City of Gary, South Dakota
Gary City Council
Monday, October 5, 2026 at 7:30 pm at Gary City Hall

The Gary City Council met in session on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 7:30 pm in the City Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Mayor Larry Stoks presided. Alderman Neil Schumacher, Darwyn Engesser, Mike Nosbush, Jay Grabow, Doug Nelson and Jessica Lambertz were present. Also, present were Joni Kjelden, Albert Bekaert, Bev Koeppen, John Ask, Joe Kolbach, John Deslauriers, Marlene & Perry Andrews, Marilyn Koeppen, Gloria Dessler, Pat Sears, Carla Heuer, Kelli Henricks, Amy Arnold, Jerry Tongen, David Mercer, Angel Oeltjenbruns, Mel Borg, Mary Nosbush, Judy Heth, Mike Hinsvark, Corey Stoks, Rachel Hinsvark, Darren Engesser, Luccus Ippolito.

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

No conflicts of interest were declared by any members present.

Motion by Schumacher, second by Engesser to approve the minutes of the September 8 & 29, 2026 meetings. All voting aye; carried.

General- September 2026 bills-Finance Office-2,113.88;Streets-4,677.72;Fire Dept-58.80;Rubble-165.36;Cemetery-297.48;Golf-735.06;Parks-1,636.40;Library-675.51;Water-1,330.38;Sewer-1,383.91;Council-3,450.00;Aflac-Aug premium-165.64;AT&T-data connect-45.69;Austin Crocker- cell phone-25.00;Banner Associates-bridges-282.00;Bjerke Sanitation-garbage-3,042.33;BRDW-485,000 gallons-1,851.25;City of Gary-wsg-firehall-83.59,garbage-city hall,surcharges-171.20;Clear Lake Courier-proceedings,notices-346.93;DCFU-propane contract-2,132.08,fuel charges-790.09;DCSO-law enforcement-605.90;DNB National Bank-ach transaction fee-15.88;EFTPS/941 Tax-FWT-641.25,OASI-2,622.08;First Bank & Trust-credit card-9.49;Gary Post Office-stamps-65.00;Gate City General-supplies-116.97;HD Electric-cemetery electricity-61.90;Helsper, McCarty & Rasmussen, PC-aug atty fees-2,254.50;ITC-city hall-97.57,library-53.45;Menards-supplies-32.98;MN Dept of Rev-3rd qtr withholdings-672.89;OTPCO-electricity-834.07;Runnings-clothing allowance-387.84;SDARWS-exercise valves-350.00;SD Public Health Labs-water testing-250.00;SDRS-Sept contribution-1,265.34;SD Dept of Labor & Reg-3rd qtr reemployment-20.60;Sun Life-Sept premium-493.87;Wellmark BCBS-Oct premium-2,716.52.

Liquor-September 2026 bills-Municipal Liquor-13,629.49;Aflac-Aug premium-358.83;Cash Wa Dist-supplies/food-684.61;Chesterman-pop-383.50;City of Gary-wsg-222.45;CoreMark-tobacco,food,supplies-2,045.42;EFTPS/941 Tax-FWT-635.03,OASI-1,774.76;Doll Distributing, LLC-beer-11,021.40;First Bank & Trust-credit card-342.38;Gate City General-supplies/food-209.17;Harry's Pizza-pizza-965.50;ITC-phone,DSL,TV-104.00;Jim Dandy Snack Food-jerky-99.00;Johnson Bros-liquor-2,833.62;Minn-Kota Pest Control-prepaid services-558.60;Old Dutch-chips-249.24;OTPCO-electricity-565.97;Pepsi-Cola-pop-374.10;Pizza & Burger Shack-pizza-324.00;Porter Dist-beer,wine/coolers-2,702.40;Pure Pressure Sound-Sept 5 entertainment-400.00;Quality Brands SD-liquor-495.10;Rangaard Electric, Inc-bathroom lights-116.15;Robin Lanners-cell phone-25.00;SD DOR-Sept sales tax-3,261.51;Southern Glazers of SD-liquor-1,091.60;SDRS-Sept contribution-1,310.66;Star Laundry-rugs, bar towels-115.09;SD Dept of Labor & Reg-6.87;Wellmark BCBS-Oct premium-3,492.68.

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

Public input: Jerry Tongen asked for information regarding his sidewalk. Mel Borg asked about the city park bathrooms.

The wastewater project payment request and completion forms were not approved pending discussion with the contractor.

The Council discussed follow-up to the request previously brought forward by members of Gate City Development regarding the support of a forensic audit. A member of Gate City Development asked whether the City would contribute the $5,000 allocated in the City's economic development budget toward the cost of the audit, with members of the public funding the remaining cost. No action was taken on the request. Council discussion included the need for Gate City Development to address and resolve internal organizational issues. The possibility of the City considering a contribution after those issues have been resolved was also discussed. It was noted that the City is not in a legal position to require Gate City Development to conduct a forensic audit.

Kelli, Carla and Amy with First District presented information regarding the required pre-disaster mitigation plan (PDM). The plan must be reviewed and updated every five years to maintain eligibility for federal disaster mitigation funds should the City be involved in a natural disaster.

In the interim of not having a certified water distribution operator, discussion was held regarding maintaining the City's compliance. In prior years, an agreement was entered into with the City of Clear Lake for an employee to perform those duties. Grabow motioned to renew the Memorandum of Understanding between Gary and Clear Lake, contingent on their hourly rate. Second by Engesser, all voting aye; carried.

Discussion was held regarding water runoff in the north-south alley between Lac Qui Parle and Coteau St. The mayor will contact a contractor to review the situation and determine possible solutions.

Motion by Grabow, second by Nosbush to approve the renewal of the 2027 liquor licenses for Municipal Liquor Store, The 109 Club and Buffalo Ridge Resort & Spa. All voting aye; carried.

Motion by Grabow, second by Nosbush to enter executive session for personnel matters at 8:32 pm. All voting aye; carried. At 8:40 pm, the Council discussed legal matters. Mayor declared out of executive session at 8:48 pm.

Motion by Grabow, second by Nosbush to advertise the Utilities Manager position. All voting aye; carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Grabow to consider the $5,000 funding to Gate City Development after the audit has been completed and Gate City Development has unified its organization and looks like they'll do something positive. Schumacher, Engesser, Grabow, Lambertz & Nelson aye; Nosbush, no; carried.

Employee contribution, Committee, and Ward reports were heard. A full inventory at the liquor store was completed October 1.

Building permits issued in September: Vivian Fokken

Next regular meeting and election canvassing will be Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

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

City Council, City of Gary
Joni Kjelden, Finance Officer
Published October 14, 2026
Published once at an approximate cost $