

Dunn Center City Council Meeting Thursday October 9th, 2025. Mayor Shasta Blackford called the meeting to order at 6 PM. The members present were Colton Medley, Zachary Pavlicek, Daniel Binek, and Jeremiah Ewer. Also present were Chantel Morris, James Meeker, Cory Ravnaas, Leo Platz, and Gregory Reilly.

Public Comment:

Gregory Reilly, a resident at Dunn Center, has raised concerns about irregular garbage pick-up, noting that his trash can hasn't been emptied consistently. Council members Ewer and Binek reported similar problems with their own trash collection. Council member Medley explained there is a system for pick-up, but it appears it may not be followed properly. If MGM cannot access a trash can, they are supposed to contact BEK, who will then ensure the garbage is collected. Medley said he would reach out again to both MGM and BEK, emphasizing that garbage collection remains a problem.

City engineer Cory Ravnaas advised residents to leave their trash on the street if it isn't being picked up, assuring them that BEK will handle it. Reilly also mentioned he was told those living on construction roads would need to keep their mailboxes and trash cans at temporary sites all winter. Ravnaas reassured him this was just a rumor, and mailboxes and bins would be returned to the proper locations. Medley added that he plans to meet again with MGM and BEK to stress that the garbage issue still needs urgent resolution.

Reilly asks if his driveway will be restored before snowfall. Ravnaas confirms that, although construction is ongoing, the driveway will be completed in time.

Medley inquired about when concrete pouring would begin at the apartments. Ravnaas responded that WINN is expected to arrive at Dunn Center to start laying concrete next Wednesday.

Public Comment concluded.

Mayor Blackford moves on to item #4: Modification(s) and/or Approval of the Agenda (Set and Approve Agenda/Consent Agenda) Colton Medley motioned to modify the agenda by moving Item #11: Engineer Report to Item #9 after the approval of the September Bills. Daniel Binek 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

Colton Medley motioned to approve the September Regular Meeting Minutes. Jeremiah Ewer 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

Jeremiah Ewer motioned to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of September 16th, 24th, and 29th. Zachary Pavlicek 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

Colton Medley moved to approve the September Financial Reports, seconded by Jeremiah Ewer. Medley asked about apartment funds; Blackford confirmed they are in a separate account and showed Medley where to find this on the reports. No further discussion. All Ayes. M/c.

Daniel Binek motioned to approve the September Bills. Zachary Pavlicek 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

Engineer Report:

City engineer Cory Ravnaas states the project is 53% finished, with utilities completed on 30 blocks, streets on 20, and 10 blocks remaining. Although appearances may suggest otherwise, the project is currently below budget, with total expenditures amounting to \$7.13 million for fiscal year 2025. Ravnaas informed the council that the objective is to complete all tasks by July 2026. The concrete crusher is scheduled to arrive in Dunn Center within two weeks. When Medley inquired about the anticipated timeframe for crushing the pile, Ravnaas stated that he was unable to provide a specific estimate; however, he assured the council that the concrete crusher would be available in two weeks.

Ravnaas reports that curb & gutter are finished on Main St all the way down to Doug Stacey's residence. 3rd Ave concrete is finished. Concrete pavers plan to return Monday with the weather permitting.

Ravnaas requests that residents avoid using streets scheduled for paving until work is finished, starting with Railroad St near city apartments. Ewer asked about a red post in front of his home; Ravnaas explained it's for wiring a future light pole, but the pole won't be installed at that exact spot.

Informational only. No motions made.

Old Business:

Russell from Text My Gov participated in the meeting via phone to address questions raised by their council during September's discussion regarding enrollment in the Text My Gov program. His primary objective was to resolve any remaining inquiries or concerns about the app that Chantel was unable to address previously. Russell submitted a proposal detailing the app and the service package offered to the city, following which Mayor Blackford requested a summary of the proposal.

Russell explained that the system facilitates communication with the public on various issues, such as water leaks, vagrancy, road maintenance, and severe weather alerts. Notably, the platform does not require users to download and special applications or engage with social media; all messages are sent via text. Reports can be made directly through this channel.

He highlights that Text My Gov currently serves Dunn County and Killdeer, suggesting that Dunn Center could similarly benefit. Mayor Blackford inquired about alternative methods besides texting, expressing concern due to Dunn Center's significant senior population who may not utilize text messaging. In response, Russell noted the availability of a robocall option for non-text users, which would incur an additional annual cost of \$500 for the city. He also remarked that the initial setup fee had been waived and a modest discount provided.

Councilmember Medley asked whether the system supports multiple users or is restricted to a single user, and Russell clarified that it is a software solution rather than a typical app, allowing multiple council members to send notifications. When queried about opting exclusively for the robocall system, Russell indicated he would need to verify the feasibility, as this request had not been previously raised.

Questions were asked regarding message retention; Russell confirmed that communications are stored in the database for the duration of the city's subscription. Following these discussions, Russell departed to allow further internal deliberation.

Medley remarked that implementing the system could have addressed incidents, such as the trash can issue mentioned earlier, and believes it would enhance timely dissemination of important information. Ewer expressed support for adopting the service. Mayor Blackford sought input from Piatz, who stated he would not use the service due to his personal preference against text messaging. Medley reiterated the benefits of the robocall feature in such cases.

Mayor Blackford emphasized the predominance of seniors without cell phones in Dunn Center but proposed trialing the system for one year to evaluate its effectiveness. She suggested contacting LoAnn from the county to explore potential integration with their program or waiting to negotiate a more advantageous introductory offer to the city. Colton Medley motioned to table Text My Gov until the November regular meeting. Zachary Pavlicek 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

New Business:

Council had a motion in previous meeting that there is to be a weight box built for the loader. City maintenance, Jim Meeker, received a quote from Shadera Burian for \$1,100 and councilmember Medley received on for \$2,000. Meeker explained that Burian notified him that it would weigh around 5,600 lbs. Medley announced that his only weighs in at 4,000 lbs and asked Meeker if she is building hers bigger than the other. Meeker said it would measure 48x24x32 with 3" steel and that her price does include the labor. There was further discussion on weight and size of each box. Medley said that the vote is up to the rest

of the council. Blackford suggests that the council vote silently with Medley as #1 and Shadera as #2. Blackford distributed a piece of scratch paper for their vote. Shadera won the vote. Daniel Binek motioned to approve the bid from Shadera Burian at \$1,100. Jeremiah Ewer 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

Blackford proceeded to Apartment #6 on the agenda. Ewer updated the council, noting that he had conducted two walkthroughs of the apartment: one with the previous renter and another with Meeker. Ewer reported that the apartment was generally in decent condition but required deep cleaning, minor drywall repairs, painting, and carpet shampooing. Medley asked Meeker if he could handle the drywall work, but Meeker replied he would prefer to hire a professional for his own drywall needs and did not feel comfortable doing the repairs himself.

Blackford mentioned that she also visited the apartment independently and recommended painting all the walls a flat white, as she felt the current color made the walls and crown molding look dirty and dingy. Meeker suggested hiring a painter, while Ewer volunteered to do the painting, having handled similar tasks before. Blackford then asked Ewer if completing all repairs and painting within two weeks would be feasible before a new tenant moved in, and Ewer assured her it would not be a problem.

For the record, Blackford questioned Morris about whether the apartment had been advertised as available. Morris explained she was waiting for instructions to begin advertising until the walkthroughs were completed. Blackford recommended starting advertisements now and scheduling a special meeting for October 27, 2025, with a move-in date set for November 1. Jeremiah Ewer motioned for a two-week open application period to allow time for repairs and cleaning of Apartment #6, with tenants moving in on November 1. Blackford agreed to contact the professional carpet cleaner, but Meeker clarified that Ferra Meeker would clean the carpets during the apartment cleaning process. Daniel Binek 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

During the agenda item concerning street signs, Medley inquired about Meeker's progress on installing new signage throughout town. Meeker confirmed possession of the signs but noted they have not yet been installed. Medley referenced reports indicating that a recent accident was narrowly avoided due to the poor visibility of an existing yield sign. Subsequently, Medley queried Pavlicek regarding issues near his residence. Pavlicek reported that although there is a posted 25 mph speed limit sign, many motorists appear to disregard it, resulting in excessive speeds around the corner and down the street. He recommended that the city consider installing a radar speed sign as a deterrent.

Blackford raised a question pertaining to whether responsibility for the installation would rest with the city or the county. Medley explained that, while the county maintains the roadway up to the highway, the city retains ownership of the street up to the bridge, per an existing agreement. Medley suggested contacting the county for their input and possibly coordinating with the sheriff's department to increase monitoring for speeding in the area.

Meeker agreed to consult Mike Kerri of the county road crew regarding possible assistance with sign installation. Meeker verified Pavlicek's preference for a digital sign placement on the north side of the bridge. This discussion was informational only, and no motions were made. Medley further emphasized to Meeker the importance of promptly installing the new signs to mitigate safety risks and prevent potential legal liability for the city.

Medley inquired about fire hydrant resting, noting it hasn't been done this year as required. Meeker said the city engineer advised waiting until the current project is finished. He mentioned someone would visit the week of the 20th to demonstrate hydrant procedures and could also test them if needed. Medley asked why Meeker couldn't do it himself; Meeker replied he lacks expertise. Medley suggested asking the fire department for help. Some hydrants, like the one near Leo Piatz's residence, don't drain properly, highlighting the need for thorough inspections. Medley requested a spreadsheet to track repairs and emphasized the importance of professional reporting. Blackford stressed regular inspections, especially since they were missed in previous years, and advised Meeker to proceed where possible despite construction. Informational only. No motions made.

Maintenance:

Councilmember Medley had put a phone call into Conoco Phillips in Dunn Center to ask about getting sand for the roads when icy. Medley was informed that so long as Conoco is open then sand should not be a problem. Informational only. No motions made.

The new dozer has been ordered. Informational only. No motions made.

Blackford noted that residents sometimes leave brush for city maintenance to pick up for the town burn pit. She wants to continue this small-town service but requests residents understand the risks of city staff entering their property and that any damage should not be blamed on the city. Blackford suggested further planning is needed. Meeker proposed a monthly pick-up on the first Monday, While Medley recommended opening the burn pit one or two days a week with Meeker overseeing proper disposal. Informational only. No motions made.

Meeker and Medley presented quotes for the fence the city is building for Ivan Weeks. Meeker's quote is from SCH Construction, LLC for \$7,100 and Medley brought one from Travis Leech for \$6,500. Blackford told council to see SCH as #1 and Travis Leech as #2 and

make their silent vote on paper. #2-Travis Leech got the vote. Colton Medley motioned to approve the fence quote from #2-Travis Leech for \$6,500 with a hard cap of \$7,000. Zachary Pavlicek 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

Meetings:

Council agrees that all meetings attended are all compensated and accounted for. Informational only. No motions made.

Jeremiah Ewer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Colton Medley 2nd. All Ayes. M/c.

Next scheduled regular meeting will be held on Thursday November 13th, 2025, at 6 PM.

These minutes may be published subject to the governing body's reviews and revisions.

Auditor

Mayor

Chantel Morris

Shasta Blackford

Bills:

Salaries: \$12,527.83; Advanced Business Method \$68.83; AH Inc \$1,721.43; BEK Consulting \$1,512,192.63; Benz Oil \$2,123.95; BCBS \$3,539.41; Bobcat of Dickinson \$5,260.46; Bosch Lumber \$40.50; Bravera Bank \$2,582.70; Butler Machinery \$875.52; Consolidated \$362.67; Dakota Pump & Control \$584.00; Erica Crews \$50.00; Farra Meeker \$592.22; Hyalite Engineering \$89,371.11; KLJ Engineering LLC \$3,819.71; Lexis Nexis \$362.92; Mackoff Kellogg Law Firm \$37.50; MDU \$1,392.28; MGM Rural Sanitation \$3,031.62; Miss Rodeo ND \$4,627.00; ND One Call \$27.00; Prairie Auto Parts \$31.45; SW District Health Unit \$250.00; Western Choice Coop \$277.87.