

CITY OF VERGAS
COUNCIL MINUTES
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM
Monday, April 14, 2025

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 14, 2025, at the Vergas Event Center and on Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting with the following members present: Mayor Dwight Lundgren, Council Members: Bruce Albright, Dean Haarstick, and James Stenger. Absent: Paul Pinke. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Deputy Clerk Sarah Stone; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Attorney Tom Winters; Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum; Citizens Dixie Stauffer, Austin Tegtmeier, and Rex Kingsbury.

Call to Order

Mayor Dwight Lundgren called the meeting to order.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- A. Council Minutes of March 10, March 31, and April 9, 2025
 - B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$59,201.32.
 - C. Liquor Store bills for March 2025 totaling. \$58,974.68.
 - D. Late water/sewer bills
 - E. 2025 Investment Schedule/Bond Schedule
 - F. General Fund Special Revenue Money Market Account
 - G. 2025 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Balances
 - H. Certify to Taxes
 - 1. 350 Pelican Avenue for \$195.00 for a water meter
 - 2. 415 S Unit Ave for \$195.00 for a water meter
 - I. Gaming Permits
 - 1. Lions -October 14, 2025
 - 2. T.I.P. – May 3, 2025
 - J. Committee Reports: Water and Sewer Committee, Park Advisory Board, and Event Center
- Motion passed unanimously.

Kingsbury Donation

Rex Kingsbury stated he had a memorial made by Pat Shannon for his mother, and he would like to donate it to the city to have placed in the Vergas Long Lake Park. Kingsbury has received approval from the park board to put the memorial in Long Lake Park. Motion by Stenger, seconded by Haarstick, to approve Resolution 2025-002 regarding accepting donation (complete copy of resolution located at the city office). Motion passed unanimously.

Cannabis Business

Lammers stated that more updates are coming and asked that the proposed ordinance be updated at the next meeting.

County Hwy resurfacing

Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger to approve Resolution 2025-001 regarding County Hwy 35 being resurfaced in the City limits (complete copy of resolution located at the city office). Motion passed unanimously.

City Insurance

The Council discussed lowering insurance rates by raising the deductible, and Lammers was asked to check with the Fire Department before making a decision.

Yard Waste

Stenger reviewed requests for Commercial businesses within the city limits to receive yard waste permits. The streets/sidewalks/yard waste committee will review the request and recommend it to the Council.

Mayor's Minute

Lundgren discussed a meeting with the Frazee City Council regarding collaborating functions. Motion by Albright, seconded

by Stenger, to have Lammers set up a combined Council meeting between the two communities. Motion passed unanimously. Lundrigan reviewed information received at a meeting with the railroad. The railroad engineers are reviewing the Vergas track and will make a recommendation in the future regarding the long crossing times.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee

Stenger reviewed the personnel committee meeting held April 3 and April 9, 2025 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to approve Matt Engebretson as a fully successful employee. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to accept the proposed pay step increase for liquor store clerks. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Liquor Store

Theisen provided a first-quarter liquor store report and notified the council of a Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association Award, "Best Community Involvement," that the Vergas Liquor Store will be receiving at the annual conference April 20-23, 2023. The Municipal Committee met this afternoon, and the sewer line needs to be replaced in the building. DuFrane is getting repair quotes, and the committee will make a recommendation at next month's meeting. The awning replacement project has been put on hold until the sewer repair cost can be established. Motion by Stenger, seconded by Albright to hire Shawna Jones at step 1 as a liquor store clerk. Motion passed unanimously.

Utilities Superintendent

The Wastewater Facility Operational Award from MN Pollution Control has been awarded to the City of Vergas, and DuFrane has received Class C operator certification for 2025-2028. DuFrane has been dealing with issues at the lift station on Scarf. DuFrane stated that Kevin Peterson, MPCA Compliance Officer, said this is a maintenance item and DuFrane should repair it. Motion by Albright, seconded by Haarstick, to allow DuFrane to attend the MN Rural Water class. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Lammers provided a written report. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to accept the bid for internet forms from Paulnet, with the project being completed in a timely manner. Motion passed unanimously.

Information & Announcements

Training:

- A. Municipal Beverage Association (MMBA) April 20-23, 2025 (Theisen) Alexandria Arrowwood
- B. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 25-27, 2025, in Duluth (Mayor, Council & Lammers)
- C 16th Annual Operator Expo (MN Rural Water) August 20, 2025, DuFrane, Engebretson)
- D. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 18-19, 2025 (Lammers)

Events:

- A. Household Hazardous Waste Day, Thursday, June 26, 2025, 10:00 - 2:00
- B. Birds of a Feather, Friday, June 27, 2025, 3:00 pm, 140 East Linden (Event Center)

Adjournment

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

Vergas Clerk-Treasurer
Julie Lammers, CMC