

City of Gary, South Dakota  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Gary City Hall

The Gary City Council met in session on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Gary City Hall.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mayor Larry Stoks presided. Aldermen Neil Schumacher, Mike Nosbush, Jay Grabow, Jessica Christians, Darwyn Engesser were present. Doug Nelson was absent. Also present, Joni Kjelden, Austin Crocker, Robin Lanners, David Peterson, Marlene Schumacher, Jim Kellen, David Mercer, Rod & Patty Meadors, Jeff Nordseth, Perry & Marlene Andrews, Pat Sears, Albert Bekaert, Bev Koeppen, John Deslauriers, Marilyn Koeppen, Lisa Knopik, Karen Keimig, Linda Weir, Jerry Tongen, Tammy Odette, Gary Hudiburgh, Corey Stoks, Chad & Nikki Giese, Craig Stone, Mel Borg, Mary Nosbush, Judy Heth, Lori Nosbush, Jodie Engesser, Rachel Hinsvark and Reed Mahlke.

Motion by Engesser, second by Nosbush to approve the agenda as written. All voting aye; carried.

Motion by Schumacher, second by Engesser to approve the minutes of the December 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. All voting aye; carried.

**General- December 2025 Bills**-Rangaard Electric-library lighting-158.32

**Wastewater-November 2025 Bills**-D&G Excavating-construction-400,355.53;Helms & Associates-mtg prep,observation-36,623.28; **December 2025 Bills**-D&G Excavating-construction-65,295.62,Helms & Associates-mtg prep observation-24,617.59.

**General-January 2026 Bills**

Finance Office-1,959.92,Streets-3,875.97;Library-700.92;Fire Dept-79.80;Water-1,177.69;Sewer-1,177.77;Aflac-Dec premium-165.64;AT&T-data connect-44.69;Austin Crocker-cell phone-25.00;Avid Hawk, LLC-yearly website service-540.00;Bjerke Sanitation-Dec & Jan garbage-5,168.55;BDRW-401,000 gallons-1,578.25;City of Gary-firehall-wsg-89.62,city hall-garbage & surcharges-168.20;Clear Lake Courier-proceedings, notices-123.30;DCSO-law enforcement-605.90;DNB National Bank-ach UB fee-14.97;EFTPS/941 tax-FWT-478.80,OASI-1,452.42;First Bank & Trust-credit card-113.04;First District-membership dues-409.77;Gary Post Office-stamps-100.00;Glacial Lakes & Prairies Tourism-membership-240.00;HD Electric-cemetery electricity-62.44;Helsper, McCarty, & Rasmussen, PC-December attorney fees-1,987.50;ITC-phone,internet,fax-53.45,Library-DSL-98.35;Milbank Winwater-4-7' curbstops-335.56;Ottertail Power Co-electricity-698.04;Sean Anderson-water deposit refund-18.40;SD DANR-applicators renewal fee-35.00;SD Dept of Rev-Nov-Dec garbage/landfill tax-289.45;SD Gov't Street Maintenance-remaining balance of membership-15.00;SD Public Health Lab-coliform test-20.00;SD One Call-Oct-Dec 2025 message fee-18.90;SDRS-Jan contribution-1,120.00;Sun Life-Jan premium-465.00;The 109 Club-Holiday party-331.00;Wellmark BCBS-February premium-2,716.52.

**Liquor- January 2026 Bills**

Liquor-11,919.06;Aflac-Dec premium-358.83;Apol's Harley Davidson-2026 sponsorship fee-150.00;Cask & Cork-beer-634.66;Chesterman-pop-436.40;City of Gary-wsg-217.38;Doll Distributing,LLC-beer-4,274.05;EFTPS/941 Tax-FWT-538.95,OASI-1,527.22;First Bank & Trust-credit card-144.12;Gary Post Office-stamps-39.00;Gary Liquor Store-open juke box-40.00;Gate City General-food,supplies-86.44;Harry's Pizza-448.50;Henry's Foods-tobacco,food,supplies-2,148.44;ITC-phone,DSL,TV-251.30;Jim Dandy-jerky-198.00;Johnson Bros-liquor-854.24;Nosbush Plbg & Htg-quarterly softener Oct-Dec-46.50;Office Peeps-supplies-39.09;Old Dutch Foods-chips-31.32;Ottertail Power Co-electricity-659.25;Pizza & Burger Shack-pizza-396.00;Porter Dist Co-beer, wine/coolers-2,845.75;Republic National Dist-liquor-450.00;Rob's Locker-food/Jan 17 event-114.00;Robin Lanners-cell phone, reimburse bar supplies-88.72;SDRS-Jan contribution-1,182.00;SD Dept of Rev-Dec& Jan liquor sales tax-5,794.45;Southern Glazers-liquor-361.82;Star Laundry-rugs,towels-163.56;The 109 Club-Holiday party-331.00;Wellmark BCBS-Feb premium-3,492.68.

Motion by Nosbush, second by Engesser to approve the verified claims and issue warrants in payment thereof. All voting aye; carried.

No public input.

Motion by Grabow, second by Schumacher to go into executive session for personnel and legal matters at 6:33 pm. All voting aye; carried. Mayor declared out at 7:12 pm. No action was taken.

Reed Mahlke, City Attorney addressed the binder of complaints from individuals and will be reaching out in response. He recommended policies for formal complaints and meeting decorum/public input. Reed will be the point of contact for complaints at this time.

Marilyn Koeppen spoke on behalf of the Gary Rodeo regarding advertisement and a temporary liquor permit. This will be discussed at another meeting.

Gary Hudiburgh informed the council that the deadline to submit appropriations request is approaching and action is needed if the city wants to be considered for federal funding. He requested a letter from the Council in support of

pursuing approximately \$2 million in Community Project Funding (CPF) through the South Dakota congressional delegation offices, noting there would be no cost to the city. Motion by Grabow, second by Engesser to approve a letter supporting acquisition for funding for road and bridge work. All voting aye; carried.

Motion by Grabow, second by Schumacher to approve Bjerke Sanitation's request to increase garbage rates. All voting aye; carried. Residential rates will be \$20; businesses will increase \$10 plus tax.

The ninth payment request from the State Revolving Fund loan in the amount of \$16,945.00 was approved to send in with a motion by Nosbush, second by Grabow. All voting aye; carried.

Motion by Grabow, second by Engesser to approve the final 2025 transfers to the General Fund from Video Lottery-\$103,746.08; Liquor Fund- \$45,000; Water Fund-\$24,064.49. All voting aye, carried.

Motion by Engesser, second by Nosbush to release the appropriated 2026 funds of \$15,000 to the Gary Volunteer Fire Dept to make the payment on the 2001 Ford F550 truck and approve the 2026 roster. All voting aye; carried.

A full list of members covered by Workman's Comp is available at City Hall.

Request to open the Gary Liquor Store on July 4, 2026 was approved with a motion by Schumacher, second by Grabow. All voting aye; carried.

Employee, Committee, and Ward reports were heard.

Executive session was not needed.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Gary City Hall.

Motion by Engesser, second by Grabow to adjourn. All voting aye; carried.

City Council, City of Gary

Joni Kjelden, Finance Officer

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