

City Council Meeting August 10, 2026

Present: Alderman Leslie, Hanson, Balderas, Gjestvang, Maintenance officer Hans, Auditor Roster, Not present: Mayor Lotzer. Guests: Deputy Sheriff Bushaw

Alderman Leslie, city council chairman, acting city Mayor for the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm

Officer Bushaw gave monthly area report. 55 calls for service. He reminds everyone to stay vigilant. No residents' concerns are too small that they will not investigate.

Minute of the July meeting were read. Motion to accept made by Alderman Gjestvang, seconded by Alderman Hanson, passed.

Consent items for payments were reviewed. Motion to accept made by Alderman Balderas, seconded by Alderman Gjestvang, passed.

Current bills presented:

Ottertail Power 1765.10

Cass Rural Water 1914.61

Steve Hans 925.83

Mark Roster 1897.55

Carol Mitchell 215.87

Fat Man Trash 1546.74

City of Fargo 14.00

MKLGC 106.50

City Utilities 75.50

Cass County Reporter 133.60

ND One call 3.60

Park board 6976.84

Cemetery Board 814.09

Airport Authority 97.72

BND 39,950.00

Steins 207.53

Oscar Hanson 60.00

Jeremy Lequire 75.00 (need new address)

Mark Baker 15,160.00 PD – ½ down pmt for street repairs

Smart signs 176.40 PD

Port-a-potties bill – NA

IRS 2nd qtr – 2596.19 PD

ND State tax commissioner 2nd qtr 138.83 PD

Job service 2nd qtr– 43.74 PD

*IRS monthly July 883.52 PD

*IRS monthly Aug 927.36 PD

*(multiple payments addressed in New Business)

OLD BUSINESS:

Tornado sirens installation – tabled due to no input

Dike updates – tabled, due to not receiving any new email information from Moore Engineering. Discussion ensued; consensus of the council is that the plan should still break ground end of September 2026.

Back flow valve installations on city property – Hans reported completed. The Fire Hall installation of horizontal RPZ- status unknown. City council members who are also on the volunteer fire department were asked to forward the information that this should be completed no later than October sometime so we can finalize report with NDRWA.

Lead/Copper project mandate – Davenport is receiving pressure from the state to get the compliance meter pictures to auditor (40 residents still have not complied). Auditor reported a confusing email sent from the state regarding noncompliance to residences, mandatory dates of compliance, finances that are currently available to the city on first come first serve for digging up curb stops. More discussion and clarity is needed but the 40 residents need to get their part done or else Steve, Roster, both or other hire will have to come into their home for inspection and take photos incurring a charge to the resident that has not complied.

NEW BUSINESS:

Street repairs/patching will start on or about the 17th of August. Areas are marked and will be dug out and filled with fiber filled cement. Please avoid these areas until barriers are removed. City received call from NDRWA mapping division for mapping water lines etc. asking if all the curb stop locations are currently known and marked. If so, they could map the town sometime in late August. Hans stated no and that the old hand drawn maps are not very accurate so one would have to spend time with a metal detector locating each one. Due to time constraints the auditor is tasked to contact NDRWA and get put on schedule for next spring, giving city time this fall to locate each one.

The rusty/cloudy water complaints were addressed. Cass Rural water had to cut our supply lines 2 different times to relocate valves due to the upcoming dike project. This is the thought to what likely caused the disturbance when the lines were reopened. Hans and Hanson flushed hydrants. Most of the hydrants visually ran clear, especially after several minutes, still Hans took samples for analysis. Hans made note that there is rust buildup in bottom of holding tank and when drained down to 4.9 feet from 11 feet, the water was slightly cloudy, and rust could be seen on the bottom of the tank. Auditor had reached out to city engineer for suggestions, who then suggested to have the tank robotically vacuumed and that should be on a 3- 4-year routine maintenance schedule. Due to the young age of our tank, at this point and time, opinion is that it should not have to be drained completely, hand scrubbed bottom and walls, resealed and have a approved bactericide applied, refilled with chlorinated water and certified inspection. Auditor is tasked to contact several local companies that maintain city water holding tanks and get their information and time schedule.

Question was brought forth regarding fence repair at lagoons. Alderman Gjestvang tasked as liaison person for fence repair.

Auditor explained the several tax payments in the consent bills made to the IRS this past month. The city exceeded the quarterly upper limit of \$2,500 for Federal income tax, social security, and Medicare wages paid out, and is now required to file and pay monthly. The city employs 3 part-time positions, and monthly wages vary due to work loads. Once that upper limit is exceeded, it is continuous, even if it is not exceeded again. Payments will now show up the monthly consent bill items. Auditor noted to the council, that due to totally

misunderstanding this “new to me” monthly filing request, the IRS has sent a late fee penalty in the amount of \$300 to the city. The auditor finally requested the aid of an area tax prep person to come to the office, explain what the monthly fee was, then how to set up the electronic payment of that fee – the only way to pay it – and explain why we are getting penalized (as all quarterly fees were paid on time and in proper amounts). She recommended that auditor write a letter to the IRS asking for full forgiveness or even partial forgiveness and show them that we are now in compliance with the monthly required payments. Auditor followed through with that recommendation and results are yet to be determined at this time.

Auditor has been tasked with contacting several lot owners in Davenport, requesting that they mow the lots, remove the weeds and wood piles in accordance to our city ordinances. If the city has to do the clean-up/mowing , etc., minimum fee charged is \$150.00.

Discussion was brought forth about contacting the state to see what would be required to have a separate city sales tax to help generate revenue based on online sales and purchases made by residents, as this is becoming the way of shopping these days. Amazon, Temu, Etsy, Ebay etc. all charge a minimum of state sales taxes and depending on the county, town or city, those added taxes also. When those companies pay the state what they collected, the state then pays the city etc. any fees collected on their behalf from those sales. The same would be required from residents who sell items from their places of residence be it a full-blown business or a DBA with a Davenport address. The auditor was tasked to gather the information and report back at next meeting.

Hans reported signs for grass/tree truck and new burn area are up. Balderas reported on his findings regarding the cost of permanent security cameras. Discussion ensued. Purchases tabled. Roster volunteered 2 game cameras for city use, till decision is in place. Hanson suggested taking away the branch truck and pile branches and tree stumps on ground where truck was for easier monitoring. hat can then be picked up with city tractor grapple arms and moved to burn pile. The decision was made to give this option a try.

Auditor noted that the city will hold the annual budget review at regular city council meeting, Monday October 5th at 7pm. This review is open to the public.

Due to the regularly scheduled September city council meeting falls on Labor Day, Monday, September 7th, 2026, that meeting has been rescheduled for Monday September 14th, 2026, at 7 pm at the community center. Public is welcome.

Motion to adjourn made by Alderman Hanson, seconded by Alderman Gjestvang, passed.

Adjourned at 8:22 pm

Respectfully submitted, Mark Roster – Davenport city auditor