

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

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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, Leah Skjerven, Jordan Hollingsworth, Cory Seim, Dennis Kubat and Corri Bell. Absent: None. A quorum was established. Also present: 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: Allison Olimb-WC Press, Myron "Happy" Seeba, Joseph Fietek, Eugene Bossert and Misty Praska.

C/A Slaamod informed those present the reason for the public hearing was to hear if there are any comments for or against the updated 100-acre Hillcrest Resubdivision survey plat approved at the January 12, 2026 Council meeting.

Myron "Happy" Seeba, Commander of the Park River American Legion, mentioned he went out and measured from the Legion Coliseum building to the proposed north boundary line. The Lot 3 measurement was about 60' and that would barely leave any room for parking. He asked if the property line could be moved further north taking away from Lot 2. It was noted the city's lease agreement with the Legion does not expire until December.

C/A Slaamod informed the Council they could accept the plat "as is" or have the engineers resurvey the area, make the change, update the plat, make it available for review by the public and a new public hearing advertised. Hollingsworth felt rather than bear the cost of resurveying the area an agreement could be made. Slaamod mentioned the possibility of a parking easement on Lot 2.

Hollingsworth moved and Bell seconded to approve the plat as currently presented. Upon roll call vote, all present voted aye. M/C.

Being no further business, Skjerven moved to adjourn at 5:32 PM.  
ATTEST:

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Ann Berg, Assessor/Deputy Auditor

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Kyle Halvorson, Mayor

**CITY OF PARK RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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, February 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kyle Halvorson called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. A/DA Berg conducted roll call, confirming the presence of Councilmembers Ken Gillespie, Leah Skjerven, Jordan Hollingsworth, Cory Seim, Dennis Kubat and Corri Bell. Absent: None. A quorum was established. Also present: City Attorney (CA) Dusing 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: Allison Olimb-WC Press, Joseph Fietek, Eugene Bossert, Misty Praska, Ashley Seim and Patty Dahlen.

Mayor Halvorson asked for additions or changes to the agenda. Added item #3, under Unfinished Business-City Office Building and Ordinance 27.H.2 policy to the City Attorney section as item #3.

No comments from citizens were presented.

The council reviewed the minutes from the January 12, 2026 regular meeting and public hearing. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Hollingsworth, seconded by Skjerven. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Approval of Payments and Financials: CC/CA Thompson presented the municipal and general fund payments totaling \$219,005.99. Debt service payments totaling \$23,711.25, included an interest payment to Zion Bank for the water tower and water distribution improvement project and a payment to Canon Technologies for the ARM project. Motion to approve the payments was made by Kubat, seconded by Hollingsworth. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

**General Fund & Municipal Utilities:** 39910 Postmaster 526.56; 39911 Void 0.00; 12 Alexis Ramsrud 75.00; 13 Animal Elskan Inn, LLC 280.00; 14 Border States Electric Supply 69.98; 15 Cardmember Services 2,483.47; 16 CNH Industrial Accounts 440.20; 17 Consolidated Waste LTD. 20,549.00; 18 Dale Pecka 1,020.00; 19 Fleming DuBois & Fleming PLLP 5,652.98; 39920 Grand Forks Utility Billing 52.00; 21 Brandon Houser 187.50; 22 Kringstad Ironworks INC 1,056.20; 23 Leon Lenins 3.35; 24 Leon's Building Center Inc. 88.12; 25 Montana Dakota Utilities 1,881.12; 26 North Central International LLC 280.93; 27 Northdale Oil Inc. 1,111.30; 28 North Star Coop 998.16; 29 Park River Hardware 9.99; 39930 Polar Communications 1,135.96; 31 PR Community Club 600.00; 32 US Bank Equipment Finance 102.15; 33 Verizon Wireless 106.00; 34 Water Treatment Fund 10,812.00; 39935 Walsh County Press 322.35; 10702-27 Salaries 30,871.93; AW US Treasury 9,671.50; AW BC/BS of North Dakota 14,420.10; AW Colonial Life 331.81; AW First United Bank 23.05; AW Main Street Checks 46.76; AW Municipal Utilities 640.00; AW NDPERS 4.04; AW NDPERS 700.80; AW NDPERS 700.80; AW NDPERS 5,277.75; AW NMPA 168,606.96; AW PSN 69.95; **Special Funds:** 10249 PR Comm Dev Corp 471.41; 10250 PR Comm Dev Corp 17,500.00; **Debt Service & Bond Fund:** 6467 Border States Electric Supply 32,226.79; 6468 Cannon Technologies Inc. 2,329.60; 6469 Cannon Technologies Inc. 2,200.00; and 6470 Zions Bank 21,511.25.

CC/CA Thompson presented the end-of-year statements of distributions and receipts, which showed beginning balances for 2025, receipts, disbursements, and ending balances for all funds including debt service funds. This report will be published in the newspaper as required by ND Century Code. Motion to approve the end-of-year statement was made by Hollingsworth, seconded by Kubat. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

C/CA Thompson then presented the financial reports, including the cash balance report and the profit and loss statement. Motion to approve the financials as presented was made by Skjerven, seconded by Bell. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Berg, as assessor, reported that property sales this year greatly exceeded assessment values. The city had been running at about 92-96% of sales values in previous years, but this year are at 86%. She explained that while some other communities are looking at almost 20% increases, Park River is looking at approximately an 8% increase. Some property values will increase; some will decrease due to depreciation and others will stay the same. The council noted the primary tax credit had increased from \$500 to \$1,600, which would help many residents.

100 Acres Survey/Map: CA Slaamod reported that there was nothing new to discuss regarding the 100-acre survey or map.

Park Board Lease/City Land: CA Slaamod reported on a meeting with the Contracts and Policies Committee last week regarding the PR Park District lease and city land. The park district is submitting a notice to quit on all parks they don't own and would like to see some of the current parkland deeded to them, excluding the pool (lot 5) and (lot 7) (referred to as the "dog park").

The council extensively discussed whether to continue with a lease agreement or to deed certain parcels to the park district. Concerns were raised about what would happen if future development opportunities arose, particularly for lot 7 and lot 2, which have potential for housing development due to existing infrastructure.

CA Slaamod explained that if land was deeded to the park district and they later abandoned it or were abolished, the land would revert to the city. However, he raised concerns about what would happen if the park district mortgaged any of these properties for the planned community center and later defaulted, which could put the city in a position of having to buy back the land.

After considerable discussion, the council began reviewing a proposed lease agreement line by line, making several modifications:

Section 1. Changed legal descriptions based on the new survey named Hillcrest Resubdivision, with Exhibit A leasing lots 2 (baseball and softball diamonds) and 4 (wooded land along the river), and the following parks, Loughhead, Village Green and Veterans; Exhibit B precluded Lots 1-Golf Course, 3-Legion Coliseum and 6-FCHC parking lot with current leases and with lots 7 (dog park) and 5 (swimming pool) possibly coming back to the City. Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Seim to accept the changes as outlined above. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Section 2. Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Seim to change the lease term from 5 years to 99 years. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Section 2. Added abandonment or abolishment clauses as follows: Either party may terminate this lease agreement, for cause, in addition to the material term delineated further in the agreement, for either abolishment of the park district, abandonment of the leased premises, excessive and repeated damages, public need as defined as any governmental taking under North Dakota law and/or force majeure by written notice delivered to the other no less than 1 (one) year prior to the date upon which termination is to become effective. Motion by Bell, seconded by Gillespie to approve the above clause as written. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Section 2. Motion by Bell, seconded by Hollingsworth to remove the last sentence dictating automatic renewal and termination of lease. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Due to the complexity of the lease terms, the council ultimately tabled further discussion to allow for a joint meeting with the park board. Motion by Bell and seconded by Gillespie to table the lease agreement until the Park District portion of the agenda. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

Ashley Seim from the Park River Park Board informed the council they would be giving their 30-day notice on the current lease arrangements. She explained this was not because they wanted to abandon the properties but because they felt discussions had been delayed too long and they wanted to ensure the issue would be resolved before another mowing season began without compensation for their maintenance work.

Ordinance 27H: CA Slaamod presented a policy for locating, operating, and maintaining water curb stops. The policy was developed in response to a property with delinquent utility payments where staff couldn't locate the curb stop to shut off water. The policy clarifies: 1.) The city will locate curb stops at no charge upon request from property owners or contractors, with a \$50 fee for subsequent requests; 2.) Property owners are responsible for maintaining curb stops and keeping them accessible; 3.) The city will operate curb stops upon request in specific situations, but won't assume the cost of repairs that may be required and 4.) If a property owner fails to make necessary repairs, the city may make repairs and bill the owner. Motion by Hollingsworth to approve the curb stop policy, seconded by Gillespie. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

**CITY OF PARK RIVER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
POLICY FOR LOCATING, OPERATING & MAINTAINING WATER CURB STOPS**

Purpose: Establish procedures for locating, operating and maintaining water curb stops for City water users.

Presented to City Council: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026      Adopted by City Council: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Basis: Ordinance 27.h.2 Sec.1      Effective Date: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

1. Locating Curb Stops:

The City will locate curb stops for City utility customers at no charge in the following circumstances:

- In response to a North Dakota One-Call dispatch. The locate will be performed within the time period prescribed by North Dakota Century Code;
- In response to a direct request from the owner of the property or from the owner's contractor. The locate will normally be performed within one working day from receipt of the request and only during normal working hours.
- In response to a request for an emergency locate. The locate will be performed as quickly as possible. (An emergency is defined as a situation where property damage is occurring or is imminent due to the water service line being live from the main to the structure and the inside shut-off is inoperable.)

The property owner shall provide assistance in providing exploratory excavation or snow/ice removal to expose the curb stop if it is buried.

City staff will coordinate with the property owner to schedule the locate at a time when the owner or owner's representative can assist, but the City will not assume responsibility for exposing buried curb stops.

When a curb stop has been located, it is the responsibility of the property owner to take measurements from fixed points of reference, mark the curb stop, or use other means to allow the curb stop to be located without further City assistance.

For all subsequent locate requests by the same property owner or contractor, the City will bill for actual costs incurred, but not less than \$50 per locate, and will perform the locate as staff schedules allow.

2. Maintenance of Curb Stops

- Per Ordinance 27.h.2, Section 1, the property owner, at their expense, shall keep in good repair and protected from frost all service lines, curb stops, and other fixtures from the water main to the point of use.
- The property owner shall maintain the curb box in good alignment and keep it clear of obstructions, including debris, immobile and inoperable vehicles pavement, cement or other impervious materials so that the curb stop can be operated whenever necessary.

3. Operating Curb Stops:

The City will operate curb stops upon request of the property owner in the following situations, but only when the curb box is in good alignment and clear of obstructions and the curb stop is in good working order:

- In response to notification by the property owner that the property has become vacant. (A fee as prescribed by the Schedule of Fees will be charged to reactivate service to the property.)

- In emergencies as defined in Section 1 above.

In all other situations the property owner shall obtain the services of a licensed contractor to operate the curb stop.

4. Damages and Repairs to Curb Stops:

When operating curb stops, the City will take all reasonable precautions to avoid damages to the curb stop, curb box and service line, but will not assume costs of repairs that may be required due to operation of the curb stop.

In the event that repairs are necessary to stop water leaks or make the curb stop operational, and the property owner fails to make the repairs within a reasonable period of time, the City may make the repairs and bill the property owner for costs incurred.

The City may operate curb stops for non-payment of services or for water being wasted. If the curb stop is not accessible or in good working order, and the City finds it necessary to excavate or align the curb box, clear it of obstructions, or make any other repairs in order to operate the curb stop and protect City Infrastructure, the City may bill the property owner for the actual costs incurred.

5. Other Matters

- City staff shall not enter flooded basements or crawl spaces to shut off water in any circumstances.

ATTEST TO:

CITY OF PARK RIVER:

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Nancy Thompson, Auditor

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Kyle Halvorson, Mayor

**Public Works:** PWD Johnson reported that he had found a solution to store sand in the north building, which would save the city \$10,000-\$20,000 compared to building a new storage shed. He also proposed installing a natural gas furnace in the old part of the north building to avoid having to fill water from a hydrant during winter, which could cost \$4,000-\$5,000. Additionally, he mentioned that they needed to repair a blown seal on pump 2 in the main lift station.

**Unfinished/Old Business:** Live Streaming City Council Meetings-The council briefly discussed live streaming council meetings. It was determined that the existing equipment could support streaming through Teams or Zoom with minimal additional cost, requiring only a license and using the room camera for video. However, the council agreed it might make sense to wait until after any office renovations before implementing streaming.

The council discussed the Text My Gov service, which would provide both outgoing notifications and incoming messages. Council members noted this would be an additional method of communication beyond the existing website, Facebook, and Living Local app. Given the high cost (approximately \$4,000 per year) and the duplication of existing communication channels, the council decided to not add Text My Gov to city social media already in place.

**City Office Building:** Gillespie reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on February 2nd to discuss issues with the city office building, including asbestos contamination primarily in the flooring and in a furnace wrap. Legend Technologies provided an estimate of approximately \$36,000 to remediate these issues. There may also be asbestos insulation in the cement block walls. A detached furnace exhaust may be the reason for moisture issues in the attic with the possibility of exhaust fumes backing up into the building. The council discussed options including renovating the current building, purchasing another building or moving to another city-owned property. They acknowledged that regardless of what decision is made about the future of the building, the asbestos remediation would need to be addressed. The council authorized CC/CA Thompson to contact carpenters, HVAC and plumbers to get estimates for potential renovations that would address the building's issues, including the asbestos, heating/air quality problems, bathroom and workspace configuration needs.

**Committees:** *Sales Tax:* A/DA Berg presented the sales tax report stating the city's share was \$23,039.08, down 6.14% (\$1,415.14) from last year. Fund balances were: Economic Development Fund - \$448,112.08; Capital Improvements - \$694,732.38; Interest - \$913.31; for a fund total of \$1,143,757.77 (not including \$200,000 in CDs for each capital improvement and economic development fund). Berg also reported that fourth quarter online sales tax collections were \$19,990, with the total received of \$57,640 for the year an increase of approximately \$7,364 from the previous year.

The Sales Tax Committee recommended the following expenditures for approval: \$10,000 to PR Economic Development Corporation for two Spark homes incentives (\$5,000 each), \$7,500 for yearly operating expense for PR Economic Development Corporation, Bank of North Dakota loan payments for the Green Acres Addition infrastructure with each payment of \$17,423.35 due in May and November 2026. Motion by Skjerven to approve the sales tax report and approve payments as noted above and seconded by Bell. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

*Airport:* A/DA Berg reported that the airport had applied for a grant of \$22,000 from leftover CARES Act funding.

*Bike Path:* No updates were reported.

*PR Community Club:* The Community Club representative reported that the gala was scheduled for February 28, and the spring extravaganza would be held in March. They are currently fundraising and seeking gift bike sponsors and event sponsors.

*PR Dev Corp:* The Development Corporation reported they are completing final touches on two houses, with siding looking good. They will be installing sidewalks for the two houses this summer in accordance with city ordinance. Two people are currently interested in the remaining Spark build, and a family has moved into the other Spark home.

The storefront improvement grant program continues, with some restrictions removed to allow multiple applications. Several Main Street businesses have made improvements ranging from paint to complete siding remodels.

There was discussion about a for sale sign for Green Acres Addition property lots that had apparently blown away or been removed. *PR Park District:* The council returned to this topic after tabling the lease discussion earlier in the meeting. Ashley Seim from the park board read a formal notice to quit dated February 9, 2026, which served as formal written notice of the park board's intent to terminate its month-to-month lease with the City of Park River. The notice applied to Village Green, Veterans Park, Loughhead Park, parcels 2, 4, 5, and 7 of the hundred acres, and the east side bike path. A Seim emphasized: "We have no intention of truly stopping. I mean, we want to work together. We just are trying to ensure for our safety here that we're not on the hook for another mowing season that is gonna receive no compensation." After discussion about logistics, the group agreed to schedule a joint meeting.

*PR Public Library:* Berg reported that the library continues to hold its Saturday reading program, which is particularly convenient for parents who have other children in figure skating.

*Ward and Mayors Comments:* The Mayor thanked everyone for their hard work in the office, plant, and on the council, noting that their time and effort are appreciated even when not always recognized.

New Businesses: No new business was presented.

Schedule Any Needed Committee Meetings: A meeting between the Contracts and Policies Committee and representatives from the Park Board was scheduled for February 12 at 5:30 PM to continue discussion of the lease agreement.

Motion to adjourn was made by Skjerven at 7:52 PM.

ATTEST:

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Ann Berg, Assessor/Deputy Auditor

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Kyle Halvorson, Mayor