

CITY OF GREGORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2026 | AT 6:00 PM
GREGORY CITY HALL, 120 W 6TH ST, GREGORY, SD 57533

The Gregory City Council met in regular session on Tuesday February 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Al Cerny presiding. The City Council members present were Kristi Drey, Alex Hamilton, Ashley Lozano, Stacey Boes, and Maurice Schlaht. Absent was Laura Petersen. Also present were Reporter Patty Connealy, City Attorney Rachelle Norberg, Library Director Tara Engel, Public Works supervisor Guhner Kepler, and Finance Officer Trudy Waterman. Guest Dave Guthmiller.

6:00 Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Corrections/Additions/Approval Motion to approve the Agenda as posted made by Stacey Boes, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of Regular Council Minutes for February 2, 2026 Motion to approve the Minutes from February 2, 2026, made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Alex Hamilton. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Forum/Visitors -None

Council Concerns - None

Department Head Reports Guhner Kepler addressed the council on two items:

- A. **H & O Proposal for Generator at the Auditorium** In cooperation with H & O Electric and Rosebud Electric the City of Gregory received an estimate for the cost of a generator to power the Auditorium in an emergency. The cost is around \$200K. The city will have to conduct more research into funding opportunities as a generator, not required by the state of South Dakota, may not receive state funding. The city will keep the cost estimate and revisit the idea at another time.
- B. **Staging Area for Golden West** Ripley Excavation is expecting to conduct the groundwork for Golden West's fiber optic project. They have asked for a staging area for equipment and personnel throughout the project. Ripley has requested renting the old hospital grounds with the agreement to return the area to the same condition that it is now. The council asked Guhner Kepler to inquire about the rental amount Ripley has in mind and confirm that they will sign a land condition agreement. The rent monies from the contract would go toward the pool fund. Further discussion on this will be on the next meeting agenda.

Library Director Tara Engel reported the Gregory Library was selected for the Science Across America Grant and will receive \$500 for the program. This grant will tie in with America 250 and the STEAM Club learning and reading. Ms. Engel said that the Saturday events are well attended, and although the physical book checkouts are down, the Libby check-outs are up. **Finance Officer**

Trudy Waterman reported that the state of South Dakota has set aside funding to help governments conduct testing on potential cybersecurity risks. The program is SecureSD and FO Waterman and DFO Keegan would like the City of Gregory to take part in the testing to help identify weak points. The test conducted by DSU Madlabs will share the results with the city, and Cybertek, to further secure our systems. The City of Gregory may also receive a .gov internet address. FO Waterman also reported that Jason Frasch reported that only three light poles and two lights needed replacing after the city-wide inspection.

Mayor Report **Mayor Cerny** expressed his gratitude to the planners and conductors of the Annual Meeting held February 16, 2026. He said that the annual meeting was well attended and there were promising ideas brought up by the attendees.

Committee Reports **Councilperson Kristi Drey** reported that the meeting with the code enforcement committee was productive in that Mr. Johnson has a better idea of what Gregory is

after and Gregory has a better idea of what they can do at the city end. **Councilperson Alex Hamilton** reported that the Gregory Fire Dept would be sending 5 or 6 personnel to the Pyrotechnics school as the fire dept has had some recent turnover of previous fireworks display specialist. Mr. Hamilton also said that for America 250, the fire dept is hoping to have a bigger fireworks display. Historically the display is approximately \$8000, but this year they would like to put on a display of about \$15,000. Mr. Hamilton assured the council that the fire dept would be fundraising to cover the gap between the budgeted \$8k and \$15K.

City Attorney Rachelle Norberg encouraged the council to reach out to the legislature in support of HB1245. This bill would allow for a one cent increase in sales tax for municipalities and the money raised must go toward capital improvement.

Conflict of Interest - None

Old Business - None

New Business

- A. Discussion of Use and Purchase of Lot F, Block 6 in Grandview** Mr. Dave Guthmiller addressed the council with an interest in the purchase of Lot F to erect a storage building capable of storing RVs, boats, semis, and other larger items. There would be 17 concreted bays, with 12'x14' doors and a 14' concrete apron on the front. The front would face west. Ordinance 2015-03 specifically prohibits storage sheds on the industrial or commercial lots in the Grandview Industrial Park. The council agreed to review that Ordinance and contact Mr. Guthmiller with an outcome or alternative. No action taken.
- B. First Reading Ordinance No. 2026-02 Council Vacancies** After discussing who decides if an absence from a council meeting is excused or not, the decision was made to allow the council of peers to decide the ruling on absences. The first reading of Ordinance 2026-02 Council Vacancies approved by Stacey Boes, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.
- C. Install Street Light on Duling Drive** PWS Guhner Kepler, in cooperation with Jason Frasch of Rosebud Electric, received a quote to put a light on the curve of Duling Drive, the southeast corner of Hill's Addition, to eliminate the dark area for drivers, bikers, and walkers. The cost will be approximately \$1123.46. Motion to approve the light and installation made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Stacey Boes. All ayes. Motion carried.
- D. Approve 2026 Contract for Code Enforcement Specialists** Motion to approve the 2026 Code Enforcement Specialists contract made by Alex Hamilton, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.
- E. Update Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance** discussion on updating the inoperable vehicle ordinance. City Attorney Rachelle Norberg and Finance Officer Trudy Waterman will coordinate with Code Enforcement Specialists and Police Chief Ryan to update the ordinance.
- F. Grandview Lot Taxes: Item moved to Executive Session**
- G. Pay Claims**

Report Title	Claims Report		
Period	02/03/2026 To 02/17/2026		
	Vendor Name	Amount	Reference
	GUNVORDAHL GUNVORDAHL & NORBERG	\$ 2,349.92	LEGAL SERVICES
	DAKOTA AUTO CARE LLC	\$ 389.88	REPAIR 2011 F250
	GREGORY TIMES-ADVOCATE	\$ 1,300.25	PUBLISHING/ENVELOPES
	AMG - AVERA OCCUP MEDICINE-SF	\$ 147.50	TESTING ANNUAL FEE/TEST
	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 479.35	CELL PHONE SERVICE

AVERA GREGORY HOSPITAL	\$ 74.00	DOT LAB
PREMIER BIOTECH LABS LLC	\$ 80.00	SAMPLE TESTING/SHIP
SCOTT'S AUTO REPAIR	\$ 2,307.00	REPAIRS/MAINT
TITAN MACHINERY	\$ 90.30	REP/MAINT
PETTY CASH	\$ 11.95	POSTAGE
ROSEBUD FARMERS UNION	\$ 1,716.10	FUELS/UTILITIES
MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO INC	\$ 80.00	LIFE INS - CITY PORTION
GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 956.12	PHONE/INTERNET SERVICE
APPEARA	\$ 169.56	SUPPS/MATS
TOM'S SERVICE	\$ 72.19	REPS/MAINT
AXON ENTERPRISE INC	\$ 2,750.04	BODY CAM LIC/EQUIP
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC	\$ 105.75	SUPPS/MATS
GREGORY/DALLAS CHAMBER OF COMM	\$ 3,125.00	MONTHLY STIPEND
JIM'S GARBAGE SERVICE	\$ 440.00	GARBAGE SERVICE
CYBERTEK SYSTEMS	\$ 911.56	IT/BACKUP/SECURITY
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER	\$ 389.37	SUPPS/MATS/SERVCON
MR. AUTOMOTIVE	\$ 316.22	REP/MAINT
GREGORY BUILDING CENTER	\$ 40.97	SUPPS/MATS
Total	\$ 18,303.03	

CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIALISTS \$1,500.00 2026 RETAINER
 Motion to pay claims made by Stacey Boes, seconded by Alex Hamilton. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to enter Executive Session made by Maurice Schlaht, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

H. **Executive Session SDCL 1-25-2(3)** Consult with Legal Attorney
7:06 pm Mayor Cerny removed the council from Executive Session.
 Results: No action taken

I. **7:07 pm Adjourn** Motion to Adjourn made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

SPN Meeting: Wednesday February 18, 2026 @ 5:00 pm
 Next Meeting: Monday March 2, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

 Mayor Al Cerny

ATTEST: _____

Finance Officer Trudy Waterman