

CITY OF PARK RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA, PUBLIC HEARING MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 5:15 PM.

Published Subject to the Governing Body's Review and Revision

Vice President Cory Seim called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. A/DA Berg conducted roll call, confirming the presence of Councilmembers Ken Gillespie (by phone), Leah Skjerven, Jordan Hollingsworth, Dennis Kubat and Corri Bell. Absent: Mayor Kyle Halvorson. A quorum was established. City Attorney (CA) Dusting Slaamod, Public Works Director PWD Dee Jay Johnson City Coordinator/City Auditor CC/CA Nancy Thompson and Assessor/Deputy Auditor (A/DA) Ann Berg. Others present: Eugene Bossert, Myron "Happy" Seeba, Allison Olimb-WC Press, Ashley Seim, and Joseph Fietek.

C/A Slaamod informed those present the reason for the public hearing was to hear if there are any comments for or against the pre-liminary 100-acre Hillcrest Resubdivision survey approved at the December 8, 2025 Council meeting.

Myron "Happy" Seeba, Commander of the Park River American Legion, asked if the road leading to the Legion Coliseum could be changed from Legion Drive to Coliseum Drive?

C/A Slaamod informed the Council the engineers would need to be contacted to make the change, the updated plat available for review by the public and a new public hearing advertised.

Bell moved and Gillespie seconded to change the name from Legion Drive to Coliseum Drive. Upon roll call vote, all present voted aye. M/C.

Being no further business, Skjerven moved to adjourn at 5:20 PM.

ATTEST:

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Ann Berg, Assessor/Deputy Auditor

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Cory Seim, Council Vice President

**CITY OF PARK RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 5:30 PM.**

Published Subject to the Governing Body's Review and Revision

The City of Park River held their regular meeting of the Park River City Council on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Vice President Cory Seim called the meeting to order. A/DA Berg conducted roll call, confirming the presence of Councilmembers Ken Gillespie (by phone), Leah Skjerven, Jordan Hollingsworth, Dennis Kubat and Corri Bell. Absent: Mayor Kyle Halvorson. A quorum was established. City Attorney (CA) Dusting Slaamod, Public Works Director PWD Dee Jay Johnson, City Coordinator/City Auditor CC/CA Nancy Thompson and Assessor/Deputy Auditor (A/DA) Ann Berg. Others present: Eugene Bossert, Myron "Happy" Seeba, Allison Olimb-WC Press, Ashley Seim, and Joseph Fietek.

Additions or Changes to Agenda: Two additions were made under the City Attorney section: residency check for council members and committee assignment for Hollingsworth.

Comments From Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Skjerven, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Regular Council with the following correction to the canvassing board portion: Change the date from November 15th to December 15th. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Auditors and Assessors Reports: CC/CA Thompson distributed Statements of Interest forms to council members, explaining new legislation requires all council members, park district members, and municipal judges to file these forms annually in January.

CC/CA Thompson presented the general fund and municipal utilities for a total of \$300,635.32. Debt Service Fund totaled \$34,556.39. Moved by Bell and seconded by Hollingsworth to approve payment of the following bills. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

**General Fund & Municipal Utilities:** 39866-Bonny Dvorak-250.00 67-Katie Johnson-250.00 68-Cardmember Services-1,736.50 69-Jet-Way Multiple Services-10,310.00 39870-Rainbow Auto Body-124.17 71-Postmaster-450.79 72-Advanced Engineering &-715.00 73-Void -0.00 74-Cannon Technologies Inc-19,111.00 75-Cardmember Services-988.95 76-CNH Industrial Accounts-440.22 77-Consolidated Waste, LTD.-20,659.00 78-East Side Garage-118.00 79-Grand Forks Utility Billing-52.00 39880-Brandon Houser-250.00 81-Jim's Super Valu-167.45 82-Kringstad Ironworks INC-873.28 83-Legend Technical Services Inc-5,785.00 84-Leon's Building Center, Inc-145.26 85-Montana Dakota Utilities-2,236.88 86-MMUA-9,133.75 87-MFOA OF ND-120.00 88-ND Dept of Environmental Quality-305.86 89-Newman Traffic Signs-402.29 39890-Northdale Oil, Inc-2,520.47 91-North Star Coop-1,492.72 92-Owen Software Innovations LLC-100.00 93-Park River Hardware-189.65 94-Polar Communications-1,136.07 95-PR Community Club-37.30 96-Quill Corporation-41.97 97-Riteway Business Forms-969.78 98-Samson Electric LTD-3,231.76 99-US Bank Equipment Finance-110.91 39900-Vanguard Appraisals, Inc-275.00 1-Verizon Wireless-159.45 2-Water Treatment Fund-11,156.64 3-Wayne's Variety-143.64 4-Walsh County Auditor-30,840.97 5-Walsh County Press-350.67 6-Walsh County Treasurer-3,141.45 7-WC Water Resource District-12,035.87 8-WSI-2,583.31 9-Animal Elskan Inn, LLC-140.00 10652-71-Salaries-23,555.46 10672-Erickson, Andrew J-969.67 10673-86 -Void-0.00 10687-701 -Salaries-17,587.25 AW-US Treasury-18,604.10 AW-BC/BS of North Dakota-17,359.42 AW-First United Bank-23.15 AW-First United Bank-WD CD-50,000.00 AW-First United Bank-NSF PS-UB-94.47 AW-First United Bank-NSF LTX-UB-777.22 AW-First United Bank-NSF VD-UB-285.00 AW-NDPERS-4.04 AW-NDPERS-688.30 AW-NDPERS-688.30 AW-NDPERS-5,131.59 AW-NMPA-168,403.80 AW-PR Airport Authority-426.43 AW-PR Airport Authority-18.48 AW-PR Airport Authority-568.24 AW-PR Airport Authority-670.16 AW-PR Park District-1,137.15 AW-PR Park District-369.97 AW-PR Public Library-917.36 AW-PR Public Library-426.23 AW-PR Public Library-18.48 AW-PR Public Library-568.24 AW-PR Public Library-670.15 AW-Premium Processing-331.81 AW-PSN -54.95 AW-PSN-Contract-89.00 AW-PSN-CC Mach-575.00  
**Special Funds:** -10248-AE2S-600.00 **Debt Service & Bond Fund:** - 006466 -First United Bank-9,497.75

CC/CA Thompson presented the financial reports. Moved by Hollingsworth and seconded by Kubat to approve the financials into record.

A/DA Berg reported preliminary findings on the asbestos testing showed the vent in the furnace room has 90% asbestos wrapped around it and floor tiles under the carpeting throughout the building contain 2% asbestos. No asbestos was found in any walls, drywall, compound, paint, or other flooring. In the attic above the old asphalt roof below the tin roof, the north half of the building from east to west is wet, possibly due to frozen gutters, but no mold or asbestos was detected.

CC/CA Thompson explained that in even years, the council must approve the banks used for city funds. Motion to approve Citizens, First United, and Gate City as depositories made by Kubat, seconded by Bell. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

C/A Slaamod reported the 100 acres survey was addressed earlier with nothing to discuss at this time.

C/A Slaamod explained that in 1996, the city sold property north of Park River at the old landfill to Richard Lien. However, the deed was never recorded. Slaamod noted there is no legal description for the property in the records, and a survey is needed to create one so the deed can be recorded. Slaamod estimated the survey could cost \$1,500-2,000 for the approximately 14-acre parcel. He recommended the city pay for this as it was the city's responsibility to complete the transaction properly at the time. Motion to engage a surveyor to prepare a legal description for the property sold to Richard Lien made by Skjerven, seconded by Gillespie. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

C/A Slaamod conducted the residency check for all council members, confirming they all live within their respective wards. Hollingsworth was formally appointed to the committee positions previously held by Erickson (Employee Relations and Contracts and Policies

committees). Motion to appoint Hollingsworth to the Employee Relations and Contracts and Policies committees made by Bell, seconded by Kubat. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C

PWD Johnson briefly mentioned that the digger truck recently sold for slightly more than \$16,000.

PWD Johnson reported an issue with a house on Code Ave S where utilities need to be shut off, but they cannot locate the curb stop. The house is vacant, and there are concerns about water lines freezing and bursting if the heat is turned off. Options discussed included: digging up the line and installing a new curb stop (estimated cost around \$10,000) or trying to keep the heat on to prevent freezing. The council discussed liability concerns, noting that if the lines freeze and burst, they would need to shut off the main water line, causing water loss. Slaamod suggested he would investigate legal options and work with Johnson. The council agreed to table the decision until they can get answers from MDU about the status of the utilities and legal advice from Slaamod with the possibility of a special meeting if necessary.

PWD Johnson also informed the council that Mike Kilmer, who has fixed all water and sewer breaks for the past 30 years, has retired. Chad Torlakson from Cavalier has agreed to help, but response time will be longer. Johnson noted this could be an opportunity for someone local to take over this service.

PWD Johnson discussed the need for salt storage. They currently share with the county, but during freezing rain events, salt becomes scarce. They need to find a location on city property to build a small storage structure that could hold a semi-load of salt.

The council agreed to table the following: live streaming of council meetings until the building situation is resolved, as there's no point in setting up livestreaming if the city offices might be renovated due to the asbestos and moisture issues and Text My Gov until Halvorson returns, as he was leading these initiatives.

*Committees: Sales Tax:* A/DA Berg reported the sales tax receipts for the month were \$42,375.40, which is up 3.21% or \$8,284.13 year-to-date with year-to-date collections of City of Park River \$257,786.41, Hospital \$257,786.41 and Park District \$86,712.98. The Sales Tax Committee had previously approved funding for surveying the 100 acres up to \$20,000. The bill of \$600 requires council approval for payment. Motion by Bell, seconded by Skjerven, to approve the sales tax report and payment of \$600 for surveying to AE2S. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye.

*Airport Authority:* A/DA Berg reported the floor heat is holding the temperature steady in the building.

*Bike Path Committee:* Bell reported the committee had not met.

*PR Community Club:* Thompson reported the next event will be the gala on February 28th, themed as a "Speakeasy" this year with prizes for best-dressed attendees. The spring extravaganza (formerly the Easter event) is scheduled for March 28th. A cornhole league will begin on January 28th, with sign-ups through Lori Seim.

*PR Eco Dev Corp:* Olimb reported no meeting was held in December with January 28<sup>th</sup> as the next meeting date. The home at 116 North Star Drive sale has closed. An open house might be scheduled for the remaining home. They are still working on getting bids for the mayoral park project they have planned.

*PR Park Board:* President Ashley Seim requested that meetings be scheduled to discuss leases, particularly with the 100 acres development moving forward. She emphasized that these discussions should begin now so they can be completed before spring. She also reported on a meeting with State Representative Dave Monson regarding state funding for the community center. While no funding will be available until 2027, he will start discussions with colleagues on January 20th. He indicated a push to direct more funding to rural communities and the eastern side of the state.

*Public Library:* The PRASD Library will resume Saturday story time this weekend and a board meeting is scheduled for next week.

*Ward and Mayor Comments:* Hollingsworth mentioned a citizen requested to have meeting agendas posted on Facebook or the city website prior to meetings. City Administration confirmed that agendas are already posted on the website when they are sent out to council members on the Friday before meetings.

*New Business:* There have been incidents of residents blowing snow from their driveways into the street, creating hazards. CA Slaamod confirmed that an existing ordinance already prohibits this as a nuisance that obstructs public streets. The council agreed to send reminders to residents not to blow snow into streets and to post a reminder on Facebook.

*Schedule Any Needed Committee Meetings:* The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM and Contracts and Policies Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM.

Kubat moved to adjourn at 6:32 PM.

ATTEST:

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Ann Berg, Assessor/Deputy Auditor

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Cory Seim, Council Vice President