

A. INTRODUCTIONS Those present were Layn Mudder, Sarah Johnston, Brian Dehnert, Ben Kappel, Ruth MacDonald, Micaela Ranisate, Heidi Hughes, City Administrator Jim Neubauer, Building Official Jordan Singer, Commissioner Craig Sjoberg, Code Enforcement Officer Allen Decker, Public Works Director Shane O'Keefe, Communications Specialist Kari Schmidt, Grounds Maintenance Superintendent Jason Herman, and Administrative Assistant Ashlee Newman.

B. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Feb. 12, 2026 Minutes.* Dehnert moved and Ranisate seconded to approve. Roll Call vote: Aye 11, Nay 0 None, Absent Business Development & Communications Director Cermak, City Engineer Wigness, Wilson. The motion passed.

C. STATUS REPORTS

1. *Beautification Recognition Program Nominations:*. Ranisate moved and CBC Member Hamelton seconded to move all of the Beautification Recognition Program nominations forward. Roll Call vote: Aye 11, Nay 0 None, Absent Business Development & Communications Director Cermak, City Engineer Wigness, Wilson. The motion passed.

a. *107 1st Ave NW.*

b. *207 5th Ave NE.*

c. *307 4th Ave NE.*

d. *606 8th St NW.*

2. *Project Updates:* .

a. *Collins Ave Water Tower.* Kari Schmidt reported that Collins Avenue was closed yesterday to allow for installation of a retaining wall and removal of a streetlight. She also noted a potential opportunity for a public art initiative associated with the water tower.

b. *America 250.* Jim Neubauer provided an update on America 250 initiatives, including updates to the Bandshell. Approximately \$70,000 from the Visitors Fund has been allocated toward related efforts, Matt Schanandore, Executive Director of the Mandan Progress Organization, presented information at the April 7, 2026 City Commission meeting. It was noted that the Mandan Progress Organization will take a larger role in implementation moving forward, rather than the City of Mandan leading all efforts.

Approximately \$180,000 in archer barriers will be utilized in place of some of the Harlow buses used during last year's July 4 parade. The Dakota Leathernecks were announced as the Grand Marshal for the July 4 parade. It was also noted that parade entries have been limited, according to Jim Neubauer.

Kari Schmidt noted that the April newsletter is the first to include a "Clean Up" message in reference to America 250. Additional related projects include Crying Hill, The Depot, and the east-side welcome sign along the highway strip.

c. *Arbor Day Celebration/50 Years as a Tree City USA.* Jason Herman reported that Arbor Day will be held on May 1 at Dykshoorn Park. Two fifth-grade classes will participate in the event. Two trees will be planted to replace two trees that were previously removed.

d. *Tree Inventory Update*. Jason Herman reported that the project has been approved for funding. The tree inventory is approximately 90% complete. A key concern discussed was determining how many ash trees are in the city. While no grant funding is currently available for this work, having a completed inventory will support future grant applications.

e. *Other Projects?*. Layn Mudder asked about the future of Custer School. Jim Neubauer noted that the Parks Department is currently reviewing the property, as it is not City-owned. He suggested following up with Dr. Bitz.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

1. *Spring Clean Up Week (Apr. 20-25)*. Shane O'Keefe reported that Spring Clean Up Week will be held April 20-25.

2. *Community Litter Clean Up Month (May)*. Kari Schmidt thanked everyone for their assistance with door prizes. Approximately 88 volunteers have registered. As of the meeting, 11 of 18 routes have been claimed, not including entries received that morning. A litter cleanup event at the cemetery is scheduled for April 24 from 1:00-3:30 p.m., with equipment provided on-site. Staff anticipate approximately 200 volunteers. Bearscat Bakehouse will again provide a free donut for each volunteer.

E. NOTE OF THANKS

1. *Is there anyone you would like to send a note of thanks to?* . Ben Kappel asked whether door prizes and thank-you acknowledgments would be handled at the end of the program. Kari Schmidt responded that this approach would work.

F. FUTURE MEETINGS

1.

- *June 11, 2026 at 7:30 a.m.*
- *August 13, 2026 at 7:30 a.m.*

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G. ADJOURN There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.