

REGULAR MEETING DE SMET COMMON COUNCIL

April 8, 2026

The De Smet Common Council met in regular session on April 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., with the following present: Council members, George Cavanaugh, Bret Jensen, Dustin McCune, Lowell Hansen, Pam Spader, Mykel Anderson, Mayor Gary Wolkow, and Finance Officer Tracey Larson. Absent: none.

Mayor Wolkow called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The meeting started with the council and those from the public reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Wolkow informed the council that Arbor Day activities have been planned. A tree will be planted in Washington Park, and other activities in the classroom will be done with the De Smet third graders. Mayor Wolkow announced that Arbor Day is on April 24, 2026 and issued the following proclamation:

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION 2026

WHEREAS in 1872, the Nebraska Board of Agriculture established a special day to be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS trees – wherever they are planted – are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Wolkow, Mayor of the City of De Smet, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2026, as **ARBOR DAY** In the City of De Smet, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

DATED THIS 8th day of April, 2026.

Mayor: Gary Wolkow

MINUTES: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes, all voting aye, motion carried.

CLAIMS: Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Spader, to approve paying the claims as presented, all voting aye, motion carried. The claims are as follows: PAYROLL \$41,948.80; OASI Benefit 3,209.10; Aflac, ins. premium 95.03; Dearborn National, life insurance 88.00; Madison National, life insurance 24.00 Delta Dental of South Dakota 471.92; VSP 159.60; The Health Pool of SD, health insurance premium 7,657.26; SDRS, retirement benefit 4,161.46; Mediacom, utilities 122.20; SDDOT-SD Airports Conference, registration fee 50.00; Visa, utilities, supplies, and repairs 333.82; De Smet Post Office, postage 67.90; Anderson Lumber, supplies 42.27; Avera Occupation Medicine - SF, drug testing 263.90; Avid Hawk, LLC, monthly web site fees 35.00; City of De Smet, utilities 627.42; City of De Smet, deposit retained 68.75; CMI Architectural, supplies 200.00; Twotrees Technologies, off-site backups, supplies, and software 79.42; Cook's Wastepaper & Recycling, residential garbage service 7,212.09; CR Corner, LLC, fuel 1,453.65; Dakota Pump, repair & maintenance 1,836.74; Department of Health, water labs 72.00; Display Sales, supplies 39.00; Ferguson Waterworks, repair & maintenance 876.75; Hawkins, water chemicals 20.00; Heather Peckenpaugh, deposit refund 30.00; Innovative Office Solutions, supplies 615.81; Interlakes Sports Center, LLC, repair & maintenance 93.41; Jennifer Tellinghuisen, deposit refund 30.00; Jenny Todd, reimbursement for supplies 464.96; Jessica Michalski, deposit refund & rent 1,431.25; Kingsbury Electric, repair & maintenance contract 220.00; Kingsbury County Auditor, law enforcement contract 6,933.33; Kingsbury Electric, utilities 527.55; Kingsbury Journal, publishing 463.21; Maynards, library supplies 50.37; Michelle Collier, deposit refund 30.00; Micro Marketing, LLC, books 367.18; NAPA, supplies 122.83; O'Keefe Implement, Inc., repair & supplies 72.47; Office Peeps, Inc., library supplies 341.58; Office Peeps, Inc, supplies 174.18; Olson's Pest Technician, pest control 75.00; Ottertail Power Company, utilities 6,245.45; Postmaster, supplies 1,830.00; Publishers Weekly, magazine renewal 289.99; Scott's Auto Body, repair & maintenance 442.85; SD Dept. of Revenue, garbage sales tax 500.22; SD Municipal Street Assoc., annual dues correction 15.00; SDSU, swimming recertification 625.00; Share Corp, sewer chemicals & supplies 3,888.09; The Penworthy Company, books 161.87; US Bank, 3rd Street loan payment 2,666.22; US Bank, looping project loan payment 4,043.31; Valley Fibercom, utilities 394.32; Halme, Inc., Main Street project 16,473.15; Helms & Associates, airport apron project engineering 13,200.03; IMEG, Main Street water project engineering 3,683.00; IMEG, Main Street sewer project engineering 2,106.00; Northwestern, utilities 945.07.

ZONING: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, that the Council to be convened as the Board of Adjustment, all voting aye,

motion carried. The Board of Adjustment was called to order by Mayor Wolkow.

This being the date and time public noticed for the hearing on Variance Application #120 submitted by Richard Mulder dba Jesser's Greenhouse, Mulder met with the board to discuss the variance application. Mulder has requested a variance to allow him to construct two temporary greenhouses, to be constructed seven (7) feet from the North property line, in an area zoned "C-2" Commercial Industrial District, adjacent to a residential zoned lot, on the following legally described property: Lots 9 & 10, Block 12, Western Town Lot Co. Addition, and addressed as 320 Joliet Ave. SE, De Smet, South Dakota.

Notice of the hearing was properly given by certified mail and by publication of the publication of the Notice of Hearing in conformity with Section 3.04.05 of the City Zoning Ordinance. Nobody from the public appeared for discussion of the variance application.

The location of the proposed construction was reviewed by the zoning board. Upon conclusion of the hearing and the Board having considered the application and evidence presented, enters its findings as follows:

1. That property legally described as Lots 9 & 10, Block 12, Western Town Lot Co. Addition, De Smet, Kingsbury County, South Dakota, is located within the city limits of the City of De Smet and the Board of Adjustment has jurisdiction over the application.
2. That the property is currently zoned "C-2 Commercial Industrial".
3. That adjacent properties to the South, East, and West are zoned "C-2 Commercial Industrial", and the adjacent property to the North is zoned "R-2 General Residential".
4. That the Area Regulations of the "C-2" zoning require a side yard set-back of forty (40) feet when adjacent to and shared with Residential Districts.
5. That the two (2) greenhouse structures will be seasonal during the spring/summer months and will be disassembled and stored indoors during the off-seasons.
6. That the applicant has filed the required application for the variance application and the notice of hearing was properly given.
7. That none of the adjacent property owners presented any objections to the proposed variance.
8. That the shape of the commercial lot deems it necessary to grant a variance.
9. That granting of the variance will not be injurious to the neighborhood, or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare.
10. That the applicant has not applied for any permanent structures or improvements on the property nor have any been authorized by the variance issued.
11. That the reasons set forth in the application justify granting a variance.

VARIANCE: motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Spader, to recommend approval of the variance application #120 as submitted to

Richard Mulder dba Jesser's Greenhouse, for two temporary greenhouse structures, all voting aye, motion carried.

Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Cavanaugh, to reconvene as the city council, all voting aye, motion carried. Mayor Wolkow declared the City Council back in session.

VARIANCES: Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve variance application #120 as submitted to Richard Mulder dba Jesser's, for two (2) temporary greenhouse accessory buildings, all voting aye, motion carried.

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve accepting the resignation from Dane Coughlin as Ward III Alderman due to moving, all voting aye, motion carried. The Council thanked Coughlin for doing an excellent job during his term. Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Hansen, to appoint Mykel Anderson as council member for Ward III, all voting aye, motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER OATH: The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor Wolkow to Mykel Anderson - Alderman Ward III.

BUILDING & DEMO PERMITS: Motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the building permit application submitted by Richard Mulder dba Jesser's Greenhouse, for two (2) temporary greenhouses, and the demo permit application submitted by Anthony Halveson, demolish a single stall garage, all voting aye, motion carried.

SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSES: One application for special liquor license was submitted by Lu Ann Klinkel, owner of Klinkel's III, for April 18, 2026, at the De Smet Legion Hall from 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm; and one application for a special liquor license was submitted by Reid McDaniel, owner of Prairie Fire and Grill, for May 2, 2026, at the De Smet Event Center from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by McCune, to approve a special liquor license to Lu Ann Klinkel, owner of Klinkel's III for April 18, 2026, at the De Smet Legion Hall from 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm; and a special liquor license to Reid McDaniel, owner of Prairie Fire and Grill, for May 2, 2026, at the De Smet Event Center from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm, all voting aye, motion carried.

SMOKE TESTING: Water & Sewer Supt. Jason Springer reported that the smoke testing of the wastewater system was conducted on March 31, 2026, by SD Rural Water Association. Results from the smoke testing show that there is no storm sewers attached to the wastewater infrastructure.

David FIELDS: David Fields representing him and his wife Amanda, inquired into the status of the backup that occurred at their residence on August 17, 2025. Fields asked about the project sewer relining, increasing the quantity of the lift station, and wanting payment from the City. Fields was informed that an email was received stating that the insurance company is still waiting for one property owner to submit their expenses.

ARENA INSURANCE: Brian Bindert, Insurance Agent with American Trust Insurance presented another insurance quote from a different company for insurance for the riding/rodeo arena. Bindert also explained the policy coverage, medical payments are excluded, the insurance covers one rodeo event with the policy, additional events would require additional coverage, liquor coverage would be an additional endorsement, and this policy addresses as a city event.

RODEO AREANA: Maggie Sprang and Steve Wienk met with the council to discuss the development of an arena. The landowner would like to know the status of this project, would like to have a rodeo in De Smet at some point, and they have a business will to contribute to the project.

SOFTBALL: Softball coach, Josh Starnes, met with the council to discuss scheduling of the baseball fields and if a shared program could be used. Starnes was informed that scheduling needs to be worked out with the Recreation Director and the small field can be used for younger kids.

DMO MARKETING GRANT: Grace Aughenbaugh & Ann Lesch, representing the Main Street Committee, and Casey Schultz and Sarah Mattsen, representing Caliber, met with the council to present information and progress on the four-year DMO Marketing Grant that was awarded in 2023 in the amount of \$315,000.00. 2026 will be the final year of the marketing grant. The grant has been used for new branding, hunting gift bags, strategic marketing to areas to draw visitors to De Smet, a new website and Facebook page. An informative video presentation was shown that provided spending breakdown, sample of graphics, photos, and advertising information. Also presented was a drawing of the banners to be ordered for Calumet Avenue and the highways.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mark Siefkes stated that the night the water was off for a water leak was after 5:00 pm and he did not have a phone number to call and does not look on the internet. The highway streetlight is still on and interferes with his security system.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAIN STREET & SHERWOOD PROJECTS: Karen DeGeest and Carter Klapperich, Engineers for IMEG met with the council to discuss the infrastructure projects and Sherwood project updates. Engineer Klapperich reported that Visu-sewer found an area of sewer main, north of the railroad track on Calumet Avenue that will need to be replaced before the relining in that area can be done. That repair will be completed on Monday, April 13, 2026. The sidewalks that were heaving over the winter have retracted with one sidewalk still heaving slightly. It has been noticed that there is more cracking in the sidewalks and another walk-through to look at the sidewalks will be done when they are on sight during the sewer relining. A pay request from Halme, Inc. has been submitted. That pay request includes resetting signs and televising lines. The storm sewer drainage on Sherwood will begin as early as May 18, 2026, and must be completed by the first week of June 2026. City Attorney Wilkinson has reviewed and approved the Memorandum of Understanding and the Engineering Agreement and Mayor Wolkow has signed the documents. Halme will be painting the stall lines, curbs, and handicap parking areas at the end of April.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Jensen to go into executive session to discuss contracts, litigation, and personnel at 6:43 pm, all voting aye, motion carried. Mayor Wolkow declared the council out of executive session at 7:22 pm.

2025 ENGAGEMENT LETTER: Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Spader, to approve hiring ELO CPA's & Advisors in the amount of \$22,900.00 plus out of pocket expenses, for the 2025 Audit, all voting aye, motion carried.

AERIAL SPRAYING PERMIT: Motion was made by Cavanaugh, seconded by Jensen, to approve the 2026 Aerial Spraying Permit submitted by Isaac Wilde, owner of Wilde Aire Service, LLC, all voting aye, motion carried.

LIBRARY HELP: Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Anderson, to approve hiring Mary Purintun, to help in the library at the rate of \$26.40 per hour, all voting aye, motion carried.

PROJECT PAYMENTS: Motion was made by Spader, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the project pay requests - Helms, pay request #4, airport apron reconstruction project \$13,200.03; IMEG, pay request #10, Main Street Sewer project \$2,106.00.00; and IMEG, pay request #12, Main Street water project \$3,683.00, and Halme, Inc., pay request #10, Main Street project \$16,473.15 (water 932.40, sewer 14,608.35, city 932.40)

all voting aye, motion carried. Airport project payments are reimbursed 95% by Federal and State grant funds.

RUS HOURS: Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve amending the RUS hours open for disposal to Tuesdays, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, and Saturdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, all voting aye, motion carried.

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION AND RUS FREE DUMPING DATES: Motion was made by McCune, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the electronics collection date on Friday, May 1, 2026 from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the new City Shop, and the free dumping dates at the Restricted Use Site as follows: Tuesdays - May 5th & 12th - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM and Saturdays - May 2nd & May 9th - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM weather permitting, all voting aye, motion carried.

FLOWER BARRELS: One quote to provide and plant flowers in 27 barrels was opened by Mayor Wolkow. The quote was from Jesser's Greenhouse in the amount of \$46.00 each barrel. Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Jensen, to approve the quote from Jesser's Greenhouse to provide and plant flowers in 25 barrels on main street and 2 barrels at the library, in the amount of \$46.00 per barrel, all voting aye, motion carried.

STREET REPAIR: Motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Spader, to approve the quote from Skinner Striping, to mill the existing asphalt, remove grave & grade, and repave with asphalt, in the alleyway between the General Store and De Smet Mercantile drive-through, in the amount of \$7,348.99, all voting aye, motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the March 2026 Cash Balances Report, all voting aye, motion carried.

OVERTIME: Motion by Spader, seconded by McCune, to approve the overtime hours for the month of March as presented, all voted aye, motion carried.

OTHER: Other non-action items of discussion were as follows: 1) the March law enforcement report; 2) repainting the trim, replacing trim boards around the doors, and checking the A/C of the old city hall building; 3) a recent water leak; and 4) fixing potholes.

ADJOURN: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on motion by Hansen, seconded by Anderson, all voting aye, motion carried.

To comply with SDCL 6-1-10. Publication of Payroll information, the payroll changes as follows: Deputy Finance Officer, Jennifer Ransom, \$22.79/hour effective April 1, 2026.

Gary Wolkow, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracey Larson, Finance Officer

Published once at the approximate cost of \$ _____