

**Rutland City Council  
January 5, 2026**

The monthly City Council meeting was called to order at 5p.m., Monday, January 5, 2026, by Mayor Mahrer. Council President Erickson, Council members Hoflen, Lysne, and McLaen present. City Auditor and Scott Haan, Public Works, also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

Erickson/Hoflen moved approval of the December 1, 2025, minutes. Motion carried.

Erickson/Hoflen moved adoption of the Resolution for the City of Rutland participation in the Sargent County Emergency Management Agency. Motion carried.

Lysne/McLaen moved to designate Stock Growers Bank of Forman as the City's depository institution. Motion carried.

Lysne reported that there was a water line leak at the City's trailer park. Scott Haan said there is one main turn on/off for the park area and there is a leak somewhere in the line as the water does not build pressure. Rural Water will be back in the Spring to finish the curb stop locations and they could help find the leak in the Spring. The issue was posted to May for further discussion.

Lysne stated that several homes in town need improvement. She wants to proceed to have an inspector onsite to determine if they are livable and, if not, to declare them unfit. The Nesta house is empty and there are several vehicles on the property. Bostrom, Keiper, Pherson and Arneson homes are also all vacant. The Mayor noted that the City needs to have cause to enter private property. If the property taxes are paid up, there is really nothing that the City can do.

Erickson/Hoflen moved to transfer \$30,146.33 from the General Fund to the Streets & Sidewalks Fund as of December 31, 2025, to balance the account. Motion carried.

McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the December financial reports with the fund transfer. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the cost of Hall propane. Council President Erickson and the Auditor will make calls to get bids if needed. The Auditor contacted Kotaco and the City's current discounted price is \$1.59/gal. Upon checking, Kotaco will supply propane at a discount early pay price of \$1.39/gallon.

Erickson/McLaen moved approval of the payment of bills:

Paid in December 2025

|                              |            |                            |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| ACH DRN                      | \$ 150.37  | telephone                  |
| ACH US Treasury              | \$ 844.28  | Qtr. 4 Fed Tax Deposit     |
| ACH Waste Management         | \$ 109.42  | Hall dumpster              |
| ACH Waste Management         | \$1,739.93 | Contract garbage           |
| 14088 B. Mahrer Construction | \$ 622.67  | Snow removal & Gravel      |
| 14089 Kotaco Fuel            | \$1,394.03 | 874 gals. Hall propane     |
| 14090 Scott Haan             | \$1,043.09 | Nov. 30-Dec. 12, 2025      |
| 14091 Rutland Park Board     | \$3,013.35 | State funding pass through |
| <u>Payable January 2026</u>  |            |                            |
| 14092 Scott Haan             | \$1,152.22 | Dec. 13-27, 2025           |

|       |                      |            |                              |
|-------|----------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 14093 | Deborah Banish       | \$1,411.02 | December                     |
| 14094 | Kotaco Fuel          | \$ 465.74  | 292 gals. Hall propane       |
| 14095 | Lori McLaen          | \$ 277.05  | July – Dec. Council          |
| 14096 | MFOA                 | \$ 40.00   | Membership                   |
| 14097 | Michael Mahrer       | \$ 203.17  | July-Dec. Mayor              |
| 14098 | ND League of Cities  | \$ 371.00  | Membership                   |
| 14099 | Otter Tail Power     | \$1,409.36 | Electricity                  |
| 14100 | Quill                | \$ 69.99   | Janitorial supplies          |
| 14101 | Rodney Erickson      | \$ 184.70  | July-Dec. 2025, Council      |
| 14102 | The Teller           | \$ 37.12   | Dec. Minutes published       |
| 14103 | SE Water             | \$ 779.81  | 239,941 gals. Oct 22-Nov. 21 |
| 14104 | Southside Automotive | \$ 77.02   | Skid steer Tire repair       |
| 14105 | William Hoflen       | \$ 277.05  | July-Dec. Council            |

Motion carried.

The City Auditor reported three delinquents.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 2, 2026.

ATTEST:

---

Deborah Banish, City Auditor

---

Michael Mahrer, Mayor