

Minutes of the Cando City Council

The Cando City Council met on Tuesday, Aug 19, 2025, at the Towner County Courthouse. Councilors Bjornstad, Halverson, Klingenberg, Miller, Scott and Olson were present, with Mayor Bjornstad presiding.

A motion was made by Councilor Bjornstad and seconded by Councilor Klingenberg to approve the agenda with the addition of a visitor being added. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Motion by Councilor Olson and seconded by Councilor Scott to approve the minutes for July as written. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Visitors & Delegations: A group of multiple community members representing the need for community daycare addressed the council about the ongoing daycare shortage in Cando and Towner County. They gave illustrations of personal and community consequences that families are facing if they are considering having more children. Some of these examples were teachers resigning due to lack of childcare, and working parents being forced to leave the area. Towner County fulfills only 20% of the current daycare needs. Currently, there are about 150 children potentially needing daycare. Cando only has two licensed daycare providers; the one at the hospital (which was downsized when they moved into the new building from 32 to 26) and Wee Ones (Gretchen Klier's daycare that has a large, longstanding waiting list). The other home-based, non-licensed providers that were around are now phasing out or having closed, leaving a need for something to be done. Although there are some empty buildings in town that could possibly be used as potential spots for a daycare, the members from the community group explained to the council the specific regulatory requirements (35 sq ft/child indoors, 75 sq ft/child outdoors), and the licensing requirements for staffing ratios (one staff per four infants; one per up to 20 older kids, regulations vary by age group) that must be followed in order to be in compliance with the state. While the group did acknowledge that daycare is typically not profitable and often runs at a loss, there are city and church-run models that exist in ND and MN. They told the council that there are grants available and asked the council for the city's support and any help or leads they could provide regarding facilities or other funding solutions as they actively look for a solution to the daycare dilemma. Council thanked them for coming and sharing the information. Resident Nolan Reider came to the meeting to discuss the house he has been fixing up. The council granted him a three-month extension (to Nov. 18, 2025) to complete window replacements that have been delayed due to it being a custom order and limited contractor availability.

Old Business: Brad Muscha from Moore Engineering was present to give the council members an update on the Sewer Project, the 4th Ave Water Main Replacement, and the Water Service Line Inventory & Lead Line Replacement Project. Muscha started off his presentation with the Sewer Project. A substantial completion inspection is planned for the week after the meeting and city officials are invited to participate. The contractor has submitted a new change proposal request citing two extra days of work due to poor and waterlogged soil on 5th Avenue. A motion was made by Councilor Miller to approve change order and seconded by Scott all voted aye and motion passed. There was then a discussion centered on whether additional compensation is warranted, as the previous contingency and fill hauling costs may already cover these issues. It was also noted that the soil conditions were worse than borings suggested; heavy rain and a water main break also exacerbated the situation. The council also had a discussion on grant usage for the exploration excavation near school to identify water mains. A motion to approve Application #7 from BEK (includes paving and miscellaneous items) was made by Councilor Scott and seconded by Klingenberg all voted aye, and motion passed. A motion to approve Moore Engineering invoice #SIN004062 was made by Councilor Bjornstad and seconded by Council Scott. All voted aye and motion passed. The United States Army Corps of Engineers grant request #11 was submitted. A motion was made by Councilor Olson to approve grant request #11 and seconded by Miller. All voted aye and motion passed. Next up was an update on the 4th Ave Water Main Replacement Project. A motion to approve Change Order #1 (260 ft drilled instead of bursting at \$35 extra/ft due to a diagonal segment) was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Council Scott. All voted aye and motion passed. A motion to approve Payment Application #1 to Post Construction was made by Councilor Olson and seconded by Councilor Klingenberg. All voted aye and motion passed. A motion to approve Moore Engineering invoice #SIN004063 (mostly inspection time) was made by Councilor Klingberg and seconded by Council Miller. All voted aye and motion passed. The State Water Commission Grant Request #3 was submitted to the council to review. A motion was made by Councilor Olson to approve Request #3 and seconded by Council Bjornstad. All voted aye and motion passed. The council also asked Muscha about the timing of reimbursement from State Revolving Fund Loan for this project. Council members also had a discussion on grant usage for the exploration excavation near school to identify water mains.

Brad finished his presentation with information on the Water Service Line Inventory & Lead Line Replacement Project. A Final spreadsheet with up-to-date results will be sent to the city. The homeowners share for lead replacement was also discussed (estimated \$1,500–\$2,000 after grants). Reluctance is expected among some homeowners. A motion to approve the Moore Engineering agreement for lead service line replacement preliminary work (funding apps, design, survey) was made by Councilor Bjornstad and seconded by Councilor Scott. All voted aye and motion passed. Muscha said they have the project bid targeted for Jan/Feb 2026 and construction to start next summer.

New Business:

The current bank reconciliation and monthly report was delayed due to software issues and will be presented to the council to review at their next meeting. There is some confusion over software licensing (Microsoft 365), status of prior upgrades, and archiving with Banyan software for utilities/financials (possible switching or renegotiation was discussed). The 2021/2022 Audit is in progress with primary complications of trying to track reports that contain historical unpaid water bills. Staff cross-training between current city office staff (Sheila, Kathy) is ongoing, positive feedback on transition. It was discovered that new computers may be needed, as current hardware is 2019 vintage and running slow. Suggestions were made to research alternate IT support vendors and accounting software while at League of Cities. Building Permits for Wilson, Becker, Aufforth, Jarez was acknowledged by the council. Midco Diving and Marina proposal was review for water tower cleaning, no action taken at this time. The council reviewed the Siren upgrade proposal that was submitted by the Towner County Emergency Manager. A motion was made by Council Klingenberg to approve upgrade and second by Councilor Olson. All voted aye and motion passed. A Gaming Permit for TCMC Auxiliary was reviewed and a motion was made by Council Bjornstad and seconded by Councilor Klingenberg to approve permit. All voted aye, and motion carried. Board Appointments: Chad Staus was appointed to the Economic Development Board (replacing J. Gibbens). Cassie Snyder was appointed to Library Board and motion was made by Council Halverson to approve the appointment and seconded by Council Bjornstad. All voted aye and the motion passed. After reviewing a quote from Murchie Electric for a new three-phase, 100-amp generator switches at lift stations, A motion to accept the quote was made by Councilor Bjornstad and seconded by Councilor Miller. All voted aye and motion carried. The council approved seeking a used 25KW generator) for mobile backup at the lift stations in the event of a power outage. Inquiry into who will maintain/load-test generator is still to be determined. It was noted that lift station failure would quickly result in major basement flooding.

Open Committee:

Public Works/Maintenance: Recent water inspection had minor issues lagoon weeds, missing no-trespassing signs, and mesh on water tower. Routine maintenance ongoing: hydrant flushing, street sweeping (to commence following granite removal), mowing, and curb painting. Noted that granite collected from street sweeping may be reused for alleys. There was a conversation on proper handling of curb/sidewalk repair and attribution of responsibility.

Law Enforcement Contract & Budget: The Sheriff's Department contract cost now exceeds \$200,000 and is outpaced by the 10% annual escalation clause that was in the original 2018 contract. There was a debate on current value of service, number of officers (two assigned), and maintenance of vehicles. A suggestion to cap city's payment at \$150,000. No motion was made, but the mayor to inform county of intent and it will be discussed further at next meeting. Acknowledgment that other towns do not subsidize county law enforcement at all.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilor Scott and seconded by Councilor Miller. All voted aye and the motion was passed.

At 9:15 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Sheila Bjornstad, Recorder

Bills for Approval for August 1, 2025

Salaries PP# 15	\$ 7,405.52	Northern Plains	\$ 4,568.53			
Towner County Auditor /Treasurer	\$ 19,175.58	BEK	\$ 385,043.83			
Lane Pederson	\$ 1,300.00	ND Telephone	\$ 379.14			
ND Child Support	\$ 854.78	Capital Guardians	\$ 1,575.66			
FICA/MED/FED	\$ 1,671.51	Cando Park Board	\$ 6,346.62			
BCBS	\$ 5,607.64	Cando Hardware	\$ 840.16			
Visa	\$ 306.47	Moore Engineering	\$ 88,926.60			
Standard Insurance	\$ 62.20	One Concept	\$ 27.00			
Advanced Business	\$ 101.94	Hendrickson Electric	\$ 44.22			
Northwest Regional Water	\$ 16,459.65	Vulcan Iron Works	\$ 24.25			
Circle Sanitation Inc	\$ 16,771.05	North Dakota Water Assoc	\$ 320.00			
CC Steel	\$ 2,625.00	281 Spirit Shop	\$ 474.45			
Verizon	\$ 125.09	North Dakota Tax Comm	\$ 52.99			

Total:	\$ 561,089.88
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Bills for Approval for Aug 19, 2025

PAYROLL #16	\$ 7,405.52	PEDERSON SEPTIC	\$ 300.00			
CHILD SUPPORT	\$ 854.78	MOORE ENGINEERING	\$ 92,677.80			
RUNNINGS	\$ 241.31	NORMONT	\$ 6,378.57			
RAILROAD MANAGEMENT	\$ 834.10	AE2S	\$ 450.00			
HOUTCOOPER IMPLEMENT	\$ 35.98	CANDO LUMBER	\$ 785.59			
TIME CLOCK PLUS	\$ 38.50					
HE EVERSON	\$ 872.07					
D&R TIRE	\$ 758.72					
LEGACY	\$ 1,153.51					
GF UTILITY BILLING	\$ 52.00					
NEUMAN DRUG	\$ 6.49					
FICA	\$ 1,899.87					

Total:	\$ 114,744.81
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