

CITY OF GREGORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025 | AT 6:00 PM
GREGORY CITY HALL, 120 W 6TH ST, GREGORY, SD 57533

The Gregory City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Al Cerny presiding. The City Council members present were Kristi Drey, Stacey Boes, Laura Petersen, Alex Hamilton, Ashley Lozano, and Maurice Schlaht. Also present were Reporter Patty Connealy, City Attorney Rachelle Norberg, Library Director Tara Engel, Police Chief Ryan Cook, Public Works Superintendent Guhner Kepler, Chamber Director Jaimie Braun, and Finance Officer Trudy Waterman. Guests were Rachelle Bloom and Ryler Stevicks.

6:00 Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Corrections/Additions/Approval Councilperson Laura Petersen requested that item E. GED Revolving Loan Application be removed as the GED did not preapprove the application. Motion to approve the agenda with item E removed made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Laura Petersen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of Regular Council Minutes for July 21, 2025 Motion to approve the minutes from July 21, 2025 made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Alex Hamilton. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Forum/Visitors - NONE

Council Concerns Councilperson Stacey Boes asked why the AWOS system at the airport was still apparently not operational citing concerns from Avera Emergency Services. PWS Guhner Kepler explained that although we have replaced a piece of equipment that was not operational, we have had trouble reaching the SDDOT/ Air Transportation Office in Pierre to move to the next step.

Department Head Reports

Library Director Tara Engel reported that the Summer Reading Program has ended. The final event had forty-four participants and included the kids getting ‘tattoos’ from 183 INK. The summer program had 21 total events with 500+ participants. Ms. Engel is closing out the Pilcro Grant, finishing the “Thinking Money for Kids” program, and completing other state paperwork.

Chamber Director Jaimie Braun reported that the tornado at the North Star corner had destroyed the Gregory sign. Ms. Braun also reported that she had recently attended a conference in Dell Rapids and brought back statistics that an empty building on a main street costs the community over \$220,000 a year. The Chamber has recently put together a Community Calendar, developed a commercial, and reminded the Council about the Purple Heart Ceremonies at the Legion on Thursday August 7 beginning at 5:30 pm.

Public Works Superintendent Guhner Kepler reported that grinding continues in the pools and Arnold Pool Co from Ogallala, NE was contacted. Gravel is being laid on the streets in preparation for grinding and resealing, a used engine was located for the road grader, and Mr. Kepler asked the council if 1st St could be done in its entirety. Formerly, one block of 1st St was going to be left between this year’s street project and the Phase I street project. (Council agreed to include one extra block to be milled to complete the street).

Finance Officer Trudy Waterman reported that the year-to-date Sales Tax Received is \$535,351.11 and the year-to-date 3rd Cent Tax Received is \$36,240.77. Ms. Waterman also stated that the council would receive the preliminary 2026 budget at the August 18th meeting.

Mayor Reports

- Mayor Cerny updated the Council on Phase I per the July 29 construction meeting. The construction is set to continue north on Rice to 14th Street and will wait to do the work by the

school until next spring. No asphalt will be laid down this year while the gravel settles to provide a better base. Mayor Cerny also mentioned that a resident asked about cost to have the asphalt taken to their 'curb.' Council agreed to investigate this option further and address this possibility later.

- T-Hangar construction is set to begin on August 11, 2025
- Pool Committee will be meeting soon with Mayor Cerny as the Chairperson
- Mayor Cerny received a picture via text of the condition of the yard on a property on Felton noting that it 'had not been mowed in some time.' The city was under the impression that the owner had arrangements to have it mowed. The City of Gregory will mow the lawn this week, and after asking our city attorney will include going in the snow fence to mow.
- Mayor Cerny handed out a response to an email he had received from councilmembers that expressed concern about updates and communication.

Committee Reports Kellie Stukel reached out to schedule a pool committee meeting. The Code Enforcement Committee will meet on Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. A councilperson expressed concern about the auditorium being a storm shelter with the issue with the beams in the gym. Councilperson Hamilton stated that the storm shelter is in the basement. Ashley Lozano stated that the auditorium is also a certified storm shelter.

Conflict of Interest - NONE

Old Business - NONE

New Business

Motion to enter Board of Adjustment made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Maurice Schlaht. All ayes. Motion carried.

A. Building Permits Approved by P & Z

1. Fogel – Garden Shed Motion to approve the Fogel garden shed made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Alex Hamilton. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to exit Board of Adjustment made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

- B. Additional Concrete Work Phase I** Mayor Cerny handed out a sheet with the estimates for the cost of concrete repair on some curbs & gutters, and three drainage improvements along Felton at 7th, 8th, and 10th. The entire increase in cost would be approximately \$62,634.00. The Mayor asked the council for permission to authorize the work. Motion to move forward with the change order made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

- C. Go to Platte Pool 2X Week of Aug 11-15** (Winner closing Aug 9) Council approved by agreement.

- D. Proclamation for Silver Threads Assisted Living 25 yrs September 7, 2025** City Council offered congratulations to Silver Threads for their milestone. Motion to approve the proclamation made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Laura Petersen. All ayes. Motion carried.

- E. ~~GED Revolving Loan Application~~** removed from agenda.

- F. Review Open Meetings Laws Revised 2025** The Gregory City Council was given copies of the Revised Open Meetings Laws prior to the July 21, 2025 meeting. Mayor Cerny opened the discussion for questions. City Attorney Rachelle Norberg was asked about the emailing. 'If we just email an update, does that have to be divided to avoid quorum?' Ms. Norberg stated, "Yes, to be safe, any and all digital communication should be divided." There were no other questions. Mayor Cerny noted that the Gregory City Council had reviewed the Revised Open Meetings Laws on Monday August 4, 2025.

- G. Discuss Fireworks Ordinance** Mayor Cerny, Gregory City Council, Police Chief Ryan Cook, and City Attorney Rachelle Norberg, unanimously agreed to leave the Gregory City Fireworks Ordinance to read the active fireworks period ends July 5.
- H. SCADA Computer Upgrade (Water Department)** FO Waterman presented the council with the quote from Cybertek for the cost to replace/upgrade the water department’s SCADA computer, with the required specs, before October. The quote was \$1,385.64 without a new monitor. Motion to upgrade the SCADA computer for \$1,385.64 made by Alex Hamilton, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.
- I. Airport Weather Camera Program** FO Waterman addressed the council with an opportunity offered by the State of South Dakota FAA to install a weather camera at the Gregory Municipal Airport. Gregory appeared on a list of 15 airports suggested by Medevac pilots and other South Dakota pilots. The total cost is about \$13,000. SDFAA will reimburse the city 75% of the total leaving a cost to the city of \$3250 mostly payable with earned fuel tax funds. Motion to approve the weather camera made by Maurice Schlaht, seconded by Stacey Boes. All ayes. Motion carried.
- J. Pay Claims**

Vendor Name	Amount
JERRY'S ELECTRIC & SERVICES LLC	\$ 219.18
GREGORY BUILDING CENTER	\$970.57
RANDY'S TOWING LLC	\$ 630.00
TAYLOR PLUMBING & HEATING	\$ 967.73
GREGORY/DALLAS CHAMBER OF COM	\$ 3,125.00
SPN & ASSOCIATES	\$ 45,989.97
SPN & ASSOCIATES	\$ 1,450.00
ROSEBUD ELECTRIC COOP INC	\$6,476.01
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY	\$ 43.00
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$636.37
NORTHERN PLAINS LLC	\$92,724.38
WM KROTTER CO	\$1,272.96
GREGORY MUSIC BOOSTERS	\$ 10.00
PETTY CASH	\$17.80
VAN DIEST SUPPLY COMPANY	\$ 3,798.60
HAWKINS INC	\$40.00
LONNIE KLUNDT	\$ 550.00
HELMS & ASSOCIATES	\$ 1,890.61
CYBERTEK SYSTEMS	\$660.74
TURNEY CONTRACTING	\$ 1,679.00
GREGORY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 2,267.37
HARRY K NAPA	\$ 14.94
TOMMY LEE CLAUSSEN	\$ 27.20
HEALTH POOL OF SD	\$7,254.60
FEDEX	\$ 160.89
JEREMY ATKINS	\$ 31.85
KIM'S CLEANING SERVICE	\$ 600.00

OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER	\$ 20.92
KLEIN'S TRUE VALUE	\$1,872.81
GREGORY PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$888.28
Total	\$176,290.78

K. Executive Session (If Necessary) - NONE

L. Adjourn

6:47 Motion to adjourn made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Al Cerny

ATTEST: _____

Finance Officer Trudy Waterman