

CITY OF VERGAS  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
VERGAS EVENTS CENTER & ZOOM  
Monday, June 9, 2025

The City Council of Vergas met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Vergas Event Center via Zoom for a hybrid regular council meeting, with the following members present: Mayor Dwight Lundgren, Council Members Bruce Albright, James Stenger, and Dean Haarstick; and Absent: Paul Pinke. Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Julie Lammers; Utilities Superintendent Mike DuFrane; Liquor Store Manager Kyle Theisen; Engineer Blaine Green; Citizens Marsha Huddleston, Keith Bunkowske, Diane Hanson, Dixie Stauffacher, Austin Tegtmeier, Vanessa Perry, Julie Bruhn, Jonathan Barcenas, Griffin Peck, Mark Kaelke, and Molly Zins.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Dwight Lundgren called the meeting to order.

**Citizens' Concerns**

Huddleston questioned the Council about allowing Lammers to receive overtime pay at the May Council meeting. Huddleston stated that the state allows 1 hour of earned sick and safe time (ESST) for every 30 hours worked, and she does not understand how Lammers can receive 140 hours of compensation time. Overtime or Compensation time is earned when working over 40 hours in a week. Lundgren and Stenger explained ESST is a separate benefit for employees. The personnel committee approves Lammers' compensation time, comprising Dwight Lundgren and James Stenger.

**Agenda Additions and Deletions**

Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to approve the agenda with the addition of the Mayor's Minute. The motion passed unanimously.

**Energy & Resilience Plan Presentation**

University of MN Master's student Johnathon Barcenas reviewed the City Energy & Resilience plan and the work the advisory committee will be doing. Mark Kaelke of the West Central Initiative will continue with the plan.

Council Member Haarstick and Utilities Superintendent DuFrane left the meeting for an EMS call.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Council Minutes of May 12, 2025
  - B. Bills paid between Council meetings and Council bills totaling \$32,469.89.
  - C. Liquor Store bills for March 2025 totaling, \$91,915.64.
  - 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. Vergas Community Resilience and Energy
    - 1. Charter
    - 2. Members
  - I Committee Reports: Park Advisory Board, Event Center Advisory Board, and Planning Commission
- The motion passed unanimously.

**Parking and Alley Paving Project Bid**

Engineer Blaine Green presented the bid opening information on the parking lot and alley project. Sonnenberg Excavating was the lowest out of five. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to accept the bid of \$154,052.55 from Sonnenberg Excavating for the parking lot and alley bid. The motion passed unanimously. The estimate for the project was within the range given to property owners so no assessment hearing is required. The Council discussed holding a public meeting to discuss the meeting, as the public has stated they do not feel informed by the City on certain items. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to hold a public meeting on Monday, July 14, at 6 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

**Scharf 3rd Edition**

Owner Kieth Bunkowski stated the road, water, and sewer lines are complete and ready to be turned over to the city. Lundgren said he spoke with DuFrane, and the project is not completed to city specs. Bunkowski requested a list of what is needed for completion. Green stated that the pond was not completed to the engineered specifications and would require documentation from the engineering company if changes were made after the city received the plans. Bunkowski stated that the basin area is complete and will hold more water than

stated in the plans. Green said he would email Bunkowski a list of requirements that need to be addressed regarding the basin, televised sewer lines, and confirm that the trace wire works. Bunkowski asked why he was not sent information on what needed to be done. Green said he would reach out to Bunkowski, and they could have resolved by the next Council meeting. Albright requested that Green provide a punch list to Bunkowski.

## **Committee Reports**

### Municipal Building Committee

Stenger reviewed the minutes of the Municipal Building committee meeting held on May 27, 2025 (available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to move the current flagpole to the Government Services building and remove the current pole. The motion passed unanimously.

### Water and Sewer

Lammers reviewed the minutes of the Water/Sewer committee meeting held on May 21, 2025 (available at the Vergas City Office). Discussed having all sewer lines televised every four years, with the City televising 1/3 of the city at a time. Tabled discussion until DuFrane could be present.

### EDA/HRA

Albright reviewed the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held on April 2 and June 4, 2025 (available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to accept the resignation of Kevin Zitzow and replacing with Vanessa Perry to the EDA/HRA board. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Haarstick and Utilities Superintendent DuFrane returned from the EMS call.

### Streets/Sidewalks/Yard Waste

Albright reviewed the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held on May 29, 2025 (available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to approve the dust control policy and application supplied to the council members. The motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to move the seal coating budgeted amount of \$7,500.00 to supply and maintenance of the street. Albright told the Council that they are in the process of getting an inventory of our current roads. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to accept the yard waste policy. The motion passed unanimously.

### Frazee/Vergas Council

Stenger reviewed the Council meeting with Frazee on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 (minutes available at the Vergas City Office). Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to hold annual meetings with Frazee Council, alternating the location from city to city annually. The motion passed unanimously. Discussed the trail committee and the master plan connecting Heartland to Vergas and Maplewood State Park, where the majority of the roads are within Otter Tail County and outside the Vergas City limits.

## **Cannabis Business**

Lammers reviewed the 2nd reading of the Cannabis Ordinance. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to remove 300.10 B from the cannabis ordinance. The motion passed unanimously. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to approve the Cannabis Ordinance after publication. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Staff Reports**

### Utilities Superintendent

DuFrane stated that there is still a burned-out pump at the lift station on Hwy 60, and he is obtaining bids for its replacement. Quotes are being received for redesigning the pipe system, as the pipes are deteriorating due to rust.

DuFrane discussed the sidewalk in front of the Liquor Store and its need to be replaced. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to replace the sidewalk in front of the liquor store by Zayic Concrete. The motion passed unanimously.

### Clerk-Treasurer Report

Deputy Clerk Rachel Nustad began working in the office on June 2.

## **Mayor's Minute**

Lundgren stated that he loves working for the city, but due to medical reasons, he submitted his resignation as of July 15, 2025. The Council will need to appoint a replacement for the Mayor's position. Motion by Albright, seconded by Stenger, to accept the resignation of Dwight Lundgren. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Information & Announcements**

Training:

A. League of MN Cities Annual Conference June 25-27, 2025, in Duluth (Mayor, Council & Lammers)

B 16th Annual Operator Expo (MN Rural Water) August 20, 2025, DuFrane, Engebretson)  
CD. Clerks Advanced Academy- September 18-19, 2025 (Lammers)

Events:

- A. 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 Haarstick, seconded by Stenger, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The business for which the meeting was called was completed and adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Julie Lammers, CMC  
Vergas Clerk-Treasurer