

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
UN-APPROVED MINUTES –January 13th, 2026

On **January 13th, 2026**, the Montrose City Council Meeting took place at the Community Center. *The Pledge of Allegiance* was recited. Mayor Susan Painter called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. **Roll Call:** Council members: Vogel, Binder and Scheff were present. Council Hanisch arrived at 6:20pm. Finance Officer Siemonsma present. Maintenance Hanisch present. City residents present. Quorum present. Rules of Decorum stated by Painter.

Action 26-001

Moved by council Scheff, seconded by council Vogel for approval of Agenda. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-002

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Scheff for approval of the December 10th meeting minutes. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Riley Rinehart was present to discuss some updates to the failed manhole chimney seals that were installed during the 2020-2025 Sewer Grant Project. Halme had submitted a claim to the insurance company that provided coverage for their subcontractor, Redina Construction, and the insurance company sent out an investigator to observe the issue. Halme informed us that the insurance company had reached out and stated over the phone, they would cover the expenses related to removal of the failing seals, but would not cover installation of new seals. It was proposed to put together a summary of expenses incurred by the City, Halme, and DGR, such that they can eventually be submitted to the insurance company. Halme provided their expenses including staff hours and equipment expenses that amount to \$13,842.50 for work related to dealing with the failing seals and assisting with removing them. The thought is that any reimbursement for Halme's expenses would go to the City, and the City and DGR could also prepare similar billing reports to help justify additional reimbursement to the City. The reimbursement funds could then be used toward the installation of new manhole chimney seals. DGR spoke with two companies that install these types of seals in our region, and based on their initial thoughts and estimates, it would likely cost around \$40,000-\$45,000 total have new seals installed on all 50 manholes. That equates to \$800-\$900 per manhole, and includes the prep work (i.e. sandblasting) and installation of the new sealant material.

Council Vogel stated the subcontractor liability falls under the general contractor and if the subcontractor insurance fails to cover this project, then Halme construction's insurance company also needs to be involved from the city prospective. Council Binder stated that involvement of the city attorney may have to occur as we move forward with these claims. Maintenance Hanisch stated that eventually chimney rot will occur, so the sooner we can move on the repairs, the better. FO asked DGR to probe Halme construction regarding their insurance coverage on this sewer project. For now, the city is awaiting a response from the subcontractor's insurance company. Riley from DGR will return to a council meeting as more information comes to light.

Mark Miles was present to discuss hosting a corn hole tournament fundraiser in the summer of 2026 to help raise money for the Montrose Fire Department. He is looking at September 4th over the Labor Day weekend. This event would take place on the Softball Field. FO will check with SD DOR regarding alcohol sales in the city parks.

Sioux Metro Growth Alliance Representative Tyler Torsden was present to discuss the organization based out of SF. Council Vogel has been in contact with them in the past regarding a possible 2026 membership to gain more knowledge and understanding of future growth opportunities, advocacy options, marketing and city promotion opportunities for Montrose. SMGA has been around for 35 years, they serve cities and counties within a 50 mile radius of SF. Membership includes EDPA membership and SD Tourism membership. Membership to the SMGA is \$1300 a year. FO asked Tyler for targeted ideas specific to Montrose and Tyler responded that his team could be of value for resources and ideas.

Action 26-003

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Binder, for approval to join the SMGA for 2026 for \$1300 annual fee. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

The Cub Cadet lawn mower is up for sealed bids as a surplus item. No bids were turned into the city office for this opportunity. The council team will consider selling the mower to anyone who is interested at a later meeting date.

OLD BUSINESS:

City punch list reviewed by council.

Baseball building on valley road renovation project is in the planning phase. FO will receive bids in February's meeting for council approval to move forward on project.

FO asked the council if they wanted to keep the sand volleyball area next to the basketball court. Concerns of wasting government money to maintain the area as it does not appear to be used much or at all by community members or campers.

Action 26-004

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Hanisch, to table volleyball recreation area maintenance until the next scheduled meeting. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

FO is working with Dave Bochee with Hydrotech Services as a General contractor to navigate what is needed for a new water shed as the current building is aging and starting to break down. Underground work, 3 phase power-electrician, framer, concrete services, and pump transition from one building to the next is all needed. Planning and pricing is in the works. Council Hanisch stated that Dakota Pump built that building 30 years ago and the floor and sidewalls are rusting through, so we need to be pro-active in taking care of this building.

Housing Grants: No updates as the government shutdown slowed down all federal approval for now.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sheriff Reports reviewed.

The council appointed council members Jasen Hanisch and Nick Vogel to attend the rural fire board meeting Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00 pm.

FO presented a bid from bxcc in Dell Rapids for dust control near the CFC elevators and in front of the city shop. Mayor Painter and FO will reach out to Central Farmers to see if they want to pay half the cost of this service so we can cut down on the dust within the city due to heavy semi-truck traffic for our citizens who live near this area.

Discussion about music festival camping for 2026. Fockler has purchased 20 sites for 2 nights for this event. FO wanted clarity on camping for this event. Council members agreed to give the Music Festival Thursday night free camping in the south campground for the 2026 event.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Maintenance Hanisch reported on CIP project plans with Twedt construction this summer. Hanisch rented a lift to take down Christmas decorations and re-hang the Montrose banners on main street. Hanisch is watching the water tower levels and adjusting accordingly to keep the agitator going so nothing will freeze. Hanisch is watching the sewer ponds and levels. FO asked about property 300 S 1st Ave water shutoff valve repairs, and Hanisch is working with Twedt construction on this repair.

Annual pet licensing for Montrose citizens is due by January 31st, 2026. This ensures rabies vaccinations for public health, to promote responsible pet ownership, to increase likelihood of lost pets being reunited with their owners, and to help fund service calls to the humane society when needed.

There is a missing deed for a city parcel #19.00.0617. The county equalization office and FO have been working to try and locate this deed, but were unsuccessful, so the state's attorney recommended that our city attorney due a quit claim deed to remedy the problem. This was found during a parcel merging project the FO is working on to clean up city parcels and assigning addresses for insurance and product delivery purposes and to stay in compliance with our city building permit ordinances.

Action 26-005

Moved by council Hanisch, seconded by council Scheff, for approval of city attorney to be involved in a quitclaim deed for parcel#19.00.0617. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-006

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Scheff, for approval for the finance officer to move \$141,000 cash applied in the 2026 budget line from general fund-into the Montrose Operations Money Market reserve account. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

FO presented a letter template that will be sent out to citizens on 1st avenue regarding the CIP project, taking place this year. This letter is to inform the public of plans and the scope of the project.

The City of Montrose was approved for funding up to \$1,950 for the 2026 forestry grant opportunity through the DANR. Council members decided on May 16th for the tree planting date. FO will reach out to the MCM football coach for possible volunteers to help with planting.

Action 26-007

Moved by council Binder, seconded by council Hanisch for approval of the FO to purchase the tree species NOT to include the Gingko Gold trees; listed in the council packet from nursery wholesalers in tea, SD for the 2026 forestry grant. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-008

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Binder, for approval to approve the 2026 Humane Society Agreement with Montrose. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-009

Moved by council Hanisch, seconded by council Binder, for approval of 1st and final reading of Resolution No. 2026-001 Annual Wages for 2026. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-010

Moved by council Hanisch, seconded by council Scheff for approval of 1st and final reading of Resolution No. 2026-002 Election board pay. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-011

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Hanisch, for approval of the 1st reading of Ordinance No. 2026-001 Budget Supplement Ordinance. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

A list of policies were brought to the attention of the council for review and possible revisions in 2026: 2019 Personnel Policy, 2023 City/County Mutual Aid Agreement, 2019 Procurement Policy, 2024 Pool Manual, the 2024 Seasonal Camping Patron Policy, and the 2024 Camping Terms and Conditions. The council didn't want to alter any policies at this time.

Action 26-012

Moved by council Binder, seconded by council Vogel, for approval to appoint the Salem Special and New Century Press as our City official newspaper for 2026. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-013

Moved by council Scheff, seconded by council Hanisch, for approval to appoint Security State Bank, Montrose Branch as our City Bank Depository with active signers being: Susan Painter, Nicole Siemonsma, and Alex Binder for 2026. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Action 26-014

Moved by council Hanisch, seconded by council Binder, for approval to appoint for City Attorney, Dean Hammer and Deputy City Attorney Mason Breitling with the Dell Rapids Law Firm to represent Montrose in 2026. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Annual List of Youth Sports Volunteers (22 people) and the Volunteer Fire Fighter List (26 people) for 2026 is included in the council packet and posted on our website under the meeting Agendas.

End of month bank account balances and End of Year Revenue/Expenditures in General Fund reviewed by council members. End of Year water/sewer balances and Interest balances reviewed by council members.

JANUARY VOUCHERS:

PAID Between Meetings

29581e	FEDERAL TAX PAYMENT	12/19/25	\$568.10	Payroll Taxes
29582e	FEDERAL TAX PAYMENT	1/2/26	\$882.24	Payroll Taxes
30914	BRIGHT ARROW	1/1/26	\$75.00	Annual membership Dues
29580e	CAMPSPOT	12/10/25	\$12.00	Camp Reservation Fees-DEC
29585e	CAMPSPOT	1/5/26	\$19.50	Camp Reservation Fees-JAN
29586e	CLOVER CONNECT	1/5/26	\$67.12	ACH Card Fees for Campground
30909	JASPERS, SYLVIA (VAL)	12/26/25	\$20.35	UB Deposit Reimbursement Property 410 N 2nd Ave
30908	LEMAN, RACHEL	12/26/25	\$126.05	UB Deposit Reimbursement Property 409 S Church Ave
29583e	SD DLR	1/5/26	\$0.41	4th Quarter 2025 Unemployment Insurance
29584e	SD DOR	1/7/26	\$229.30	Garbage Tax December 2025
30917	SD RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1/2/26	\$670.02	Monthly Reporting
30915	THE SECURITY STATE BANK	1/1/26	\$2,731.59	Finance laptop; Microsoft pkg; Postage; Bus Cards
30916	US BANK, N.A.	1/1/26	\$11,703.04	Loan: DW1 / CW2

PAID at Council Meeting

30918	A&B BUSINESS	1/13/26	\$220.91	Monthly IT Service; Printer Contract
30919	ADDY DISPOSAL	1/13/26	\$2,994.00	Monthly Garbage Fee
30920	BADGER METER	1/13/26	\$67.43	Monthly cellular/network fees
30933	BIERSCHBACH EQUIP	1/13/26	\$290.00	Lift Rental for main street lights
30921	CITY OF MONTROSE	1/13/26	\$1.89	Monthly UB Bill
30922	GOLDEN WEST	1/13/26	\$178.76	Monthly Office Phone Bill
30934	JOSH HANISCH	1/13/26	\$84.68	Mileage for Lift Rental
30923	KINGBROOK RURAL WATER	1/13/26	\$4,437.30	Monthly Water Purchase-Usage

30924	MCCOOK CO. AUDITOR	1/13/26	\$1,783.60	Monthly Sheriff Fee
30925	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	1/13/26	\$515.27	Prior month Usage
30926	MONTROSE GAS PLUS	1/13/26	\$189.82	Fuel for City Equip
30927	NEW CENTURY PRESS	1/13/26	\$189.49	Mtg Minutes; Public Notices (3)
30928	PUBLIC HEALTH LAB	1/13/26	\$260.00	BacT Water Sample Fees
30929	SD ARWS	1/13/26	\$410.00	Annual membership Dues
30930	SECOG	1/13/26	\$864.00	Annual membership Dues
30931	SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC COOP	1/13/26	\$1,292.17	Monthly Electric Bill
30932	TRANSSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIP.	1/13/26	\$1,533.21	Loader Shifter Repair
	TOTAL PAID:		\$32,417.25	

**Pay-
roll**

	City Council Members		\$2,450.00	Quarterly Payment-Paid in January
	Finance Officer		\$4,240.00	2 pay periods - December
	Seasonal Snow Removal		\$316.67	Council Hanisch
	Certified Operator Temp.		\$100.00	Monthly Payment
	Maintenance		\$1,388.56	2 pay periods - December
	TOTAL SALARIES:		\$8,495.23	
	GRAND TOTAL:		\$40,912.48	

Action 26-015

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Hanisch for approval of bills paid between meetings and bills paid at council meeting.

Roll Call: All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Hearing of those present: Dave Lounsberry voiced concerns regarding excess pink rock from the chip seal project in yards and ditches. Council Vogel stated they would look into the issue.

Action 26-016

Moved by council Vogel, seconded by council Binder to **Adjourn** at 8:10pm. **Roll Call:** All favored no opposition. Motion carried.

Attest: _____

Nicole Siemonsma
Finance Officer

City Mayor or Council President

Published once at the approximate cost of: _____

Publish Date: _____