

**CITY OF FLANDREAU  
1005 W. Elm Avenue  
Flandreau, SD 57028-1404**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Flandreau, South Dakota, met in a special session on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 1005 W. Elm Avenue, Flandreau, SD.

Present: Mayor Dan Sutton. Aldermen: Curt Ahlers, Brad Bjerke, Mark Ekern, Mike Fargen, Karen Tufty, and Tim Yeaton. Absent: None. Also present were City Administrator Cohl Turnquist; Finance Officer Lori Kneebone; and Police Chief Zach Weber.

The proposed agenda was reviewed. Motion by Ahlers and seconded by Tufty to adopt the proposed agenda. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Visitors to Be Heard: None.

New Business: Mayor Sutton, along with Administrator Turnquist, Fire Chief Peters and Alderman Ekern attended the County Commission meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Sutton explained that a motion was passed by the county to give the ambulance service to the city. The city then received a formal letter from the county dated January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, outlining their proposal for the ambulance takeover; indicating a decision be made by the city by February 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Administrator Turnquist spoke about the ambulance task force and explained that the purpose of the task force is to evaluate the ambulance service, and offer solutions that the city could assist with, financially or otherwise. Both Turnquist and Sutton believe there are misunderstandings between the two governing bodies.

Alderman Bjerke gave a recap of previous county and city ambulance discussions. Aldermen Ekern and Tufty questioned the rush for the county to turn over the ambulance to the city. Both Ekern and Tufty feel more information is needed, and are eager for recommendations from the Ambulance Task Force.

Police Chief Weber does not feel the city should take over the ambulance service, but stated ambulance operations have been declining in the past 15 years. Additionally, Chief Weber stated that it may be necessary for the City to take over ambulance services to continue operation.

Motion by Fargen and seconded by Tufty to approve the Charge of the Ambulance Task Force. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Yeaton and seconded by Bjerke to authorize Mayor Sutton and Administrator Turnquist to co-author a response letter to the county's January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ambulance proposal letter, including an explanation of the ambulance task force. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Council Comments: Alderman Bjerke restated that the city is trying to help the county find a solution to the difficulties facing the ambulance. Sutton announced the Ambulance Task Force Committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the City Office and that meeting is open to the public.

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Daniel D. Sutton  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cohl Turnquist  
City Administrator