

Rutland City Council
August 5, 2024

The monthly City Council meeting was called to order at 5p.m. by Mayor Mahrer. Council members Anderson, Erickson, Lysne and McLaen present. City Auditor also present. Others present: Barry Christianson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

McLaen/Anderson moved approval of the July 8 organization and regular minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Barry Christianson discussed his problems with the water turn off valve and meter at his residence at 105 Second Street. The curb stop is not usable and he has seepage in his basement. The line needs to be turned off in order to have the internal lines replaced.

The Mayor said he has been in touch with Calvin (Jacobson Plumbing, Heating and Excavating) to get the turn off replaced. There is a 2” line that feeds the four houses in the area. He will follow up with Calvin again to get the work done quickly.

Water Rates: The Auditor noted that the Council discussed a possible water rate increase earlier this year. It would be best to determine any changes in advance so that residents can be informed of any rate increases before they occur in January. A change in the base rate will affect all water users; a change in the overage will affect the high-usage residents. The current rate is \$24.15 for the first 3,000 gals/month and the overage is \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons over. Information was provided on various percentage rate increases.

Lysne/Anderson moved to increase the monthly rate from \$24.15 to \$25 for the first 3,000 gallons and increase the overage fee by twenty-five cents to \$5.50 for each additional 1,000 gallons effective with the January 2025 billing. Motion carried.

Anderson asked that the rates be reviewed again in December prior to implementation of the increase.

2025 Preliminary Budget: The Auditor presented a proposed 2025 preliminary budget. The City is limited to 105 mills. The proposed budget is based on a valuation of \$388,800 with an estimated 107.8 mills to allow for any changes in the valuation between now and October. Last year the State Board of Adjustment had some increases to valuation. While no changes are anticipated, it is best to estimate on the high side as the Council can reduce but not increase these figures for the final budget.

Lysne/Anderson moved approval of the 2025 preliminary budget as follows:

General Fund	\$41,822.70
City Share of Specials.....	\$398.19
2010 Street Specials.....	\$17,987.44
Total Levy.....	\$60,208.33

Motion carried.

The 2025 budget hearing will be held on Monday, October 7, at 5 p.m.

McLaen/Lysne moved approval of the July financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Lysne/McLaen moved approval of the payment of bills:

ACH	Waste Management	\$ 1,731.96	13839	Forman Lumber	30.97
ACH	Waste Management	108.52	13840	ND Rural Water	150.00
ACH	DRN	148.11	13841	ND State Auditor	315.00
ACH	Innova Disc Golf	4290.76	13842	Otter Tail Power	1,167.97
13836	Scott Haan	1,154.99	13843	The Teller	79.28
13837	Scott Haan	1,250.54	13844	SE Water Users	1,274.00
13838	Deborah Banish	2,456.09	13845	Team Lab Chem.	957.00

Sewer and Lagoon Checking: Bank of ND \$6,990.00

Motion carried.

The City Auditor reported two delinquents at this time.

The City Auditor reported:

1. The City Discharge Permit is up for renewal. The public comment period runs July 24-August 31, 2024; the State posted the public notice in the paper. The application is due by September 15.
2. The petition for the property tax elimination measure will be Measure 4 on the November ballot. There will be an educational webinar on the issue on August 15 that is open to Council Members. The Auditor plans to participate.
3. There has been a request to install higher toilets and safety bars in the women's restroom. Two stalls, adjacent to the walls, could have bars and the higher toilets. It may also be needed in the men's restroom. The Anderson family has requested that their contributions from the Anderson Pinochle tournaments be used as funding for that project. The Auditor will work with the Rutland Community Club on the project.
4. The ND League of Cities convention will be in Grand Forks, September 18-20. The Auditor will attend the sessions on the State Audit, the property tax elimination measure, and planning for succession in cities, as well as other sessions offered at the conference.

The Mayor reported that the water meter at the Rutland Oil building has been turned off to prevent leaking into the gas tanks. Scott turned off the water to the campground which resulted in a reduction of water flow to the lift station. The source of the water leak is still being explored.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, September 9.

ATTEST:

Deborah Banish, City Auditor

Michael Mahrer, Mayor