

# *City Council Proceedings*

The Canistota City Council met Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Canistota City Hall Community Room. City Council Members present: Mayor Justin Lee Engbarth, Donovan O'Donnell, Jerry Bertelson, Matt Anderson. and Jamie Miller. Others present: Maintenance Assistant, Brandon Dolejsi, Finance Officer, Kathy J. Townsend, Absent City Maintenance Supervisor Darin Nugteren, City Engineer Gaber Laber and Fire Chief Dave Miller. Karmon Hoiten arrived at 7:05 PM.

Mayor Engbarth called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miller motioned to approve the agenda as presented, supported by Bertelson, the motion carried.

Bertelson motioned, second by O'Donnell to approve the proceedings from the last meeting as presented, all voted yes, the motion carried.

On a motion by Bertelson, second by Miller, the proceedings from the Board of Equalization Meeting were approved as presented, all voted yes, the motion carried.

The proceedings from the meeting held immediately after the BOE Meeting were approved on a motion by Bertelson, second by Miller, all voted yes, the motion carried.

The written February and March report received from the Sherriff's Office was approved as presented on a motion by Bertelson, second by Anderson, the motion carried.

Chief Miller presented the report for the Volunteer Fire Department: They responded to nine rescue calls and three fire calls in March. Chief Miller updated the Council on the solar project on Highway 42 which is beginning soon. The Fire Department will have a back-up generator installed at their facility. The Department also still has thirty (30) smoke alarms free for residents, if interested, please notify a volunteer fire department member. The Departments annual pancake breakfast fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 1 PM. The report was approved on a motion by Miller, second by O'Donnell, the motion carried. Chief Miller left the meeting at 6:10 PM

Dolejsi presented the Planning and Zoning report: several building permits were approved in March. Nugteren and Dolejsi are working with the City Engineer, the city attorney and McCook County Highway Department on a proposed project. R. Becker dropped off a supplemental information sheet to add to his compiled Recovery Sop. The report was approved on a motion by Anderson, supported by Miller, the motion carried.

Anderson informed the Council the Canistota Development Corporation would have no report as they did not meet in March. They group will convene in April.

Laber met with the Council to verify the funding package awarded to the City of Canistota by SD DANR for the proposed Phase 4 Street Improvement Project. Because of grant money allocated to the City of Canistota, surcharges levied for drinking water and clean water are lower than first projected. A public meeting will be held after Laber has completed the design phase of the project. Other topics of discussion with Laber included replacing the water tower and alternate bids for the project. Miller motioned to approve the Mayor signing a contract with HDR and Laber to perform services as described in the contract for the Phase 4 Street Improvement Project, all voted yes, the motion carried. Laber left the meeting at 6:45 PM

There were no citizen concerns.

Dolejsi presented the maintenance report: The code enforcement officer has submitted his report including letters and pictures that he has sent to various nuisance properties in Canistota. Nugteren and Dolejsi inspected the attic at

City Hall to determine the cause of a suspected leak. Hoiten has been sweeping streets as time allows. The ice-skating rink is down with the pickleball nets installed. The fence in front of the grandstand is being installed along with a few other minor updates. Top dressing the football field was discussed with no action taken by the Council at this time because of the proposed cost of the project. New and replacement trees have been ordered for City Parks. Nugteren and Dolejsi are working at the pool cleaning filters and pumping out excess water from the winter. The Rubble Site was inspected by SD DANR, receiving a Good Compliance Inspection. Options for chip sealing City streets is being explored by Nugteren; because of the high winds, the Sunflo mixer at the lagoon has had additional anchors installed. The old jail was vandalized, someone threw a rock through the window. The report was approved on a motion by Bertelson, second by O'Donnell, the motion carried.

The following bills were approved for payment on a motion by Miller, second by Anderson, all voted yes, the motion carried.

Addy Disposal, Collections Fee & Dumpster Fee, \$4,809.94; Al's Feed, Supplies, \$28.00; April 1<sup>st</sup>, Payroll, Streets, \$2,319.51, Clean Water, \$1,814.33; Drinking Water, \$1,814.33; Finance Officer, \$577.95; Badger Meter, Prof. Fees, \$86.75; Banyon Data Systems, Annual UB & FA Renewal, \$2,125.00; Cadwell, Sanford, Deibert & Garry, Prof. Fees, \$84.00; Core & Main, Supplies, \$185.08; Gessner Welding, Repairs, \$300.00; Golden West, Utilities, \$373.21; Great Plains Electric, Repairs, \$2,073.71; Larry's Service, Repairs, \$20.00; Marco, Copier Contract, \$81.16; McCook County Treas., Law Enforcement, \$5,350.80; Menards, Supplies, \$1,353.79; Mr. G's Tires, Repairs, \$289.50; New Century Press, Publishing, \$300.21; Northwestern Energy, Utilities, \$1,045.08; Pfeifer Implement, Supplies, \$41.96; Puthoff Sales, Supplies, \$28.93; SD Dept. of Health, \$20.00; SD Dept. of Revenue, License Fee, \$150.00; SD Dept of Revenue, Sales & Use Tax, \$319.35; SD Federal Surplus, Supplies, \$156.41; SDML WC Fund, Prof. Fee, \$416.00; SDWWA, Annual Due, \$10.00; Titan Machinery, Repairs, \$3,225.49; TM Rural Water, Water Purchased, \$5,786.55; Total Stop, Fuel & Supplies, \$837.62; Townsend, Kathy, Utilities \$50.00; US Bank Card, Supplies, \$6,084.67; US Bank Trust, Debt Service, \$33,573.70; Verizon Wireless, Utilities, \$199.24; Xcel Energy, Utilities, \$3,147.18

The following bills were approved for payment after the last meeting: AFLAC, Full time Employees, \$426.62; March 1, Council Payroll, \$3,463.14; March 15, Staff Payroll, \$4,904.58; SDRS, Full Time Employees, \$1,408.36 Security State Bank, Payroll Taxes, \$3,701.63; US Bank Card, Supplies, \$1,810.35; Xcel Energy, Utilities, \$2,985.17.

The Finance Officer report included an update on delinquent utility bills. The second payment on an abated utility billing was acknowledged. Townsend presented an update on pool grant applications: One application was declined at this time with a second grant request pending. The report was approved on a motion by Miller, second by Anderson, the motion carried.

Karmon Hoiten with Randy Sabers and Associates presented health insurance benefit information for full-time City employees. Various plans, co-pays, deductibles and premium costs were explained with Council questions and concerns being addressed.

Hoiten left the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Council Concerns:

Mayor Engbarth: On a motion by Anderson, second by Miller, Ordinance 2025-19 was adopted as presented, all voted yes, the motion carried. The Ordinance is printed elsewhere in this edition of The Special. The first reading of Ordinance 2026-04, Date change for Board reorganization and department head appointments was acknowledged. O'Donnell motioned, supported by Anderson to approve the Retail Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License Renewal for Total Stop, all voted yes, the motion carried.

Miller motioned, second by Bertelson to hire the following lifeguard's contingent upon the applicant submitting all required certification and required paperwork to the Finance Officer before they can be placed on the schedule to work:

Kaleb Hjermsstad, \$17.00/hour; Caleb Schroeder, \$16.50/ hour; Ellia Hjermsstad, \$16.50/hour; Macie Globke, \$16.00/hour and Alyvia Hjermsstad, \$16.00/hour with starting pay at \$16.00/hour with a \$.50/hour increase for each year of returning service to the City of Canistota, all voted yes, the motion carried.

After discussion, Miller motioned, second by Bertelson to offer the Pool Manager Position to Natalee Hofer at \$19.00/hour, Hofer has all certification in place, two (2) Council members voted yes, two (2) Council members voted no, Mayor Justin Lee Engbarth broke the tie by voting yes to hire Natalee Hofer as Pool Manager, she will also teach swim lessons this summer for Canistota, the motion carried.

Bertelson motioned, supported by Miller, to hire Kailey Jordan at \$15.00/hour for approximately 20-25 hours per week as parttime summer maintenance, and also to assist with the summer rec program, all voted yes, the motion carried.

Bertelson motioned, second by Miller, to hire Emma Carter as the summer recreation director at \$16.50/hour, all voted yes, the motion carried.

Anderson motioned, supported by Bertelson to hold Spring Dump Days at the Rubble Site Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 with the Lions Club again assisting with pickup at the curb. In case of inclement weather, the alternate date is Saturday, May 9, 2026, the motion carried.

The Rubble Site is open to all City of Canistota citizens with the purchase of an annual pass, the cost is \$50.00/year. The pass allows access to the rubble site from 8 AM to 8 PM daily. Hiring an attendant will be discussed at the regular May Council meeting. Bertelson motioned, second by O'Donnell to accept the annual contract renewal between the City of Canistota and Canistota Public School for the rental of the football complex. The rental fee is fixed at \$5,000.00/year, for ten years commencing in 2025 to 2034-2035 football season, all voted yes, the motion carried. Bertelson updated the Mayor and Council on a bid to install a free public library at City Hall, the quote received for updates was not feasible. Nugteren & Dolejsi will move an existing counter in the space between the mayor's office and the finance office so shelves can be installed. Bertelson hopes to have the library open to the public by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Signage and volunteers were discussed.

O'Donnell asked about Addy Disposal visiting with the Council concerning recycling, the Mayor will arrange for Addy to attend the May meeting.

Miller had no concerns.

Anderson had no concerns.

Bertelson discussed concerns over the slowly growing donations to fund the park improvement project at the park by the pool. Various funding solutions were discussed.

At 9.37 PM, O'Donnell motioned to enter into executive session for Personnel per SDCL 1-25-2-1, second by Bertelson, all voted yes, the motion carried.

Mayor Justin Lee Engbarth declared executive session over at 10 PM with the Council convening in open session.

Bertelson motioned, second by Anderson, all voted yes to adjourn the meeting at 10 PM, the motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Canistota City Council will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6 PM. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SEAL:

Justin Lee Engbarth  
Mayor, City of Canistota

ATTEST:

Kathy J. Townsend  
Finance Officer, City of Canistota