reasonable starting point. The distinction between storing an unoccupied camper on one's property versus actively camping in it was noted as an important element to address in the ordinance. Lammers indicated she would draft ordinance language reflecting a 14-day limit on occupied camping for inclusion in the broader ordinance update.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Ohman, seconded by Hasse, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorded by Rachel Nustad (assisted by ClerkMinutes)

Secretary,
Julie Lammers, CMC
Vergas City Clerk-Treasurer

Council Recommendations

None.

Follow Up Actions

- Lammers: Send the nuisance property at 130 Elm Street East to the Attorney for further action.
- Ohman: Go talk to property owner at 160 S 1st Avenue about cleaning up the yard before the next meeting.
- Lammers: Ask the property owner of 840 E. Sharp Avenue to move the building materials to the side yard.
- Lammers: Change the dog ordinance to adopt section 91.23 from Lake Park, allowing for more than 3 dogs with a special permit.
- Lammers: Draft an ordinance regarding campers, allowing them to be occupied for up to 14 days, similar to the County Ordinance.

**Vergas EDA/HRA
Government Services Center & Zoom
5:30 PM on Wednesday, July 15th, 2026**

EDA/HRA Mission: Retain and promote business in our community, adding housing so that we prosper and increase our tax base, keeping Vergas a vital community.

The City of Vergas Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) met on Wednesday, July 15th, 2026, at 5:30 PM in a hybrid meeting at the Vergas Government Services building and on Zoom.

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bruce Albright, President/Council Liaison	A	P/P	P	P	P	P	P					
Paul Sonnenberg, Member	P	P/A	P	P	P	P	P					
Kevin Zitzow, Member	P	P/P	A	P	P	P	P					
Jennifer Carlson, Member	A	A/P	P	P	P	P	P					
Vanessa Perry, Member	P	P/P	P	P	P	P	A					
Julie Lammers, City Clerk-Treasurer	P	P/P	P	P	A	P	P					

P: Present. A: Absent N/A: No meeting

Present in person: CEDA Representative Kaite Gehring and Joy Summers with REMAX Lakes Region.

Present via Zoom: Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Albright at 5:30 PM.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

None.

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Zitzow, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Recommendations to City Council

None.

Minutes

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Zitzow, to approve the minutes from June 3, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

2026 Income and Expenses

Lammers presented the financial update. Notable expenditures included a \$4,100 quarterly employee payment, a disbursement from the Veterans Memorial's West Central Initiative account, an invoice from Elm Street Boutique for shingling nearing completion at both American Beauty and Elm Street Boutique locations, and an invoice from Franklin Fence.

Motion by Zitzow, seconded by Sonnenberg, to approve the financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

CEDA Representative Katie Gehring

Community Rehab Grant

S & Z Properties

Gehring presented a final application from S & Z Properties to add signage to their building, with a total estimated cost of \$16,000–\$18,000 as quoted by Brushmark Signs. The remaining balance in the Community Rehab Grant fund was \$4,012.91. The board discussed whether to continue the program in the future. It was noted that the county offers a \$25,000 matching grant program, and that a community match from entities such as Vergas State Bank and the Vergas Community Club would be required to reapply. The board expressed general support for continuing the program and discussed potentially broadening eligible project types—such as indoor improvements including grease traps—when the program is relaunched. Members were encouraged to gauge interest from local businesses before pursuing a new round of funding.

Motion by Zitzow, seconded by Carlson, to approve the Community Rehab Grant award of \$4,012.91 to S & Z Properties. The motion passed unanimously.

First Children's Finance Update

Gehring reported that the Child Care Committee did not hold a formal meeting in June due to low attendance. In lieu of a meeting,

three project focus teams were established via email correspondence. The three focus areas are: (1) **Facility** — evaluating the feasibility, cost, partnerships, and funding opportunities for a shared child care facility; (2) **Workforce Development** — recruiting providers and building interest in early childhood careers in the area; and (3) **Ongoing Provider Support** — strengthening supports for current and future providers through mentorship, networking, and professional development. Gehring noted that working in smaller, focused groups of approximately three members each was expected to yield more productive outcomes than full-committee meetings. Scheduled meetings for each focus team were anticipated to be set by the end of the week.

Growing Up Vergas

Gehring provided a funding update for the Growing Up Vergas child care initiative:

- **Otter Tail County DEED Grant:** The EDA applied for \$200,000 from a pool of \$1,400,000. With 48 applicants requesting a combined \$6,500,000, the EDA was not awarded funding.
- **Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) Grant:** A \$200,000, three-year grant application (running through July 2029) remains pending. A decision was expected by June 18th, but no response had been received. Representative Gehring indicated she had followed up and was awaiting word.
- **Arvig (\$25,000):** Arvig encouraged the EDA to apply in the next funding cycle, as larger projects had already been allocated for the current cycle.
- **Lake Region Electrical Co-op (\$25,000):** The co-op requested additional information and invited Representative Gehring to present at their October 5th board meeting, which was viewed as a promising development.
- **Otter Tail Power (\$25,000):** No response received; it was clarified that large asks are considered at their annual meeting in November.

The board discussed the overall feasibility of the project, noting concerns about the pace of progress, construction costs, and the complexity of building a facility while meeting only monthly. Members acknowledged that a favorable outcome on the DCYF grant would be pivotal, and that the board should reassess direction if that application is unsuccessful. Albright drew a parallel to a prior MINDAG grant experience in which the agency provided substantive feedback that improved a subsequent application, expressing hope that similar guidance might be available from DCYF. Gehring was asked to notify all members by email as soon as a decision on the DCYF grant is received, rather than waiting for the next scheduled meeting.

Gehring also presented a **League of Minnesota Cities Grant Navigator Grant** opportunity, which offers up to \$5,000 to fund a consultant to identify grants for a specific project. She proposed applying with Growing Up Vergas as the designated project, noting that the work she had already performed aligned well with the grant's intent.

Motion by Zitzow, seconded by Sonnenberg, to approve applying for the League of Minnesota Cities Grant Navigator Grant for the Growing Up Vergas project. The motion passed unanimously.

220 Eva St

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Zitzow to close the meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.05, subdivision 3(b), to discuss nonpublic appraisal and negotiation data related to the proposed sale of city-owned property, as authorized by Minnesota Statutes § 13.44.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Carlson, to reopen the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the reopening of the meeting, the board considered the sale of 220 Eva Street under the terms presented by Summers. The offer was for \$25,000 on a contract for deed, with \$5,000 down, an 8% interest rate, a closing date of August 10, 2026, monthly payments of \$1,354.14 beginning September 10, 2026, and a term of 15 months concluding approximately October 2027. The contract includes a provision requiring buyer approval for any lot improvements exceeding \$1,000 in value prior to payoff. The transaction is to be processed through a closing company and recorded with the state.

Motion by Zitzow, seconded by Carlson, to approve the sale of 220 Eva Street under the terms as presented by Summers. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Zitzow, seconded by Sonnenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Recommendations

None.

Follow Up Actions

- Gehring: Apply for the League of Minnesota Cities Grant Navigator grant (up to \$5,000) to pay for grant-seeking consulting services for the Growing Up Vergas project.
- Gehring: Print out the current Community Rehab grant stipulations and review/adjust them for the next funding round, considering possible indoor projects (e.g., grease traps).
- Gehring: Reach out to landowners to update them on the status of the Growing Up Vergas project and potential lot purchase.
- Gehring: Start soliciting local businesses (using Julie's business list) for donations/pledges to support the Growing Up Vergas project.
- Gehring: Notify the group via email as soon as there is a response on the larger grant application, so members can discuss and act without waiting for the next meeting.
- Gehring: Present the Growing Up Vergas project at the Lake Region Electrical Co-op board meeting on October 5th.
- Gehring: Re-evaluate and decide whether to continue the Community Rehab program and, if so, work to find donors to secure the required match for reapplying for the \$25,000 funds from Otter Tail County. Consider adjusting the Community Rehab program guidelines to allow for indoor projects (e.g., grease traps) in future funding rounds.
- Committee: Explore the possibility of purchasing the lot for the Growing Up Vergas project by the first of the year, if sufficient funds/pledges are in place, to have a shovel-ready site.

City Council
2026 August Council Meeting
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Id number 267-094-2170 password 56587
6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 18, 2026

6. Committee Reports

- A. Water/Sewer
- B. Park Board
- C. Streets/Sidewalks/Yard Waste

Files Attached

- 8.10.26 Water and Sewer Minutes.pdf
- Park Board Minutes 8.14.26.pdf
- 8.13.26 Street and Yard Waste Meeting.pdf

Water Sewer Committee Meeting

The Vergas Water/Sewer Committee met at the Vergas Government Services Center on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 9:00 AM

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bruce Albright, Liaison	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P				
Dean Haarstick, Liaison	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P				
Julie Lammers, Clerk-Treasurer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P				
Mike DuFrane, Utilities Superintendent	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P				

P: Present. A: Absent N/A: No meeting

Present via Zoom: Engineer Blaine Green with Widseth.

Call to order

Lammers called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Additions and Deletions

None.

Minutes

Motion by Albright, seconded by Haarstick, to approve the minutes from November 25, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance Review

The committee discussed the potential need to update City Ordinances to address two infrastructure concerns. First, committee members discussed requiring grease traps for food-service businesses connected to the City sewer system. It was noted that existing permits already contain grease trap requirements, but compliance has been inconsistent. The annual cost to the City for enzyme treatments to address grease buildup in the sewer system was cited at approximately \$10,710 per year. The committee acknowledged the difficulty of enforcing compliance retroactively on existing businesses and discussed a possible approach of requiring compliance upon property transfer, similar to Otter Tail County's policy regarding septic systems. No formal action was taken, but the committee agreed the issue warrants a future recommendation to the full City Council.

Discussed wells and sewer systems in Vergas. Green reviewed Alexandria Ordinance and Lammers will get a copy for the committee to review.

DuFrane raised the issue of sump pumps being improperly connected to the City sewer system, which is not permitted under MPCA regulations. The committee discussed the possibility of requiring inspections upon property sale to identify non-compliant connections. Lammers noted that properties with City water and sewer service can be tracked through billing records, which would assist in identifying when properties transfer ownership.

Lead and Copper

The review of all unidentified service lines has been completed, and the system records have been updated accordingly.

Projects

A. Sewer Projects

1. Pumps

DuFrane reported that a contractor had recently inspected the main lift station and determined that the existing pipe elbows (risers) were in satisfactory condition and did not require replacement, contrary to the assessments of two prior contractors. This finding effectively freed up the \$12,000 that had been budgeted for riser replacement in 2026.

The committee discussed redirecting those funds toward replacing the main lift station pump as soon as possible, given the age of the equipment and the significant risk a pump failure would pose to the entire City's sewer system. It was noted that a failure of the main lift station could result in widespread sewer backups and the need for costly emergency pumper truck service. DuFrane

explained that the contractor had offered to work with the City on pricing if two pumps were ordered together, as the mobilization cost of \$975 would be shared, saving approximately \$1,000. Motion by Albright, seconded by Haarstick, to recommend to City Council to reallocate the \$12,000 budgeted for risers toward prompt pump replacement for \$17,000 each and budget second pump for 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee also discussed the age of the City's five sewer lift station control panels, which are approximately 30 years old despite having a rated lifespan of 15 years. Two panels have already been replaced. DuFrane noted that the remaining three panels are not currently experiencing problems, though their age represents a long-term replacement need. Each panel was estimated to cost approximately \$15,000.

2. Smoke Testing

DuFrane reported that smoke testing of the sewer system is being coordinated. The contractor recently brought on new trained personnel and provided the required public notification materials. The cost was cited at approximately \$150, making it primarily a maintenance activity. No formal action was required.

3. Water Projects

DuFrane reported that no significant water system expenditures are anticipated in the near term beyond obligations already underway. The City has an existing three-year cleaning contract with KLN. The committee noted that water tower repainting would eventually be required and would be a substantial expense, as current AWWA standards would require stripping to bare metal before repainting. The fence installation at a water facility was referenced as having been approved at a prior council meeting.

DuFrane also reported on a recent water system inspection by the state health department, which went well overall. The inspector noted that the City's remote access controls include a 30-second authentication window that provides a reasonable cybersecurity safeguard. However, the inspector flagged that DuFrane has not yet completed a cybersecurity training course, which the state is increasingly requiring along with associated documentation. DuFrane indicated he would follow up once the inspector's formal report is received.

Additionally, the committee discussed backflow preventer (RPZ) compliance. The City has two known RPZ devices — one at the water treatment plant and one at Recluse. The committee noted that the Recluse RPZ annual calibration documentation, provided in the first year, has not been submitted for the current year, and a friendly reminder to the property owner was recommended.

Budgets

A. 2026 Sewer Budget

Lammers presented the current financial position of the sewer fund. The sewer fund ended 2025 with a deficit of \$56,553, and from 2020 to 2025 has drawn a cumulative total of \$32,779 from the general fund. Lammers noted that while the rate increases implemented for 2026 meaningfully improved revenue — from \$57,766 collected through July 30 of the prior year to \$77,000 in the current year — the fund is still projected to fall approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 short for 2026, and adding the anticipated main pump replacement would increase that shortfall to approximately \$26,000–\$28,000.

The committee discussed the fiscal and legal obligation to operate the sewer fund as a self-sustaining enterprise fund, noting that the state will scrutinize continued reliance on general fund transfers to cover sewer deficits.

B. 2026 Water Budget

Lammers reported that the water fund is performing better than the sewer fund due in part to elevated water usage resulting from drought conditions. The fund is projected to finish 2026 within a range of negative \$5,000 to positive \$5,000. No rate increase for water was recommended for 2026. From 2020 to 2025, the water fund drew a cumulative \$22,942 from the general fund, with 2021 being the only year it was self-sustaining.

C. 2027 Sewer Budget

The committee discussed the need to raise sewer rates to address the ongoing deficit. The current sewer usage rate is \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons, and the current base rate is \$33.50 per month. The committee agreed on a two-part approach: raise the usage rate by \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons effective September 1, 2026, and raise the base rate by \$2.50 (to \$36.00 per month) effective January 1, 2027. This phased approach was seen as more manageable for residents and avoids a large single increase. Lammers noted that

publishing the mid-year rate change in the local newspaper would cost approximately \$40. The committee also discussed the value of communicating to residents that Vergas's sewer rates remain well below typical rates for similarly sized communities, with some comparable cities paying approximately \$90 per month for sewer service alone.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Haarstick, to recommend to City Council to raise the sewer usage rate by \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons effective September 1, 2026, and to raise the sewer base rate by \$2.50 per month effective January 1, 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

D. 2027 Water Budget

The committee discussed a modest rate increase for water to maintain fund solvency going into 2027. The current water base rate is \$31.50 per month and the usage rate is \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons. The committee agreed to raise the base rate to \$32.00 and the usage rate to \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons, both effective January 1, 2027. Committee members noted the value of making small, incremental annual rate adjustments rather than allowing deficits to grow and requiring large future increases. DuFrane referenced the approach used by rural water systems of implementing a standing automatic annual rate adjustment to avoid the appearance of politically motivated rate changes. Albright volunteered to draft a newsletter article explaining that both water and sewer are enterprise funds required to operate independently, and that rate increases reflect aging infrastructure needs — not general budget shortfalls.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Haarstick, to recommend to City Council to raise the water base rate to \$32.00 per month and the water usage rate to \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons, both effective January 1, 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Council Recommendations

- Recommend to City Council to approve the purchase of 1 main lift station pump in 2026 and another in 2027.
- Recommend to City Council to raise the sewer usage rate by \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons effective September 1, 2026, and to raise the sewer base rate by \$2.50 per month effective January 1, 2027.
- Recommend to City Council to raise the water base rate to \$32.00 per month and the water usage rate to \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons, both effective January 1, 2027.

Follow Up Actions

- Lammers: Contact Alexandria to obtain a copy of their water-sewer ordinance for consideration before the planning commission meeting on the 24th
- Albright: Draft an article for the monthly newsletter explaining the necessity of sewer and water rate increases due to aging infrastructure.
- DuFrane: Proceed with replacing one pump at the main lift station using the \$12,000 budgeted for risers, and budget for the second pump replacement after the first of the year.
- Lammers: Obtain the average sewer rate for cities of similar size from the state for informational purposes.
- DuFrane: Follow up with Troy to obtain the calibration certificate for the backflow
- DuFrane: Attend a cybersecurity training class when available, as recommended by the health department inspection report.

CITY OF VERGAS.
Park Board Advisory Board Minutes
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Teleconference
3:00 PM on Thursday, August 13th, 2026

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dean Haarstick, Council Appointment	P	N/A	A	A	P	P	A	P				
Sherri Hanson, Member	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	A				
Chuck Hanson, Member	P	N/A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
Steph Hogan, Member	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Tiffany Prindle, Member	A	N/A	A	A								
Tony Sailer, Member	P	N/A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
Rachel Nustad, Secretary of the board	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Mike DuFrane, Utilities Superintendent	P	N/A	A	A	P	P	P	P				

P: Present. A: Absent N/A: No meeting

Present via person: Julie Lammers.
Present via zoom: citizen James Stenger.

Call to order

The City of Vergas Park Advisory Board was called to order by Sailer on Thursday, August 13^h, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Additions and Deletions

Nustad noted one addition to the agenda: Park Board Member.

Minutes

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson, to approve the minutes from July 9, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Recommendations to City Council

1. Bathhouse Demolition

Nustad reported that the City Council denied approval of the bathhouse demolition at this time, citing concerns over associated costs. Specifically, porta-potty rental costs were found to be significantly higher than initially anticipated—approximately \$16,000 per summer season for four units—particularly given the lack of a defined timeline for bathhouse replacement. The matter remains on hold pending further planning.

2. Water Ski Team Dock and Lift Storage

Nustad reported that the City Council tabled the matter, directing staff to explore whether alternative storage locations might be available to the water ski team and to allow more time for community input. A concern was raised about setting a precedent, as a previous resident's similar request had been denied. The item was tabled accordingly.

Bathhouse Demolition

No additional discussion was held beyond what was covered.

Water Ski Team Dock and Lift Storage

The Board discussed the water ski team's concurrent request to place a sign near the location where their dock and lift equipment would be stored. It was agreed that action on the sign request should be deferred until the question of dock and lift storage approval is resolved.

Nustad provided additional detail for the record: the equipment consists of a 48-foot sectional dock and two 4,000-pound lifts. DuFrane expressed his view that there would likely be sufficient room at the site, provided the equipment is placed properly. It was noted that a draft storage agreement would require the dock and lift to be stored at least 50 feet from East Frazee Avenue, placed on City property no earlier than October 15th, and removed by April 15th. A hold harmless provision for the City was also noted as part of the proposed agreement.

The Board discussed the background context: the water ski team had previously arranged for a dock and lift company to handle seasonal removal and storage, but that arrangement is no longer in place under new team leadership.

The Board also noted that the ski team has received DNR approval for a ski jump for the upcoming season. Questions were raised regarding where the jump would be stored off-season and the added consideration that the lake has an invasive species designation, requiring thorough cleaning of equipment before transport off-site. No formal action was taken; the matter remains tabled pending the Council's direction.

Budget

2026 Income and Expenses

The 2026 income and expense report was reviewed. No questions or concerns were raised by Board members, and the Board moved forward to the 2027 budget discussion.

2027 Budget

DuFrane raised two potential additions for consideration in the 2027 budget: an Agri-Lime line item for the ball field, and wood chip compost for the playground areas (estimated at approximately \$3,200). It was discussed that coordinating with the another City, who are rebuilding their adjacent field, could offer a cost-sharing opportunity on compost delivery, as transportation represents the primary expense.

The most significant increase in the proposed 2027 budget was a \$50,000 equipment line item, reflecting a proportional share (0.333) of the cost of a replacement pickup truck and lawnmower equipment, shared among multiple City departments. It was noted that the current City truck is approximately 14 years old.

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson, to approve the 2027 budget as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Haarstick joined the meeting.

Pickleball

No representatives were present and no discussion was held on this item.

Baseball Committee

The Board discussed the status of a proposed second access gate at the ball field. Lammers reported that an estimate had been obtained and shared with the Community Club, which declined to fund the project. Stenger clarified the Community Club's position: they were willing to fund the addition of a second gate but were not willing to pay for relocating the existing gate as part of a combined project. If the City were to cover the cost of moving the existing gate, the Community Club indicated it would look at funding the new gate addition.

Nustad noted that the original proposal did not involve moving the existing gate but rather installing an entirely new double gate further down the fence line, near the left field foul pole, to allow vehicles with trailers a straight entry path onto the outfield—avoiding the sharp turn currently required after entering the existing gate. This issue was connected to a recurring problem of vehicles damaging underground irrigation pipes, which had required costly repairs two to three years prior. The estimate for the project was approximately \$1,200–\$1,500, inclusive of labor and hardware, using good-condition used materials. It was noted that the baseball committee's budget line for repairs and maintenance has already been exceeded. The Board briefly discussed the possibility of charging vendor trailer fees at events such as the Hairy Man Festival as a potential funding mechanism, and suggested raising this idea with the Community Club. No formal action was taken.

City Worker Update

DuFrane reported that the restroom facility has been pumped out and is ready for winter, with water service to be restored for the season. He also noted that the Lions Club has installed new composite wood railings on the park stairs leading to the lake, which were described as attractive and a good match for the existing structure. The Board expressed appreciation for the Lions Club's continued contributions.

A brief discussion followed regarding the poor condition of grass under by the Loon at the Long Lake Park, attributable to soil acidity from the tree canopy combined with the ongoing dry conditions.

Other Business

The Chair noted that Bob Hager has expressed interest in joining the Park Board. The Board agreed that, as Mr. Hager was not present at the meeting to speak on his own behalf, a recommendation to the City Council should be deferred until he attends a future meeting. The item was tabled.

Next Meeting Date/Time

The next Park Advisory Board meeting was set for **September 10, 2026**.

Adjournment

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson, to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Nustad, Deputy Clerk (assisted by ClerkMinutes)

Secretary of the Park Board

Recommendations to City Council

None.

Follow Up Actions

- Table the recommendation of Bob Hager for the park board until he confirms his interest and can attend a meeting.
- DuFrane: Check in with the other City to see if the park board can piggyback on an Agri-Lime order for the ball field.

Street/Sidewalks/Yard Waste Committee Meeting Minutes
Government Services Center
August 13th, 2026 at 10:30 AM.

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bruce Albright, Council Liaison	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P				
Paul Pinke, Council Liaison	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P				
Mike DuFrane, Utilities Superintendent	N/A	N/A	A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P				
Julie Lammers, Clerk Treasurer	N/A	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P				

P: Present. A: Absent N/A: No meeting

A Yard Waste meeting of the Vergas Streets/Sidewalks/Yard Waste (SSYW) Committee was held on Thursday, August 13th, 2026 at 10:30 AM at the Vergas Government Services Center and Zoom.

Present via Zoom: Engineer Blaine Green of Widseth and citizen James Stenger.

Lammers called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Agenda Additions or Deletions

Albright moved to add Scharf Avenue under Streets to review its current status.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to approve the minutes from May 14, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

The June 11, 2026, minutes were not yet available and were not acted upon.

Municipal Road Agreement

Lammers had spoken with Christie Field, Highway Maintenance Coordinator Otter Tail County highway Department regarding the Municipal Road Agreement, and it was agreed that she would meet directly with Lammers and DuFrane. A copy of the agreement is to be distributed to committee members by September 1. No changes to the agreement have been proposed, and no concerns were raised from the City's operational perspective.

Yard Waste

Permits

Lammers reported that 253 yard waste permits have been sold to date, which is slightly below the prior year's pace at this point in the season. An additional spike of approximately 20–30 permits is anticipated in October, typically driven by seasonal cabin closures. Albright commended Superintendent DuFrane and Maintenance Operator Matt Engebretson for keeping the yard waste site neat, well-managed, and complaint-free. The committee noted that operating two burn piles this year has been more effective, and that compliance from permit holders has been notably better than in past years. The improved communication and coordination with the Vergas CDH Fire Department and the DNR were credited as contributing factors. The DNR has not received complaints, and burns have been efficient and complete.

Easement

The committee discussed a request from a resident for a 16-foot driveway easement across City-owned yard waste property to allow direct access from his parcel to County Road 17. The resident currently has an easement to West Lake Street through adjacent property, but is seeking a more direct route.

The committee reviewed the property configuration via GIS and acknowledged the significant topographic challenges, including a steep hillside, that would make construction of such an access difficult. DuFrane expressed concern that a driveway easement could ultimately be used to pursue a road, which the committee agreed would be inappropriate given the property's function as a DNR-permitted burn site. The committee further discussed requiring that the easement be explicitly limited to a personal-use driveway and that the easement holder be responsible for all legal costs associated with drafting the document, as well as any erosion remediation that may result from construction activity.

The committee agreed to recommend approval in concept to the City Council, with the understanding that the City Attorney would draft the easement with appropriate restrictive language, and that the resident would be informed of the attorney fees he would be required to cover before the process moves forward.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to recommend to the City Council approval of a personal-use driveway easement for the resident, subject to the applicant bearing all legal costs and the easement language restricting use to a personal driveway. The motion passed unanimously.

Streets

West Lake Street

Improvement Project

A. LRIP Grant

Lammers informed the committee that the Minnesota Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) has identified unspent funds from 2023 projects and will reopen the grant application period from September 1 through November 25. All applications must be submitted fresh; prior applications cannot simply be carried forward.

The committee discussed whether to re-engage the City's grant consultant at an estimated cost of \$2,500, or to prepare the application in-house. It was agreed that Lammers would prepare the application, drawing on the previously submitted materials and incorporating feedback regarding regional significance scoring, which had been identified as a weakness in the prior application. Albright moved that the committee review the completed application before submission.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to authorize Lammers to prepare and submit a new LRIP grant application, with the application to be reviewed by the committee prior to submission. The motion passed unanimously.

A committee meeting will be scheduled in November to review the application before the November 25 deadline.

Tree Trimming

The committee discussed the previously solicited bids for tree trimming and removal along the City road right-of-way. Three bids were received: Three Pines submitted an hourly rate of \$350/hour (estimated at approximately \$2,100 for 6–7 hours of work focused on dead, dying, and diseased trees); Heartwood Tree Experts submitted a bid of approximately \$16,000 for full removal of all trees; and Carrs Tree Service submitted bids of \$11,475 for full removal and \$3,900 for removal of dead trees and overhanging branches only.

The committee concurred that hiring Three Pines on an hourly basis to address dead, dying, and diseased trees represents the most cost-effective and appropriate approach, particularly given the liability exposure associated with dead trees in the right-of-way. Funding would come from the Streets Repair and Maintenance budget, which has approximately \$6,000 remaining of the \$8,000 appropriated for 2026. DuFrane agreed to contact Three Pines to confirm that their quote remains valid. The committee also noted the need to coordinate with adjacent property owners regarding an old fence line attached to trees targeted for removal.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to recommend to the City Council to hire Three Pines for dead tree removal along the road right-of-way for a maximum of \$2,500, with funds drawn from the Streets Repair and Maintenance budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Additionally, DuFrane noted for the record that a section of right-of-way on Glenn Street had been inadvertently left unmowed, as staff had assumed it was the adjacent property owner's responsibility. Upon review, it was confirmed as City responsibility, and the area was mowed. No formal action was required.

Graveling

[Discussed as part of the Budget – Goal Setting item; see section below under 2027 Budget.]

Scharf Avenue / Sheriff's 3rd Addition Development

Lammers reported that two property owners in the Scharf 3rd Addition development have requested water and sewer

connections, with at least one intending to begin construction imminently. Lammers indicated that connections cannot be authorized until the development's road and stormwater infrastructure is formally accepted by the City.

Lammers relayed that the City engineer, Green, had received a report from the developer's engineer regarding the storm pond and has recommended that the City continue to withhold acceptance of the development. The pond was found to be approximately 40 percent short of required capacity, even after modifications made by the developer earlier in the season. Blaine indicated he would be providing the developer with three or four options for bringing the pond into compliance. Lammers confirmed the item was removed from the upcoming council agenda pending resolution of the stormwater issue.

The committee discussed the ongoing nature of the issue and expressed frustration that repeated attempts by the developer to modify the pond have not achieved compliance. Albright emphasized that the City must hold firm on its engineering standards, noting that if the pond handles only 60 percent of the designed storm event, the overflow would ultimately reach the lake. DuFrane raised an additional concern about future maintenance accessibility of the pond given its current configuration, drawing a comparison to similar issues encountered at the beach trail area. The committee agreed the matter remains squarely in the developer's court and that no acceptance of the development should occur until the pond meets specifications.

Budget – Goal Setting

2026 Budget Comparison

Lammers provided a summary of current 2026 budget performance. The Streets Repair and Maintenance budget of \$8,000 has seen approximately \$1,375 in expenditures to date. The street improvements budget of \$15,000 has seen minimal spending, and staff expressed optimism that unspent improvement funds may be recommended for transfer to the City's designated savings/money market account later in the year. The City's money market account currently holds \$620,457.23, of which \$378,000 is designated for the 2019 Street Project bond payments. Other designated fund balances include \$42,305 for street improvements and equipment, \$13,246 for seal coating, \$8,728 for the City shop, and \$7,959 for sidewalks.

Lammers explained that year-end unspent budget funds, upon Council approval, are transferred to designated accounts within the money market, and that the City's fiscal guidelines require maintaining a minimum reserve of \$170,000 while not exceeding \$290,000 in undesignated funds. Current undesignated reserves stand at approximately \$241,000, within the required range.

2027 Budget

Lammers presented proposed 2027 budget figures across several areas, with the committee discussing and refining the proposals as follows:

City Shop: The proposed 2027 budget increases from \$10,632 to approximately \$47,396, with the primary change being \$31,000 for capital improvements. The committee acknowledged the shop, built around the year 2000, is overcrowded and that equipment is being stored outdoors. Discussion centered on the feasibility of constructing additional cold storage on the current site, constrained by the fact that the land was acquired through state tax forfeiture specifically for water tower infrastructure. Lammers noted the state conducted a compliance review approximately ten years ago and that any expansion of structures on that property would require state authorization. The committee agreed that Albright and DuFrane would walk the property to assess feasibility before any formal request is made to the state. The \$31,000 line item was recommended to remain in the proposed budget.

The committee also discussed the possibility of purchasing adjacent property for a new facility but acknowledged that suitable City-owned or available parcels are limited. A special assessment line of \$5,000 for Glenn Street was discussed; given that paving is not anticipated until 2028 at the earliest, the committee agreed this line item could be removed.

Recycling Center: The proposed 2027 budget increases from \$17,316 to \$24,464. The principal change is an increase in the improvements line from \$3,000 to \$10,000 to account for anticipated loader maintenance or replacement costs, including potential acquisition of a grapple attachment. DuFrane noted the existing loader is aging and that a significant breakdown would likely cost at minimum \$10,000. The committee approved the increase to \$10,000 for the improvements line.

Street Lighting: The current 2026 budget is \$12,000, with year-to-date spending of approximately \$9,000. Recent additions at Lawrence Lake, Scharf Avenue, and Sunny Oaks are complete and incorporated into the monthly Otter Tail Power billing. Proposed Main Street decorative lighting was discussed but is tied to the anticipated Otter Tail County road resurfacing project, currently expected in 2028. The committee agreed to leave the street lighting budget at \$12,000 for 2027 rather than increase it, as no additional lights are planned in the near term.

Streets: The proposed 2027 streets budget increases from \$152,350 to \$223,513. Key changes include:

- *Graveling:* DuFrane obtained a quote of \$42,000 to gravel all City gravel roads in a single year. The committee discussed phasing this over four years at approximately \$10,500–\$15,000 per year to make it more financially manageable, similar to the approach taken with water and sewer infrastructure. Lammers noted that Small Cities Assistance funds received through the vehicle surcharge tax may also be applicable to street graveling and should be researched further.
- *Improvements:* Increased from \$15,000 to \$50,000 to account for potential West Lake Street project costs (including City share of engineering and assessments if the LRIP grant is awarded) and other street improvement needs. The committee discussed the condition of Scharf Street, which was part of the 2019 project but is already showing significant cracking, potentially due to heavy truck traffic. A no-trucks sign has been posted. The committee also discussed the long-term cost comparison between graveling and paving certain roads, noting that while paving carries a high initial cost, ongoing maintenance savings should be weighed when planning future projects.
- *Engineering:* Increased from \$28,000 to \$37,500 to account for potential grant-related engineering work.
- *Insurance:* Noted as subject to continued significant annual increases.

The committee also addressed an immediate equipment need raised by DuFrane: the tractor forks are no longer serviceable after repeated welding repairs, and replacement forks are available from a hardware supplier at \$1,329. The committee moved to recommend Council approval of the purchase.

Motion Albright, seconded by Pinke, to recommend to the City Council the purchase of replacement tractor forks at a cost not to exceed \$1,329. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding longer-range equipment planning, DuFrane raised the future need to replace the aging tractor (approximately 24 years old) and potentially acquire a skid steer with tracks and attachments, estimated at just under \$100,000. The committee agreed this should be planned over a multi-year budget horizon, with Albright suggesting a 5-year planning window. No formal action was taken, but staff was encouraged to begin researching options and pricing and to report back. The committee also discussed the ongoing challenge of locating a suitable used single-axle snowplow truck, noting the narrow window between availability and the need for Council authorization to purchase. The committee agreed staff should continue monitoring the market and bring promising opportunities forward promptly.

Sidewalks: A minor \$500 increase was noted, attributable to prior-year repair work in front of the post office. The budget was accepted as proposed.

Sand and Salt / Snow Removal: Budgets left unchanged. The \$500 snow removal contractor contingency line was retained as a precautionary measure.

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to approve the 2027 budget approval. The motion passed unanimously.

5-Year Budget

Discussion of the five-year budget was incorporated into the 2027 budget conversation, particularly regarding long-term equipment replacement planning for the tractor, skid steer, and snowplow truck. No separate formal action was taken.

Adjournment

Motion by Albright, seconded by Pinke, to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Recommendations

- Recommend to the City Council approval of a personal-use driveway easement for the resident, subject to the applicant bearing all legal costs and the easement language restricting use to a personal driveway.
- Recommend to the City Council to hire Three Pines for dead tree removal along the road right-of-way for a maximum of \$2,500, with funds drawn from the Streets Repair and Maintenance budget.
- Recommend to the City Council the purchase of replacement tractor forks at a cost not to exceed \$1,329.

Follow Up Actions

- Lammers: Email the Municipal Road Agreement to the committee once received.
- Lammers: Update the LRIP grant application for resubmission in September, incorporating additional points for regional significance, and schedule a committee meeting in November to review the application before submission.
- DuFrane: Research the cost and feasibility of paving versus graveling roads, and report back to the committee.
- DuFrane: Contact Three Pines to confirm if they will honor the bid for tree removal (dead/dying/diseased trees) at a maximum of \$2,500, and report back to Council.
- DuFrane: Walk the city shop property with Albright to assess potential locations for a new building or addition.
- DuFrane: Start looking for a used single-axle snowplow and keep the committee informed of any potential deals.

City Council
2026 August Council Meeting
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Id number 267-094-2170 password 56587
6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 18, 2026

7. Staff Reports

- A. Engineering
- B. Utilities Superintendent
- C. Clerk-Treasurer
- D. Liquor Store Manager

Files Attached

- Vergas Engineering Update Aug 2026.pdf
- Utilities Report for August Council Meeting.pdf
- 08.26 Clerk_Treasurer_Report.pdf
- Pelican Rapids EMS PSA Memo 07-30-2026.pdf
- Event Center Pergola Estimate_263_2026-08-16.pdf
- PaulNet City of Vergas Concept.pdf
- GovSites One-Pager.pdf
- City Grass Letter Notification page 1.pdf
- City Grass Letter Notification page 2.pdf
- Liquor Store Manger Request.pdf

Engineering Update – August 2026

Blaine Green, PE, VP

Ongoing Items:

- Parking lot:
 - Project closeout, waiting on final documentation from contractor.
- Keilley Shores development
 - We've received a report from the developer's engineer that the pond still doesn't have the designed capacity, and is about 40% short of being within compliance. My recommendation is to still hold off on accepting the development until the storm pond situation is corrected.

Upcoming Items:

- West Lake Street
 - The City could pursue basic upgrades to the street, and early cost estimate would put the street costs around \$105,000 to improve safety from Glenn Street to Hwy 17.
 - LRIP – The City can resubmit an application for the Local Road Improvement Plan for West Lake Street, starting on September 1st, and due by November 25th, 2026.

On the radar:

- Project Priority List & Intended Use Plans (utilities)
 - Discuss at upcoming utility committee meeting
 - Identify system needs with staff
 - Develop a preliminary engineering report (PER)
- Street projects
 - Work with staff to identify needs

If you have any questions, you can give me a call at 320-335-5057, or email me at blaine.green@widseth.com

Thank you!

Superintendent Utilities Report – August

Water

- Annual inspection from MN department of Health has been conducted.

Wastewater

- Annual inspections of the city lift stations were completed by **Midwest Pump**.
- All systems are functioning within normal parameters.

Yard Waste

- Brush piles have been **burned off**.
- Routine cleanup and disposal are complete.

Streets

- **Ongoing maintenance** continues throughout the city.
- No major issues reported.

Parks

- **Maintenance is ongoing**.
- Grounds and facilities remain in good condition.

Clerk-Treasurer Council Report

Date: August 2026

Otter Tail County EMS Meeting

Pelican Rapids EMS Primary Service Area, which will be held on **Monday, August 24, at 6:30 pm in Fergus Falls**. This was rescheduled after learning that MAT is holding a District 9 meeting on August 17.

Event Center

Request for Pergola to be pressure washed and stained (see quote).

Tax Rebate:

Hearing needed: The following parcels needed to amend abatement agreements due to parcel information (County hearing is scheduled for September 8).

Colton: The new parcel # is 82000990250000. When he applied in 2024, we approved 82000990249000.

Hunter: The new parcel # is 82000990243000. When he applied in 2024, we approved 82000990244000.

Website Refresh Project

Coordinating updates to the city's website to improve accessibility, organization, and ease of use for residents.

PAULNET:

1. The \$1,450 is all-inclusive. The \$200 for .gov domain registration is a line item within that total, not an add-on. The full breakdown is: \$950 for redesign, content migration, and platform transition; \$200 for .gov registration and forwarding of cityofvergas.com; \$300 for WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility remediation. There are no separate charges.

2. This is a full redesign, not a refresh. The proposal replaces the current 16-year-old layout entirely — new page templates, modernized navigation, a mobile-responsive design, and quick-access links to the pages residents use most. It also moves the site onto Common Good CMS, a newer platform. The existing design is not being patched.

3. On the usability concern from the Comprehensive Plan: that is precisely what this project is meant to address. The current site predates mobile browsing as the norm, and the redesign is built around it.

4. One item that may not have been clear: the City's meeting agenda and packet builder is custom software specifically for municipal use. It is included in the migration at no additional cost and will continue working the way you use it today. Outside vendors quoting \$5,000–\$10,000 would be providing a general-purpose CMS; replacing the agenda builder's functionality would be a separate scoping conversation with any of them or would be a different software vendor, and is worth asking about directly when those quotes come in.

GovPilot:

Cost

1. \$200 for .gov domain registration
2. \$6,400 for web design and site \$3,400 for year 2 and 3.
3. Need to provide a program for Council agenda and packets.
4. See City of Bloomington MN for example.

Grass Letters

Updated grass notification (request for approval) and request to send one notice a year to our residents.

Planning Commission

- Ordinance book updates are under review and will be forwarded to Council with recommendations.
- Continuing work on nuisance property concerns throughout the community.

Grants

WCI Solar Grant -Event Center

- Grant approved: \$75,384.00
- Funds received:
 - Battery Backup Grant: \$28,896.23 (covers the full cost of the battery backup system)
- Installation has been completed and final inspector approved.
- Received an Otter Tail County rebate of \$36,000.
- A Giraffe Financial tax credit account has been established for management of applicable tax credits.

WCI Solar Grant – Fire Hall

- Grant applied for.
- Otter Tail County rebate
- A Giraffe Financial tax credit account has been established for management of applicable tax credits.
- Loan Applied but not received.

MDH Implementation Grant

- Grant awarded: \$15,000
- No local match required.
- The grant will fund a portion of the Wellhead Protection Plan, specifically installation of fencing around the water treatment plant.
- Grant agreement has been signed.
- The Utilities Superintendent will coordinate installation. Council agreed to installation for \$15,990.

2026 Elections

- Election dates:
 - Primary Election: August 11, 2026 (63 residents voted)
 - General Election: November 3, 2026
- Candidate Fillings:
 - Mayor: James Stenger
 - Council Member: Paul Haarstick and Alex Ohman

Planning Commission

- Ordinance book updates are under review and will be forwarded to Council with recommendations.
- Continuing work on nuisance property concerns throughout the community.



To: City and Township Officials in the
Pelican Rapids EMS Primary Service Areas

From: Nicole Hansen
County Administrator

Date: July 30, 2026

Re: Pelican Rapids EMS Primary Service Area

County Officials recently learned that Ringdahl Ambulance for the Pelican Rapids Primary Service Area (PSA) does not intend on renewing its PSA license upon expiration in March 2027. Therefore, Otter Tail County will move forward to develop a Subordinate Service District (SSD) as set forth under Minnesota Chapter 375B. Creating this SSD will allow the county to levy financial support and use an RFP process to solicit bids from EMS providers for the Pelican Rapids PSA.

An informational session about developing an SSD and pursuing a PSA license will be held on:

Date: August 24, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Government Services Center, 520 W. Fir Ave., Fergus Falls

We hope you will be able to join us as we continue to plan for and provide this important service in our communities.

ESTIMATE

Lakes Area Painting & Drywall
23492 county road 113
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota 56501
United States

2188509112

BILL TO
City of Vergas

Estimate Number: 263
Estimate Date: August 16, 2026
Valid Until: September 15, 2026
Grand Total (USD): \$560.00

Items	Quantity	Price	Amount
Pergola Pressure wash Pergola with cleaner. Stain Pergola one coat of stain. Furnish all labor and materials	1	\$560.00	\$560.00
Grand Total (USD):			\$560.00



WEBSITE REDESIGN · CONCEPT MOCKUPS · AUGUST 2026

A modern, accessible website for small-town life on Long Lake

Design concepts for cityofvergas.com — built on the city's own photography, real meeting and service content, and WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility throughout.

IN THIS PACKET

01	Homepage	news · events · quick actions	05	Growing Up Vergas	EDA/HRA childcare initiative
02	Meetings & Agendas	document access	06	City Code — Chapter 92	long-form text
03	Utility Billing & City Services	ways to pay	07	Agenda Builder	staff admin tool concept
04	Vergas Event Center	rental showcase	08	Mobile & tablet layouts	responsive views

PREPARED BY

PaulNet Group, LLC
PO Box 233 · Vergas, MN 56587
612-200-1081

PREPARED FOR

The City of Vergas
City Council & Staff
131 E Main Street · Vergas, MN 56587

218-302-5996 · City Hall: Mon–Thu, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Translate



City of Vergas

MINNESOTA · EST. 1903

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Search

Government

Residents

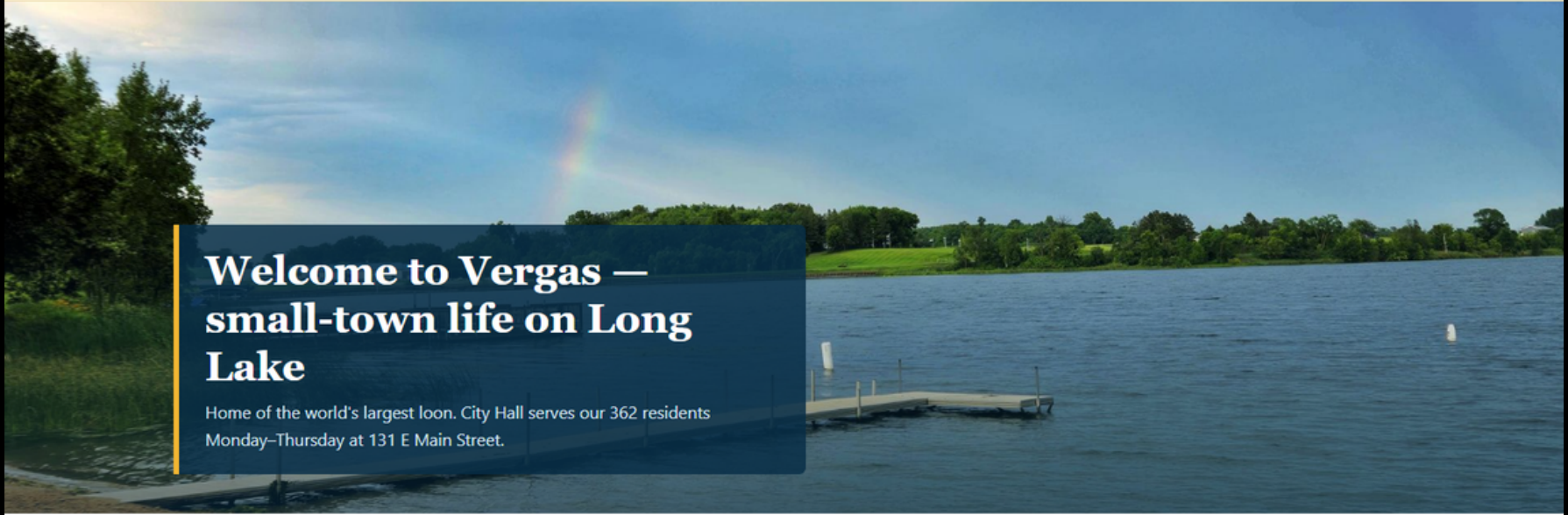
Business

Community

How Do I...



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Welcome to Vergas —
small-town life on Long
Lake

Home of the world's largest loon. City Hall serves our 362 residents
Monday–Thursday at 131 E Main Street.



Pay Utility Bill



Meeting Agendas



Report a Concern



Notifications



Contact Us

Latest News

All news →

AUGUST 11, 2026

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The Clerk-Treasurer's office now offers e-statements for water, sewer, and refuse accounts. Call 218-302-5996 ext. 1 or stop by City Hall to enroll.

JULY 28, 2026

2025 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report available

Vergas water again met all state and federal standards. The full report, along with the Lead Public Education Program notice, is available at City Hall and online.

Upcoming Events

Full calendar →

AUG 18

City Council Regular Meeting

6:30 p.m. · Vergas Event Center, 140 W Linden St · Hybrid via Zoom

AUG 22

17th Annual Ole's Ride

Registration 10 a.m. · Departs from downtown Vergas · Benefits local charities

SEP 2

Planning Commission Meeting

6:00 p.m. · Vergas Event Center, 140 W Linden St · Agenda posted 3 days prior

SEP 15

City Council Regular Meeting

6:30 p.m. · Vergas Event Center, 140 W Linden St · Hybrid via Zoom

Explore Vergas

Parks & recreation →



Loon Park & City Beach

Visit the world's largest loon, then swim at the sandy city beach with its dock and fishing pier on Long Lake.

Learn more →



Parks, Trails & Pickleball

Walk the lakeside boardwalk trail, enjoy Loon Park's playground, or grab a paddle at the city pickleball courts.

Learn more →



Vergas Event Center

Home of City Council meetings and available to rent for weddings, reunions, and community gatherings. Call 218-302-5996 ext. 2.

Learn more →

CONTACT US

Vergas City Hall
131 E Main Street
Vergas, MN 56587
218-302-5996
Mon–Thu, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
or by appointment







POPULAR PAGES

Utility Billing & Rates
Council Agendas & Minutes
Event Center Rental
Parks, Trails & Pickleball Courts
Vergas Fire Department
Permits & Applications
Vergas Liquor Store

SITE LINKS

Accessibility
Contact Staff Directory
Public Notices
Data Practices & Privacy
Employment
Site Map

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218-302-5996 · City Hall: Mon–Thu, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

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Search

Government

Residents

Business

Community

How Do I...

Home > Government > Meetings & Agendas

Meetings & Agendas

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YEAR

2026

MEETING TYPE

All meeting types

Apply filters

Showing 12 of 47 meetings in 2026

2026 meetings — most recent first

DATE	MEETING	AGENDA	PACKET	MINUTES
Aug 20, 2026 Thursday · 5:30 p.m.	Energy & Resiliency Board	Agenda	—	Pending approval
Aug 18, 2026 Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.	City Council	Agenda	Packet	Pending approval
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Jul 21, 2026 Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.	City Council	Agenda	Packet	Minutes
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Jun 16, 2026 Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.	City Council	Agenda	Packet	Minutes
Jun 3, 2026 Wednesday · 2:00 p.m.	Vergas EDA/HRA	Agenda	—	Minutes
May 19, 2026 Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.	City Council	Agenda	Packet	Minutes
Apr 27, 2026 Monday · 6:00 p.m.	Planning Commission	Agenda	Packet	Minutes
Apr 21, 2026 Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.	City Council	Agenda	Packet	Minutes
Apr 8, 2026 Wednesday · 4:30 p.m.	Park Advisory Board	Agenda	—	Minutes
Mar 17, 2026 Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.	City Council	Agenda	Packet	Minutes

Document Archive

Meeting records older than the current year are retained for reference in the city's document archive. Agendas, packets, and minutes are kept in accordance with the Minnesota General Records Retention Schedule for Cities. Some older documents are scanned images and may not read correctly with assistive technology.

2025 meeting archive

2024 meeting archive

2023 meeting archive

Ordinances & resolutions

Need an accessible version of an archived document? [Request an accessible copy](#) or call City Hall at [218-302-5996](tel:218-302-5996) — we'll provide one in a format that works for you.

CONTACT US

Vergas City Hall
131 E Main Street
Vergas, MN 56587
218-302-5996
Mon–Thu, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
or by appointment

f

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POPULAR PAGES

Utility Billing & Rates
Council Agendas & Minutes
Event Center Rental
Parks, Trails & Pickleball Courts
Vergas Fire Department
Permits & Applications
Vergas Liquor Store

SITE LINKS

Accessibility
Contact Staff Directory
Public Notices
Data Practices & Privacy
Employment
Site Map

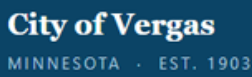
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2

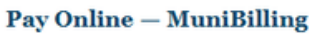


Search

Utility Billing & City Services

Questions about your account? Call 218-302-5996 ext. 0 or email rnustad@cityofvergas.com.

Ways to Pay Your Utility Bill



[Sign in to MuniBilling](#)



City Hall directions

[Download ACH form \(PDF\)](#)

2026 Utility Rates

and sewer base charges include the first 1,000 gallons.

Sample rates shown for mockup purposes — final figures come from the adopted fee schedule.

Other City Services

Snow emergency rules

Get a yard waste permit

[2025 water report \(PDF\)](#)

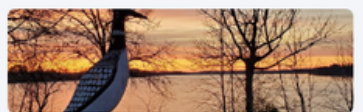
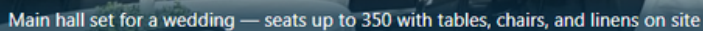
Billing Questions

Financial hardship? Payment plans are available — contact the Clerk-Treasurer's office before the due date. Energy assistance may be available through Mahube-Otwa.

Vergas Liquor Store

Site Map

Weddings, reunions, business meetings, and community celebrations — all two blocks from Long Lake. 140 W Linden Street · eventcenter@cityofvergas.com · 218-302-5996 ext. 2 (nights & weekends 218-850-0594).



Free
WI-FI WITH RENTAL

Rental Rates

Deposits are refundable after inspection. Rates set by the City Council fee schedule.

[View availability calendar](#)

[Rental agreement \(PDF\)](#)

Contact Event Center staff

- [Accessibility](#)
- [Contact Staff Directory](#)
- [Public Notices](#)
- [Data Practices & Privacy](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Site Map](#)



[Home](#) › [Government](#) › [City Code & Ordinances](#) › [Chapter 92: Health & Safety — Nuisances](#)

Chapter 92: Health & Safety — Nuisances

Part of Title IX (General Regulations) of the Vergas Basic Code. This chapter defines public nuisances, sets property maintenance expectations, and describes how the city enforces and abates violations. Questions? Call City Hall at 218-302-5996.

ON THIS PAGE

§ 92.15 Public Nuisance

§ 92.16 Nuisances Affecting Health

§ 92.18 Nuisances Affecting Peace & Safety

§ 92.19 Nuisance Parking & Storage

§ 92.23 Abatement

§ 92.24 Recovery of Cost

§ 92.99 Penalty

Related chapters:

92.35–92.43 Weeds

92.60–92.71 Open Burning

Chapter 93 Streets & Sidewalks

Title IX: General Regulations **Last amended:** Ord. 2022-002, Feb 8, 2022 [Download chapter \(PDF\)](#)

§ 92.15 Public Nuisance

Whoever, by an act or failure to perform a legal duty, intentionally does any of the following is guilty of maintaining a public nuisance, which is a misdemeanor:

- (A) Maintains or permits a condition which unreasonably annoys, injures or endangers the safety, health, morals, comfort or repose of any considerable number of members of the public;
- (B) Interferes with, obstructs or renders dangerous for passage any public highway or right-of-way, or waters used by the public; or
- (C) Is guilty of any other act or omission declared by law or this subchapter to be a public nuisance and for which no sentence is specifically provided.

(M.S. § 609.74, as it may be amended from time to time)

§ 92.16 Public Nuisances Affecting Health

The following are hereby declared to be nuisances affecting health:

- (A) Exposed accumulation of decayed or unwholesome food or vegetable matter;
- (B) All diseased animals running at large;
- (C) All ponds or pools of stagnant water;
- (D) Carcasses of animals not buried or destroyed within 24 hours after death;
- (E) Accumulations of manure, refuse or other debris;
- (F) Garbage cans which are not fly-tight;
- (G) The pollution of any public well or cistern, stream or lake, canal or body of water by sewage, industrial waste or other substances;
- (H) All noxious weeds and other rank growths of vegetation upon public or private property;
- (I) Dense smoke, noxious fumes, gas and soot, or cinders, in unreasonable quantities;
- (J) All public exposure of people having a contagious disease.

§ 92.18 Public Nuisances Affecting Peace and Safety

The following are declared to be nuisances affecting public peace and safety:

- (A) All snow and ice not removed from public sidewalks 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation causing the condition has ceased to fall;
- (B) All trees, hedges, billboards or other obstructions which prevent people from having a clear view of all traffic approaching an intersection;
- (C) All wires and limbs of trees which are so close to the surface of a sidewalk or street as to constitute a danger to pedestrians or vehicles;
- (D) All unnecessary noises and annoying vibrations, including animal noises. The operation of any device producing sound between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in a manner plainly audible at the property line is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section;
- (E) Obstructions and excavations affecting the ordinary public use of streets, alleys, sidewalks or public grounds except under conditions permitted by this code;
- (F) Any use of property abutting on a public street or sidewalk which causes large crowds of people to gather, obstructing traffic and the free use of the street or sidewalk;
- (G) All dangerous, unguarded machinery in any public place, or so situated on private property as to attract the public;
- (H) Wastewater cast upon or permitted to flow upon streets or other public property.

§ 92.19 Nuisance Parking and Storage

It is declared a nuisance to accumulate or store the following in the open on residential property: construction materials not associated with an active building permit; household furnishings and appliances not designed for outdoor use; and junk, debris, or salvage materials. Firewood shall be stored in neat, secured stacks. This section does not prohibit orderly seasonal storage of recreational equipment owned by the occupant.

§ 92.23 Abatement

Whenever an officer charged with enforcement determines that a public nuisance is being maintained or exists, the officer shall notify in writing the owner or occupant of the property, ordering the removal or termination of the nuisance within a stated reasonable time. The notice shall state that if the nuisance is not abated, the City Council may, after notice to the owner or occupant and an opportunity to be heard, determine that the condition identified in the notice of violation is a nuisance and order the city to abate it at the owner's expense.

Summary enforcement. In cases of emergency, where delay in abatement will unreasonably endanger public health, safety or welfare, the City Council may order summary enforcement and abate the nuisance without following the full notice procedure, after reasonable attempts to notify the owner or occupant.

4

Vergas Agenda Manager

City of Vergas, Minnesota

Dashboard

Meetings

Documents

Minutes

Settings

Julie Lammers · Clerk-Treasurer

JL

Build Agenda — City Council, September 15, 2026

Draft

Last saved 2 minutes ago

Save Draft

Preview Agenda

Generate Packet PDF

Publish to Website

Agenda Outline

Drag to reorder · click to edit

1.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dean Haverkamp · 2 min

0

2.

Roll Call

Julie Lammers, Clerk-Treasurer · 2 min

0

3.

Approval of Minutes — Aug 18, 2026 Regular Meeting

Julie Lammers, Clerk-Treasurer · 5 min

1

4.

Public Comment Period

Mayor Dean Haverkamp · 15 min · 3 min/speaker

0

5.

Old Business

2 items

5a.

Well #2 Pump Replacement — Award Bid (Res. 2026-31)

Mike Sonnenberg, Public Works · 15 min

3

5b.

Loon Park Boardwalk Phase 2 — Progress Update

Mike Sonnenberg, Public Works · 10 min

1

6.

New Business

3 items

6a.

Res. 2026-32: Certify Proposed 2027 Tax Levy

Julie Lammers, Clerk-Treasurer · 20 min

2

6b.

Event Center Rental Fee Schedule for 2027

Deb Moltzan, Event Center · 10 min

1

6c.

Hairyman Festival — Street Closure Permit (Sept 26)

Rachel Nustad, Deputy Clerk · 5 min

1

7.

Department Reports — Fire, Public Works, Liquor Store

Dept. heads · 15 min

2

8.

Adjournment

Mayor Dean Haverkamp · 1 min

0

Estimated length: 1 hr 40 min · 11 attachments

+ Add item

+ Add sub-item

Edit Item 5a

Changes save automatically

Old Business · Well #2 Pump Replacement — Award Bid (Res. 2026-31)

ITEM TITLE

Well #2 Pump Replacement — Award Bid (Res. 2026-31)

PRESENTER

Mike Sonnenberg, Public W

TIME ESTIMATE

15 min

DESCRIPTION / RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council previously authorized advertisement for bids at the July 21 meeting after the Well #2 submersible pump failed inspection. Three bids were received and opened August 28, 2026. Staff and Moore Engineering recommend award to Traut Companies of St. Cloud in the amount of \$48,750, the lowest responsible bid. Budget note: the 2026 Water Fund capital line carries \$55,000 for this project.

Recommended action: Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-31 awarding the Well #2 pump replacement contract to Traut Companies

Shown on the published agenda and in the packet cover sheet.

ATTACHMENTS (3)

PDF

Staff_Report_Well2_Pump_Replacement.pdf

Staff report · 4 pages · 312 KB · uploaded Sep 9 by M. Sonnenberg

👁

✕

PDF

Resolution_2026-31_Award_Well2_Pump.pdf

Resolution · 2 pages · 148 KB · uploaded Sep 10 by J. Lammers

👁

✕

PDF

Bid_Tabulation_Well2_2026-08-28.pdf

Bid tabulation · 1 page · 96 KB · uploaded Sep 9 by M. Sonnenberg

👁

✕

Add Attachment

PDF, DOCX, or XLSX · attachments appear in the packet in this order

Remove item

Duplicate

Done editing

Page 52 of 58

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7

HOMEPAGE

218-302-5996 · Translate

City of Vergas

MINNESOTA · EST. 1903

Menu

Seasonal notice: Fall hydrant flushing begins

⚠️

Tuesday, September 8. Water may be temporarily discolored — run cold taps until clear. [Details](#)

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Meeting Agendas

Report a Concern

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Latest News

All news

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MEETINGS

218-302-5996 · Translate

City of Vergas

MINNESOTA · EST. 1903

Menu

Home > Government > Meetings & Agendas

Meetings & Agendas

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YEAR

2026

MEETING TYPE

All meeting types

Apply filters

Showing 12 of 47 meetings in 2026

2026 meetings — most recent first

Aug 20, 2026

Thursday · 5:30 p.m.

Energy & Resiliency Board

📄

Agenda

—

Pending approval

Aug 18, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

Pending approval

Aug 13, 2026

Thursday · 10:30 a.m.

Streets & Sidewalks Cmte.

📄

Agenda

—

Pending approval

Jul 27, 2026

Monday · 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jul 21, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jun 29, 2026

Monday · 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jun 16, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jun 3, 2026

Wednesday · 2:00 p.m.

Vergas EDA/HRA

📄

Agenda

—

📄

Minutes

May 19, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Apr 27, 2026

Monday · 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Apr 21, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Apr 8, 2026

Wednesday · 4:30 p.m.

Park Advisory Board

📄

Agenda

—

📄

Minutes

Mar 17, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Aug 20, 2026

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📄

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📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

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Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

MEETINGS - TABLET

218-302-5996 · City Hall: Mon–Thu, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. · Translate

City of Vergas

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Meetings & Agendas

The Vergas City Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and the Planning Commission meets the fourth Monday at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Vergas Event Center, 140 W Linden Street, and as hybrid meetings via Zoom (ID 267-094-2170, passcode 56587). Agendas are posted at least three days before each meeting; minutes appear after they are approved at the following meeting.

YEAR

2026

MEETING TYPE

All meeting types

Apply filters

Showing 12 of 47 meetings in 2026

2026 meetings — most recent first

Aug 20, 2026

Thursday · 5:30 p.m.

Energy & Resiliency Board

📄

Agenda

—

Pending approval

Aug 18, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

Pending approval

Aug 13, 2026

Thursday · 10:30 a.m.

Streets & Sidewalks Cmte.

📄

Agenda

—

Pending approval

Jul 27, 2026

Monday · 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jul 21, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jun 29, 2026

Monday · 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jun 16, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Jun 3, 2026

Wednesday · 2:00 p.m.

Vergas EDA/HRA

📄

Agenda

—

📄

Minutes

May 19, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Apr 27, 2026

Monday · 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Apr 21, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Apr 8, 2026

Wednesday · 4:30 p.m.

Park Advisory Board

📄

Agenda

—

📄

Minutes

Mar 17, 2026

Tuesday · 6:30 p.m.

City Council

📄

Agenda

📄

Packet

📄

Minutes

Document Archive

Meeting records older than the current year are retained for reference in the city's document archive. Agendas, packets, and minutes are kept in accordance with the Minnesota General Records Retention Schedule for Cities. Some older documents are scanned images and may not read correctly with assistive technology.

2025 meeting archive

2024 meeting archive

2023 meeting archive

Ordinances & resolutions

Need an accessible version of an archived document? [Request an accessible copy](#) or call City Hall at [218-302-5996](tel:218-302-5996) — we'll provide one in a format that works for you.

CONTACT US

Vergas City Hall
31 E Main Street
Vergas, MN 56587
218-302-5996
Mon–Thu, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
by appointment

Facebook

YouTube

Email

POPULAR PAGES

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Vergas Fire Department
Permits & Applications
Vergas Liquor Store

SITE LINKS

Accessibility
Contact Staff Directory
Public Notices
Data Practices & Privacy
Employment
Site Map

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An equal opportunity provider and employer.

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8

92+

Municipal Websites Managed

98%

Client Satisfaction Score

99.9%

Website Uptime

GovSites Municipal Website Management

GovSites delivers professionally designed, accessibility-friendly municipal websites with flexible service options to fit any municipality's needs. Whether your team prefers to submit requests and let us handle everything, or take an active role in managing day-to-day content, GovSites provides the platform, infrastructure, and support to keep your online presence running smoothly.

Full-Service Website Management

Your staff focuses on serving residents — we handle the website.

- Any and all website requests handled
- Basic content updates requested prior to 3 PM ET completed by 11:59 PM same business day
- Proactive security & platform maintenance
- No technical knowledge required of staff
- Uptime monitoring
- Domain expiration warnings

Built With Accessibility in Mind

Our platform and templates are designed with assistive technology in mind, aligned with web accessibility best practices.

- Semantic, structured page templates
- Keyboard-navigable site framework
- Screen reader-friendly design patterns
- Aligned with WCAG 2.1 & ADA Title II guidelines
- Compliant color contrast and typography standards
- Responsive design — no content cut off on any screen size

Built for Local Government

Purpose-built features and workflows designed around how municipalities actually operate.

- Searchable document library (minutes, ordinances, and more)
- Dedicated news section with content scheduling
- Easily link agendas to calendar meetings
- Dedicated public notices section & archive
- Board pages with meeting documents and upcoming meeting feeds
- High-visibility emergency banner for urgent announcements

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLAN FOR YOUR MUNICIPALITY

GovSites Complete Management

GovSites handles any and all website requests on your behalf.

You provide the content — we handle publishing and page presentation.

GovSites handles:

- All content updates, including documents, news posts, calendar, and page updates
- New page additions, removals, and edits
- Menu updates including additions, removals, and titling updates
- GovSites manages hosting
- Platform maintenance & security

GovSites Site Management

Your team manages day-to-day news, calendar, and document updates; GovSites handles all page management and the platform.

You provide the content for pages — we handle publishing and page presentation.

- GovSites manages hosting
- GovSites handles platform & security
- Email support available for platform issues or support
- Same robust infrastructure, more control without needing technical knowledge to manage website pages

AVAILABLE ADD-ONS

UserWay Accessibility Widget

Included on every GovSites website. Upgrade to UserWay Pro for AI-powered accessibility remediations, built-in screen reader, and expanded assistive features.

Domain Management

GovSites can handle domain registration and ownership on your behalf. Note: not available for .gov domains.

Social Media Archiving — PageFreezer

Automatically archive your municipality's social media activity for compliance, public records, and legal defensibility.

Ready to see GovSites in action? Contact your GovPilot representative or visit govpilot.com to schedule a demo.

City Ordinance Information

☐ §92.38 OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRIMING, REMOVAL AND THE LIKE

(A) All property owners shall be responsible for the removal, cutting, or disposal and elimination of weeds; or grasses and rank vegetation or other uncontrolled plant growth on their property, which at the time of the notice, is in excess of 12 inches in height.

(B) These provisions shall not apply to an area established with meadow vegetation if: 1) The prior vegetation is eliminated and the meadow vegetation is planted through transplanting or seed by human or mechanical means; and 2) a sign is posted on the property in a location likely to be seen by the public, advising that a meadow or prairie is being established. This sign must be no smaller than 10 inches square, no larger than 1 square foot, and no higher than 3 feet tall.

*****("Property Owner" is defined to include a person having control over property or a right-of-way, which is the section commonly referred to as the boulevard between the street and property line.)**

☐ §92.41 APPEALS

(A) The property owner may appeal by filing written notice of objections with the City Council within 48 hours of the notice, excluding weekends and holidays, if the property owner contests the findings of the City Council. It is the property owner's responsibility to demonstrate that the matter in question is shrubs, trees, cultivated plants or crops or is not otherwise in violation of chapter 92, and shall not be subject to destruction under the subchapter.

(B) An appeal by the property owner shall be brought before the City Council and shall be decided by a majority vote of the Council Members in attendance and being at a regularly scheduled or special meeting of the City Council.

☐ §92.42 ABATEMENT BY CITY

In the event that the property owner shall fail to comply with the Destruction Order within seven regular business days and has not filed a notice within 48 hours to the City Clerk of an intent to appeal, the City Council may employ the services of city employees or outside contractors and remove the weeds or uncontrolled vegetation to conform to this subchapter by all lawful means. No person shall enter the property to abate the nuisance, except from the permission of the owner, resident or other person in control of the property.

☐ §92.43 LIABILITY

The property owner is liable for all costs or removal, cutting or destruction of weeds as defined by this subchapter.



This violation notice is in effect for 12 months from the date of this warning. Future violations will be remedied by the City without further notice at the expense of the property owner. If any reoccurrence of the nuisance conditions occur within the next 12 months, the penalty payment shall be increased by 25% above the previous payment. Failure to pay for said services upon billing can result in these costs being assessed against the property and placed on the annual tax roll.

Failure to comply with this notice can result in a \$200.00 Administrative Penalty Citation for each day the violation is permitted to exist past the listed deadline.

Failure to make payment to the City office (131 E Main St PO Box 32, Vergas MN 56587) of the penalty for the violation may result in prosecution consistent with applicable Vergas City Codes and Zoning Ordinances and Minnesota State Statutes.

For more information on the violation definitions and penalties visit the City website at www.cityofvergas.com.

OFFICE CHECKLIST

Notice of violation method?

Mailed / Posted / Delivered

Recheck Date: _____

Weed Inspector: _____

Incident #: _____

Issue Resolved? **YES / NO**

Contractor Notified Date: _____

Contractor Invoice #: _____

Did Violation result in any of the following:

___ Administrative Penalty

___ Assessment

___ Prosecution

Photos Taken? (Please Circle) **YES / NO**

Notes:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Violation # _____

☐ \$92.38 OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRIMMING,
REMOVAL AND THE LIKE

Notice Date: _____

Date of Inspection: _____

Noxious Weed Type (if applicable)

Property Owner Name

Mailing Address



Contact City Office for more information

Julie Lammers, Clerk Treasurer
Direct Line: 218-409-8275
Main Line: 218-302-5996
Email: jlammerscityofvergas.com

City of Vergas
131 E Main St
PO Box 32
Vergas, MN 56587

Website:
www.cityofvergas.com

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

High Grass, Noxious Weeds, Depositing
Debris

VIOLATION

One-Time Notice

Notice Date: _____

Violation Correction Deadline Date:

You are hereby notified that as the owner,
agent, or tenant of the location listed in this
notice the City of Vergas, MN, you are in
violation of the following City Code(s):

☐ \$92.38 OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRIMMING,
REMOVAL AND THE LIKE (12 days to correct the
violation)

Where to find the Minnesota Noxious Weeds List:
[https://www.mda.state.mn.us/minnesota-
noxious-weed-list](https://www.mda.state.mn.us/minnesota-noxious-weed-list)

Date of Inspection: _____

Property Address of Violation:

*We appreciate your efforts in keeping your property up to
codes!*

Request to Hire Part-Time Cashier

I am requesting approval to hire **Robert Marynik** as a **Part-Time Cashier** for the municipal liquor store.

Robert has expressed interest in joining our staff and would assist with customer service, cashier duties, stocking, and general store operations. Hiring an additional part-time employee will help provide adequate staffing coverage during peak business hours, weekends, vacations, and other scheduling needs while maintaining a high level of customer service.

I recommend hiring **Robert Marynik at Step 1 of the established wage scale** for the Part-Time Cashier position, contingent upon completion of all required employment paperwork and pre-employment requirements.

Recommendation:

Approve the hiring of **Robert Marynik** as a **Part-Time Cashier at Step 1**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Ingberg

Liquor Store Manager

City Council
2026 August Council Meeting
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Id number 267-094-2170 password 56587
6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 18, 2026

8. Information & Announcements

Employee 2026 Trainings:

- A. LMC Clerk's Academy, Sept. 10-11, 2026, Staples, MN (Deputy Clerk)
- B. Clerk's Advanced Academy- September 10-11, 2026, in Otsego, MN (Clerk-Treasurer)
- C. 2026 Northern Operator Expo, September 23, 2026, in Grand Rapids, MN (DuFrane and Engebretson)