

**Bridgewater City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2025 7:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Bridgewater met in the Council Room for their regular meeting on Monday 12/08/25. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Travis Holthaus. Answering roll call were Bob Anderson, Luke Burger, Tony Hofer, Travis Holthaus, and Alicen Strombeck. Others present: Finance Officers-Joan Julson & Kendra Julson, Maintenance-Todd Letcher, Jason Jaeger, Scott LaVoy - DGR, and Nick Palmer-SECOG.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Burger, second by Anderson to approve the agenda as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

No interested person came forward to apply for the Ward II or the Mayor position.

The minutes of last month's meetings were sent to the council for reading prior to the meeting. Motion by Anderson, second by Burger to approve the November 10th regular meeting minutes. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The November Financial statement was sent out to the council for reviewing prior to the meeting. After discussion, a motion was made by Burger, second by Hofer to approve the November Financial Statement. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

After reviewing the bills for the month of November, a motion was made by Anderson, second by Burger to approve the November bills for payment. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report by Letcher 1) been doing snow removal 2) water leak has no change, still continuing to monitor it 3) Dewalt tools are original, the batteries won't stay charged, looking at replacing them.

Public Input: Jason Jaeger thanked Letcher for getting on the snow removal right away once it's done snowing. He also was wondering why the last DGR representative said there was \$3.8 million of grant money, but it was too much money for the project. He was wondering how much is too much for the size of the project. Scott LaVoy- DGR said when the report for the project is put together, it is submitted to DANR. A funding package is put together. Holthaus also mentioned that some of the funding package we had required a local match. We had to make sure the city could make the match.

Holthaus made the announcement that Joan Julson has been selected as the Rural Water Municipal Office Person of the Year. The award ceremony is on January 13th, in Pierre. No more input and President Holthaus moved on.

Storm Sewer: Scott LaVoy -DGR gave the update that the project is complete. We have received all but two final paperwork documents. Scott went over the Liquidated Damages, the contractor accepts \$209,100 in Liquidated Damages. Motion by Strombeck, second by Burger to approve change order #5. All present voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Strombeck, second by Burger to approve and sign Pay Application #17 and final for H&W Contracting LLC in the amount of \$268,641.53. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Ambulance: Motion by Burger, second by Hofer to allow 2 EMT's to attend the SD Ambulance Association Annual Conference in February 2026. All voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Anderson, second by Burger to write off Medicare/Medicaid/Insurance assignment & uncollectable balances of \$29,357.47. All present voted aye. Motion carried. (Total charges were \$68,096.07 less payments of \$38738.60 leaving an assignment/uncollectable balance of \$29,357.47. This does include a few old balances that have been deemed uncollectable. (It was noted that in accepting payment from Medicare or Medicaid we must accept what Medicare or Medicaid says the bill should be. In turn for getting paid by Medicare and/or Medicaid, we must also agree not to charge these amounts to the patient and consequently must write these amounts off.)

Law Enforcement: November's report was received and noted.

Parks & Rec: Strombeck announced that the Bridgewater Splash Pad project was selected to be funded by the LWCF grant of \$55,064. This is match for match so we will need to do some fundraising. Hoping to get the community involved to get the funds for this. Holthaus thanked Strombeck for her hard work on getting this going.

Building Permits: Dennis Hofer - remodeling. A motion by Anderson, second by Burger to approve the building permit. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Municipal Ordinance Revision with SECOG: Nick Palmer discussed Ordinance Title 5. He will be present at the February 9th meeting.

Motion by Burger, second by Hofer to set June 2nd as 2026 Election date, according to Ordinance 1.0202. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Seats up this year: 2 yr – Mayor, Ward I, II (1yr & 2yr) & III Council seats (Strombeck, Anderson, & Burger)

Motion was made by Burger, second by Anderson to write off GF- \$3,952, Water- \$1,649.60, Sewer- \$2,816.90, and Garbage - \$54.06. All present voted aye. Motion carried. It was noted that these were properties that had been acquired by the City and/or agreed to be written off.

Motion by Burger, second by Hofer to move the January meeting to January 7th. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Burger, second by Anderson to allow Kendra's 2025 Vacation to be used in 2026. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Anderson, second by Burger to set aside in reserves - \$500 to sewer repair & maintenance, \$5000 for ambulance and \$5000 for firetruck. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hofer, second by Burger to go into Executive Session for SDCL 1-25-2.4 for employee reviews & negotiations. All voted aye. Motion carried. Time 8:36 pm. President Holthaus declared executive session over at 9:04 pm.

Motion by Burger, second by Anderson to give a \$1.02 per hour increase for Letcher, \$3.00 per hour increase for K. Julson effective 1/1/26 as well as set the pay rate of \$30.00 per hour for J. Julson as a part time/temporary FO help. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Burger, second by Hofer to raise the council annual base pay by \$150 and the meeting pay by \$50 effective 1/1/26. All voted aye. Motion carried. It was noted that the council pay has not been changed since 2022.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Burger, second by Anderson to adjourn. Motion carried. Time 9:22 pm.

Next regular meeting is Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Travis Holthaus – Council President

Joan M Julson – Finance Officer

Claims:

Payroll by Dept.: Finance Office 2312.52; Water 2008.47; Sewer 2430.62; Ambulance: 7801.18; Liquor 525.83; Streets 1339.28; Parks 500.77; Fire 97.43; Dump 90.93; Storm Sewer 571.56

EFTPS – November payroll taxes 6656.78; SDRS – employee & city match of retirement 1304.36;

Supplies: Ace Hardware – shop supply 43.16; Auto Value – skidsteer air filter, oil, oil filter, plow truck heater 371.93; CHS – pumphouse propane 420.00; Hofer, Robin - ambulance gas reimbursement (credit card statement) 248.47; Julson, Joan – shop & mowing gas (credit card statement) 90.05; Menards – mostly fire dept., some skidsteer, and rebate credit 38.03; Meyer Motor – Fire Dept. oil, filter, labor 37.54; Runnings – shop supplies 41.26; Stern – propane 356.33; Total Stop – fire dept. fuel 120.46;

Repairs & Maintenance: Anderson Trucking – snow removal 11/30/25 1475.00;

Beer and Liquor: (paid in November & reimbursed by The North 40) Beal Distributing, Inc. 824.35; Dakota Beverage 241.90; Johnson Brothers of SD 377.18; Republic National Distributing Co 117.00;

Miscellaneous: A&B Business Inc – lease agreement for copier 96.47; Bridgewater Development – donation 500.00; Lechner, Josh 100.98; McCook County – Contracted Law Enforcement monthly payment 2600.00; Nordwald Rentals – January rent (Payable 01/01/25) 400.00; Public Health Laboratory – water testing 20.00; RBS Sanitation Inc – November garbage pickup 3420.00; RBS Sanitation Inc – November dumpster fees (Legion Hall, Firehall, Shop) 195.00; SD State Treasurer– November garbage, etc. sales tax 300.68; SD 811 – 5 faxed locates in November 5.60; Smith, Marcia – firehall rental payment

reimbursed 100.00; The Special/New Century Press – November publishing 112.51; Two Way Solutions Inc. – Fire Dept. programmed radios 1950.00;

Utilities: (paid in November midmonth) Golden West 311.56; Hanson Rural Water 5411.03; Xcel Energy 1932.99;

Insurance: AFLAC – reimbursed by employees (ACH) 391.98; Health Pool of SD – health ins 4707.62; Julson, Joan – monthly Medicare, Supplement & Part D reimbursement 837.25; SDML Workers' Comp Fund – 2026 Renewal 2946.00;

Professional: H&W Contracting LLC – Storm Sewer Project Phase 2 - 268641.53;

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