

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

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
February 18th, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Flandreau, South Dakota, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 at 6:30 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, Mark Bonrud, Linnea Janssen, Marvin Schoenwetter, Wes Hall, Scott Panschow, Roxee Boysen and Carleen Wild.

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

Motion by Yeaton and seconded by Tufty to approve the minutes of February 3rd, 2025. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Ahlers and seconded by Ekern to allow the following claims for the City and to pay them: Payroll: 2/5/25: general, \$25,050.46; water, \$1,494.38; electric, \$5,570.18; sewer, \$3,110.82; (26543) HW Contracting, LLC, mutual release of all claims pmt, \$147,615.74; (26544) Access Systems Leasing, copier lease & quote to return copier, \$1,140.60; AFLAC, supplemental insurance, \$277.44; Andy Wede, safety glasses, \$145.00; Automatic Building Controls, annual alarm inspection at CC/armory, \$742.00; Avera Occupational Medicine, annual drug screen fee, \$106.60; Axon Enterprise, Inc., contract/agreement, \$10,850.40; Banner Associates, Inc., professional services, \$880.00; Big Sioux Community Water System, water purchases, \$17,970.60; Catalis LLC, e-mail services, \$787.50; Cintas, rugs/linens, \$560.11; Cole's Petroleum Inc., aviation gas, \$6,052.00; Cybercoach Inc., repairs, \$1,967.28; DANR, Andy Wede class/certification, \$60.00; Ditch Witch Undercon, parts, \$1,428.77; First Savings Bank, loan payments, \$5,918.72; Glock Inc., supplies, \$217.00; GreatAmerica Financial Services, FPD copier agreement, \$171.21; International Association of Chiefs of Police, dues, \$270.00; Maynards, supplies, \$712.28; Meierhenry Sargent LLP, sales tax revenue bond, \$7,753.57; MidAmerican Energy, gas, \$3,084.15; Missouri River Energy Services, AMI meter count, \$386.40; Moody County Enterprise, publishing/advertising, \$544.32; Office Peeps Inc., supplies, \$201.03; Ottertail Power Company, airport electricity, \$389.86; River's Edge Cooperative, gas/oil, \$1,138.81; SD Supplemental Retirement Plan, supplemental retirement, \$50.00; Sioux Falls Area Humane Society, impound fees, \$572.00; Sioux Valley Energy, electricity, \$203.00; Steve's Tire & Service Inc., repairs, \$225.71; Sturdevant's Auto Supply, supplies/repairs, \$281.44; Transunion Risk and Alternative, contract/agreement, \$120.00; Valley Fibercom, phone/internet, \$764.98; Verizon Wireless, phones/iPads, \$145.51; Wesco Receivables Corp., minor capital equipment, \$23,890.00 (26578). The following members voted aye:

Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Visitors to Be Heard: None.

Mayor Dan Sutton reported on the water main break city crews worked on February 13th. Sutton thanked city staff for working through the night to resolve the problem. Sutton also reminded residents to remove snow from their sidewalks.

City Administrator Cohl Turnquist reported there will be a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission Board regarding a rezone of the new fire hall land. The public hearing will be held on March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Turnquist also thanked city staff and Claflin Excavating for their work with the recent water main break. The Housing Authority committee continues to meet about the Broad Street Development and is currently looking into developing a 14-unit complex. Turnquist also stated there will be a Legislative Cracker Barrel on Saturday, March 1st at city hall at 8:00 a.m.

Motion by Ekern and seconded by Fargen to approve the Administrator's Reports. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Old Business: The second reading was held for Ordinance 626: Amending Mediacom Franchise Term. Motion by Ahlers and seconded by Bjerke to approve Ordinance 626. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was had on the Ambulance Task Force Recommendation. Mayor Sutton thanked the task force members for their time meeting over the last two months to discuss this important issue. At the last ambulance task force meeting, a motion was made stating it is feasible for the City of Flandreau to take over operations of the ambulance service. Sutton laid out three options for consideration by the city council; do not accept the task force recommendation, accept the task force recommendation, or accept the recommendation, with additional information needed, and charge Administrator Turnquist with developing a business model by June 1st for the council's consideration.

Alderman Yeaton spoke in favor of the city taking over the ambulance stating with additional subsidy funds and Turnquist's leadership, he believes the ambulance takeover will be successful.

Turnquist spoke to the importance of developing a plan, organizationally and financially, and stated by having a model it may give the city council more certainty on how ambulance operations would run, if taken over by the city.

Alderman Bjerke spoke in favor of developing an ambulance district, where all parties utilizing the ambulance service would be included. Once established, an ambulance district would be its own entity whose sole purpose was to operate and oversee the ambulance service.

Alderman Fargen spoke in favor of the third option stating he would like Administrator Turnquist to develop a model for the council to look at it. Fargen also spoke in favor of the ambulance district.

Carleen Wild asked the council if they would consider offering the county a subsidy in the interim period of time, while the city develops a business model. Turnquist stated the council would have to vote on an additional subsidy, and isn't ruling out the possibility, but would like specific meaning and details from the county on what the subsidy funds would be used for.

City resident Roxee Boysen stated this is more than just a city problem and believes all members of the county should share in the expense of running an ambulance. Boysen offered both anecdotal and research-based information to the council on operating an ambulance.

Task Force Member Linnea Janssen stated she believes the community is looking for a commitment and feels the city should take over the operation of the ambulance, as the county has run the ambulance for 25-plus years.

Mark Bonrud stated the city should move forward cautiously and have several plans in place before jumping into taking over the ambulance. Bonrud believes the city should wait until budget planning begins for year 2026 to even consider taking over the ambulance.

Motion by Fargen and seconded by Ekern to charge Administrator Turnquist with putting together a business model for ambulance operations to be ready on or before the June 2nd council meeting. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Bjerke and seconded by Yeaton to authorize Mayor Sutton and Administrator Turnquist to draft a response letter to the county's request prior to the February 28, 2025 deadline. The following members voted aye: Ahlers, Bjerke, Ekern, Fargen, Tufty and Yeaton. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The first reading of Ordinance 627: Electric Rates was held, which includes a 5% electric rate increase, which would be applied to April utility bills. No council action was taken at this time. The second reading of Ordinance 627 will be held on March 3rd, 2025.

Council Comments: None.

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Daniel D. Sutton
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cohl Turnquist
City Administrator