

Rutland City Council
March 9, 2026

The monthly City Council meeting was called to order at 5p.m., Monday, March 9, 2026, by Mayor Mahrer. Council President Erickson, Council members Hoflen and McLaen present; Lysne absent. City Auditor and Scott Haan, Public Works, also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

McLaen/Hoflen moved approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

Hoflen/McLaen moved approval of the February 2, 2026, minutes. Motion carried.

McLaen reported that a new part has been installed on the Hall furnace and it is currently fully operational.

The Council reviewed the ballot measure language to allow chickens in the City. If the issue passes in June, the Council will then need to review and adopt Ordinances regarding chickens. The agenda item will be postponed to July.

The Council discussed the sale of tax-forfeited property on Main Street that the City purchased. It has been three months, and the City may now offer it for sale. McLaen noted that the roof has caved in on the front portion of the building formerly occupied by the Post Office.

Hoflen/Erickson moved that the City sell the property at 113 First Street on sealed bids, due by noon, April 6th, with no minimum bid. Said bids to be opened at the Council meeting followed by an auction at that time. Cash only sale with “substantial improvements” to be made within six months. Motion carried.

The Auditor will publish the sale notice in The Teller for two consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least ten days in advance of the sale date as required by NDCC 40-11-04 to 40-11-04.2.

The auditor will contact the City Engineer to get an update on the sidewalk project and timeline.

The Mayor said there has been an interest in the Public Works Position. He is also exploring a pickup or vehicle for use by public works.

Erickson/McLaen moved to set the City of Rutland Arbor Day for the first Friday in May, May 1, 2026, to coincide with the State Arbor Day. Motion carried.

Hoflen/Erickson moved to approve the gaming site authorization for the Rutland Sportsman’s Club at The Lariat Bar, July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

McLaen/Hoflen moved adoption of the Sargent County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan participation resolution for the City of Rutland. Motion carried.

The Auditor presented the Floodplain Management Ordinance for consideration. ND Senate Bill 2027 (2025) took effect on August 1, 2025, and introduced several changes to the ND Century Code related to floodplain management authority. Legal counsel for the Department of Water Resources determined that the statute authorizing communities to regulate floodplains has been updated. As a result, all ND communities are required to update their floodplain management ordinances to ensure compliance with state and federal laws.

The proposed ordinance contains the minimum required provisions and cannot be modified without invalidating it. According to the State, Rutland adopted a floodplain management ordinance on January 30, 1984, and has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since that time. Participation in the program is not mandatory; however, FEMA mitigation and disaster funding could be affected if Rutland chooses to discontinue participation.

The Council directed the Auditor to forward the proposed Ordinance to the City's legal counsel for review and to provide a recommendation on this matter.

McLaen/Erickson moved approval of the February financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Erickson/Hoflen moved approval of the payment of bills:

ACH	DRN	\$ 152.15	telephone
ACH	American Express	\$ 67.80	Office supplies
ACH	Waste Management	\$ 112.98	Hall dumpster
ACH	Waste Management	\$1,722.97	Contract garbage
ACH	ND Workforce Safety	\$ 602.73	Workers' comp
ACH	US Treasury	\$1,281.13	January payroll taxes
14121	The Teller	\$ 4.20	Legals
14122	Scott Haan	\$1,098.52	Jan.25- Feb.7, 2026
14123	Otter Tail Power	\$1,309.95	Electricity
14124	Scott Haan	\$1,048.52	Feb. 8 – 21, 2006
14125	Acme Tools	\$ 2.43	Snowplow parts
14126	Bobcat of Gwinner	\$ 17.21	Bobcat part
14127	Deborah Banish	\$1,602.12	January
14128	Ferguson Waterworks	\$ 16.08	water meter parts
14129	Forman Lumber	\$ 7.99	Spray foam
14130	Kotaco Fuel	\$ 473.92	317 gals. propane
14131	Quill	\$ 20.98	Office supplies
14132	Sargent Co. Teller	\$ 126.92	minutes, financial, elections
14133	Sargent Co. Treasurer	\$ 239.72	Prop Taxes on forfeited property
14134	Scott Haan	\$1,098.53	Feb. 22- Mar. 7, 2026
14135	SE Water Users	\$1,017.73	313,149 gals. Dec 22- Jan 22
14136	US Post Office	\$ 366.00	Postcard stamps
14137	ND One Call	\$ 1.50	Line locate

Motion carried.

The City Auditor reported that there will be three delinquents if not paid by the 15th.

The Mayor reported that The Lariat had inquired about the alley located behind the bar. He explained that all current City maps show the alley west of Rutland City Hall running straight north to Front Street; however, that is not how it currently exists. He also noted that the existing alley east of the trail park does not appear on any City maps.

The Council discussed the matter and, after reviewing maps and property ownership, agreed that the gravel alley should be restored. Doing so would allow the bar to place its dumpsters behind the building on its property and could also provide off-street parking for staff.

Erickson reported on the progress of relocating the Post Office to the former Lariat Building at First and Arthur. The Post Office is currently working to secure a contractor to complete the necessary building work. It was noted that the Rutland Post Office has now been closed for five years, and it may be time to consider another written campaign advocating for the Post Office to reopen in Rutland.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2026, following the Board of Equalization meeting that will begin at 5 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deborah Banish, City Auditor

Michael Mahrer, Mayor