

On January 6, 2026, a Ward County Commissioner/City of Minot Joint Meeting of the Minot City Council was held in the Commissioner's Chambers, 225 3rd St SE. Chairman Fjeldahl called the meeting to order at 10:28 am.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: John Fjeldahl, Ron Merritt, Jason Olson, Jim Rostad, Miranda Schuler

Commissioners Absent: None

Members Present: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson

Members Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

LIBRARY DISCUSSION

The motion to form a joint committee with the county to explore the idea of merging the two libraries was initiated by City Council Member Blessum, seconded by City Council Member Fuller and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: Lisa Olson.

The joint committee shall consist of (2) members of the City Council, (2) members of the Ward County Commission, (1) member of the Minot Public Library Board, (1) member of the Ward County Library Board, and (1) a member at large selected by both the Chairman and Mayor.

The Ward County Commission motioned the same as the City Council, which was initiated by Commissioner Merritt, seconded by Commissioner Rostad, and carried a unanimous vote.

The motion to add a six-month deadline to the committee work to target the November election ballot was initiated by City Council Member Fuller, seconded by City Council Member Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: Lisa Olson.

The Ward County Commission motioned the same as the City Council, which was initiated by Commissioner Merritt, seconded by Commissioner Rostad, and carried a unanimous vote.

EXTRATERRITORIAL AREAS

The motion to direct staff to bring a fee schedule for the ETJ aligning with the county fees to the next or subsequent Regular City Council meeting was initiated by City Council Member Pitner, seconded by City Council Member Blessum and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

The motion to direct staff to bring forth policy language on the ETJ right of way acquisitions or dedications was initiated by City Council Member Pitner, seconded by City Council Member Fuller and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

The motion to set up a joint committee to explore the idea of a Joint Planning Commission for the ETJ with a six-month deadline was initiated by City Council Member Fuller and seconded by City Council Member Blessum. The joint committee would consist of (2) members of the City Council, (2) members of the Ward County Commission, (2) members at large (could be members of the Planning Commission) who live in the ETJ, and (1) a member at large selected by both the Chairman and Mayor.

The motion to table the discussion until the next Regular City Council meeting on January 20, 2026, was initiated by City Council Member Pitner, seconded by City Council Member Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner; nays: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Scott Samuelson. The motion to table failed.

The motion to amend the deadline for the joint committee to April 30, 2026, was initiated by City Council Member Blessum, seconded by City Council Member Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

Whereupon, the City Council returned to the original motion to set up a joint committee to explore the idea of a Joint Planning Commission for the ETJ with a deadline of April 30, 2026, which was initiated by City Council Member Fuller, seconded by City Council Member Blessum and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

The Ward County Commission motioned the same as the City Council, which was initiated by Commissioner Merritt, seconded by Commissioner Olson, and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: John Fjeldahl, Ron Merritt; nays: Jason Olson, Jim Rostad, Miranda Schuler. The motion failed and the committee will not be formed.

The motion to direct staff to bring the City Council recommendations on any consolidations to the ETJ by April 30, 2026, was initiated by City Council Member Pitner, seconded by City Council Member Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

POTENTIAL COUNTY FACILITY SPACE FOR CITY USE

The motion to direct Tom Joyce and staff to work with the county on potential county facility space for Municipal Court was initiated by City Council Member Blessum, seconded by City Council Member Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Mike Blessum, Rob Fuller, Mike Hayes, Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Paul Pitner, Scott Samuelson; nays: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 pm was initiated by City Council Member Pitner, seconded by City Council Member Blessum and carried a unanimous vote.

ATTEST:


Mikayla McWilliams, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Mark Jantzer, Mayor