

# **City of Mercer Minutes for Organizational Meeting**

July 11, 2024

Interim Mayor Ken Thomsen called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ken Thomsen asked Tonya Wellington-Auditor to conduct the roll call. Tonya Wellington conducted roll call with Barb Stute-present, Gary Volochenko-present, Erika Lorenz-present, and Randy Zinke-present.

Ken Thomsen stated "As many of you are aware, our previous organizational meeting on June 25, 2024, is invalid due to non-compliance with North Dakota Century Code 40-08-10. Do I have a motion to acknowledge this declaration? All actions taken during that meeting are vowed. We are here today to remedy that situation tonight by conducting the valid organization meeting in compliance with state law. I now formally declare that all actions taken during this organization meeting on June 25, 2024, are invalid due to noncompliance with North Dakota Century Code 40-08-10. Ken Thomsen as for a motion on this declaration. Erika Lorenz made the motion and Gary Volochenko seconded. Ken Thomsen asked for a roll call vote. Barb Stute-Aye, Gary Volochenko-Aye, Erika Lorenz-Aye and Randy Zinke-Aye. Motion carried.

Ken Thomsen stated that we will now proceed with the swearing-in of the newly elected members and would Tonya Wellington-Auditor please administer the oath of office to the new council members. Tonya Wellington – 2 years Auditor, Lori Hass - 2 years Mayor, Barb Stute - 2 years council member, Erika Lorenz - 4 years council member, and Randy Zinke – 4-year council member. Each person read aloud their Oath of Office separately. Erika Lorenz notarized for Lori Haas Stute, Barb Stute, Randy Zinke and Tonya Wellington. Erika Lorenz will go to the bank to have her Oath of Office notarized.

Ken Thomsen stated that it is time to Transfer the Gavel to Lori Haas. It has been an honor serving as your Interim Mayor. I now officially pass the gavel to our incoming Mayor, Lori Haas Stute. Congratulations and best of luck in your new role.

Mayor-elect Lori Haas Stute, state that as the New Mayor. I would like to Thank you, Mayor Thomsen. It is an honor to accept this position. I look forward to working with all of you to serve the citizens of Mercer. Let's move forward with our agenda and readdress the actions from the invalid June meeting.

Lori Haas Stute stated the City Engineer will stay as KLJ Engineering out of Bismarck. Tonya Wellington will stay as City Auditor. For our City Lawyer we are staying with Wilson Law Firm out of Garrison.

Mayor-elect Lori Haas Stute, stated I now opening it up for nominations for President of the City Council. Barb Stute nominated Randy Zinke for President of the City Council and Randy Zinke nominated Barb Stute for President of the City Council. Erika Lorenz seconded the motion for Barb Stute to be President of the City Council. Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.

Mayor-elect Lori Haas Stute, asked if there is a motion for Vice President of the City Council. Erika Lorenz nominated Randy Zinke for Vice President of the City Council and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko and Erika Lorenz all voted Aye. Motion carried.

#### Financials

Mayor-elect Lori Haas Stute, asked for a motion to approve the board pay for the June 25, 2024, meeting. Randy Zinke made the motion to pay the board paycheck from June 25, 2024, and Barb Stute seconded. Barb Stute, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Gary Volochenko voted No. Majority vote. Motion carried.

Mayor-elect Lori Haas Stute, stated to City Auditor Tonya Wellington, please ensure that all corrective actions taken during this meeting are documented and communicated to all relevant parties, including the public, to maintain transparency and uphold public trust.

Mayor-elect Lori Haas Stute, stated if there are no further items to discuss, do I have a motion to adjourn the Organizational meeting? Erika Lorenz made the motion to adjourn, and Randy Zinke seconded. Barb Stute, Gary Volochenko, Erika Lorenz, and Randy Zinke all voted Aye. Motion carried.