

The Max City Council met Monday July 07, 2025, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Zabka and council members; Swanson, Fritel, Adams, and Westman present. Visitors in attendance were Alex Hemphill, Amy Hauf, Kathy Huettl, and Samanth Lies.

Adams moved to dispense with reading and accept the June, 2025, meeting minutes. Swanson second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Samantha Lies presented a Site Authorization for gaming at Pour Choices Bar & Grill for approval for the July 1st 2025 through June 30, 2025 time period. Adams motioned to approve. Westman second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Alex Hemphill discussed with council his plans for August 2nd, he requested permission to block off the street in front of Pour Choices Bar & Grill, for kid activities, band and street dance. Also requested was permission to hold a beer garden on the sidewalk. Adams motioned to approve. Westman second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Amy Hauf informed council that board members are needed for the Library Board, including a one-year, council member position. Amy recommended Dorcas Wenger to serve a 3-year term, and Orrin Berg to fill a resigned members position with two years remaining. She informed that, Council Member Adam's one year term is up. Swanson volunteered to fill that position. Westman motioned to approve the board member appointments. Fritel second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Kathy Huettl presented building permits for Rodney Schoenwold's manufactured home installation on Lot 5-6, of Block 14, and Mkielman Holdings, LLC for inside renovations, to move a doorway, and install plumbing/ floor drain, for their building located at E 20' Lot 6, Block 2. Adams motioned to approve the permits. Westman second. Vote all aye, m/c/a. Huettl also informed council that the Planning and Zoning Committee held a hearing for TriGen Ag's request for a zoning change from residential to commercial for Lots 3-6, Block 9. The auditor placed an ad to announce it, but was informed by Nordak North, that it didn't get printed. The auditor had them run it the next week anyway. Announcements were made with flyers and on the website. Huettl stated that there were no plans for the lots, other than to clear and level them, to make them look better, at this time. There were no objections from the community, and the Planning and Zoning Committee recommends the zoning change. Swanson motioned to approve the committee's recommendation. Adam's second. Vote all aye. m/c/a. Huettl informed council that the city will also have to hold a hearing. The city will put out announcements when the hearing is scheduled. Huettl made a recommendation for Nick Yellowbird, to be appointed for another 3-year term on the Planning and Zoning Committee. Westman motioned to approve. Swanson second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Maintenance: Bids for Curb Stop replacement and repairs were presented. Adams motioned to approve the bids from McElwain Construction. Westman second. Vote all aye, m/c/a. Requested were new curb brushes for the skid steer. Fritel motioned to approve. Adams second. Vote all aye. m/c/a. Smith informed council that ND Sewage and Pump Service, will be here to install the new lift station pumps at the end of the month. Discussion was held on what the city should do with the old Dodge Pick-up. It is council consensus that sending it to Northern Auction is the best solution. Adams motioned to approve. Westman second. Vote all aye, m/c/a. Council will look at all roofing bids for the senior center and city hall, at the next meeting. It was discussed that the Over 55 Club is interested in installing decking for wheel chair access for the building. Tabled until next meeting.

A copy of a letter that First District Health sent to the property owner of parcel #763001001256000, property located across HWY 83, was presented. Their certified letter was returned to them, and they cannot deliver, due to no physical address is provided. Discussion was held about what could be done according to the dangerous and abandoned buildings ordinance. Council directed the auditor to enquire into the level of support the attorney and First District will give, if the city needs to act according to the provisions of the ordinance. Tabled.

A Special Event/Liquor License Transfer for the Red-Light bar was presented, for the purpose of a wedding reception to be held at the Hall on August 09, 2025. Swanson motioned to approve. Fritel second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Presented was a request for free use of the hall, for the Rodeo Association, to use for meals during the Max Rodeo. Adams motioned to approve. Swanson second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Council was updated on the status of the Pit Bull ownership in town. Municipal Court held 3 hearings with provisions for owners to do DNA testing within a certain time frame. If the dogs do not have the breed, they can stay. One dog owner has removed their dog from the city limits.

Council commenced with the first reading of Parking Ordinance No. 2025-1. All provisions of the ordinance were provided to the city attorney, who concludes that the ordinance is aligned with the North Dakota Century Code. Council discussed adding another provision concerning certain types of trailers, and equipment. The ordinance will be updated accordingly, by the second reading at the next meeting. Westman moved to approve the 1st reading. Fritel second. Vote all aye. m/c/a.

Discussed was the need to purchase an I-pad or tablet, to use in conjunction with the new meter reading software. Swanson motioned to approve the purchase. Fritel second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Bills to pay in July were presented. Adams motioned to approve to pay the bills. Swanson second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

BILLS TO PAY-JULY 2025		
ENTITY	Electric Utilities	AMOUNT
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	Medical Insurance (Employer Portion)	1,000.00
Butler Ag Equipment	Loader Inspection for quote	785.00
Butler Machinery, Co.	Warranty Renewal	3,220.00
Circle Sanitation	Garbage Service Contract	4,264.75
Core & Main	Parts-Purchased by debit card-June	195.36
EFTPS	Payroll 941 Liabilities-Paid online (Employer Portion) JUN	675.92
Ferguson Waterworks	Gaskets & Software upfront fee INV0521927, 0517222	2,192.55
Ferguson Waterworks	Meter faces for new reading system	39,786.40
First District Health	Water Testing	30.00
Garrison Insurance	Liability & Tornado Insurance	7,095.00
Max Farm Services	Fuel Costs	424.45
McLean County Sherriff's Dept.	Law enforcement Contract	2,739.23
MDU	Natural Gas Utilities	121.86
Menards	Janitorial supplies	73.27
Microsoft Office	Cloud Storage	2.14

Municipal Judge	Monthly Pay	178.00
ND League of Cities	Annual Dues	629.00
ND Rural Water Systems Association	Annual Dues	207.00
NorDak North Publications	2 months, and advertising	665.01
NPRWD	Purchased Water	5,550.55
One Call	Locates	9.00
Ottertail Power Company	Electric Utilities	1,134.09
QuickBooks	Monthly Subscription	273.00
Rolling Hills Lumber	Roof Ducting	16.99
RTC	Phone Bill	409.00
US Postal Service	2 Rolls post card stamps	112.00
Wild Prairie Solutions	Troubleshooting a curb stop	150.00
Totals		71,939.57

June Financial Reports were presented. Swanson motioned to approve. Fritel second. Vote, all aye. m/c/a.

Needed office supplies were requested. Adams motioned to approve. Swanson second. Vote, all aye. m/c/a.

Discussion was held about a continuous issue with past due balances being paid partially. The policy, is all past due balances are to be paid in full. Council directed the auditor to add to the late notices, that partial payments will not be accepted. If failure to pay in full, then the city will enforce their ordinance and discontinue services. Auditor will send Pink Slips/ late notices as needed.

The 2024 Quarter Two Budget check was presented. Swanson motioned approve. Fritel second. Vote all aye, m/c/a.

Westman motioned for meeting to adjourn. Swanson second. Vote all aye, m/c/a. Meeting adjourned.

A TriGen Ag Rezoning Hearing is to be held August 04, at 6:30 pm.

Next regular council meeting to be held on August 04, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Preliminary Budget hearing to be held on August 4th, right after regular meeting.

Aaron Zabka, Mayor

Anita Porter, Auditor