

**City of Dexter
Minutes
January 5, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Dexter City Council was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dexter city hall. Council members present: Mayor Justin Forthun and council members Casey Erwin, Tim Taylor, Diane O'Connor and Christian Padilla. Others present: Bryan Petzel, Gary Schroeder and Natalie Carroll.

Mayor Forthun brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Forthun discussed a recent meeting that he and the city clerk had with KLM Engineering regarding what the city's priorities are on reconditioning the old water tower. KLM's engineer estimate on doing a full recondition was approximately \$675,000 (does not include on-site inspection). Council also heard from Brian Petzel with ISG regarding the feasibility study that was done last spring and included upsizing existing water main along with adding additional water main in order for the city to utilize only the 100,000-gallon water tower. Engineers estimate for competing tiers 1, 2 and 3 was approximately 1.5 million. Petzel also explained more about the possible funding the city would be eligible for at a low interest loan. The funding could only be used for the feasibility study and not for reconditioning the old water tower. After much discussion on the cost of both projects and what the tax burden would be on the city, Motion by O'Connor to move forward with the reconditioning of the old water tower. Motion was second by Padilla. Taylor nay, Erwin yea. Motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote. Clerk will be in touch with KLM and inform them to move forward with the bid process.

Motion by O'Connor and second by Padilla to pay the January bills as presented and to accept the December minutes and financial statements. All yeas. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the 2025 city officials. On a motion by Erwin and second by Taylor the following resolution was unanimously passed and adopted:

RESOLUTION #01-26 TO APPOINT 2026 CITY OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, the Dexter city council does hereby appoint the as follows the 2026 City Officials:

Auditor	CliftonLarsonAllen
Attorney	Hoversten Law Office
Fire Chief	Caleb Howe
Asst Fire Chief	Travis Schneider and Nick Naatz
Water Supt.	Natalie Carroll
Sewer Supt.	Natalie Carroll
Civil Defense	Caleb Howe
Newspaper	Mower County Independent
Acting Mayor	Casey Erwin
Bank Depository	United Farmers State Bank
Bond Consultant	David Drown Associates
Planning & Zoning:	Casey Erwin, Tim Taylor, Natalie Carroll
City Engineer	ISG

Council reviewed the designation of the city's financial institution. On a motion by Erwin and second by O'Connor the following resolution was unanimously passed and adopted:

RESOLUTION #02-26 TO DESIGNATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND AUTHORIZED OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the Dexter City Council does hereby authorize United Farmers State Bank as its Financial Institution.

WHEREAS, the Dexter city council does hereby designate any one of the following as authorized officers/employees of the account:

Natalie A. Carroll, City Clerk/Treasurer
Casey Erwin, City Council Member
Justin Forthun, Mayor

Council discussed the 2026 Fee Schedule. On a motion by O'Connor and second by Erwin the following resolution was unanimously passed and adopted:

RESOLUTION #03-26 TO ADOPT THE 2026 FEE SCHEDULE.

Please see the city clerk or visit the city website for the complete Fee Schedule.

Council appointed the 2026 Election Judges. On a motion by Erwin and second by Padilla the following resolution was unanimously passed and adopted:

RESOLUTION #04-04 TO APPROVE ELECTION JUDGES FOR 2026 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Dexter City Council does hereby appoint the following persons to serve as election judges in the Primary and General Elections of the City of Dexter;

1. Natalie Carroll
2. Wanda Boley
3. Joy Ihrke
4. Diane O'Connor

Council discussed the legal ownership of the Dexter Cemetery. A recent review by Mower County indicated their records showed that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cemetery property was owned by the Dexter Methodist Church and not the city. Clerk had asked the city attorney to look into it and they were not able to identify the city as being the true owner of the property without much more research. The attorney suggested it would be less expensive if the city could obtain a quit claim deed from the church to legally transfer the property. O'Connor said she would spend some time going through the court records on behalf of both the city and the church to see if she could find a true title.

Clerk suggested closing out the 2020 Water Revenue Bond as it is only collecting a small amount of interest each year. Motion by Padilla and second by Taylor to approve closing the 2020 Water Revenue Bond and transferring the fund balance of \$14,792.46 to the Water Fund. All yeas. Motion carried.

Council discussed the first responder payment. In the past the city has donated \$25.00 per call to each first responder and the township has split that cost with the city. The township informed the city that they no longer are willing to pay the first responders, however they would provide a donation to the city for half of the cost per call. This year the council received a call list from Casey Erwin that included a price increase of \$30.00 per call. This was discussed last year but no action was taken. The point was made that increasing the amount reflects more of a wage then a voluntary contribution. Both Padilla and Erwin stated that they are not providing the voluntary service to receive funds and doubted any of the other First Responders were either. Forthun said he would like to see some type of policy in place so that the city isn't paying for more responders to answer the call than what is necessary. Motion by O'Connor and second by Taylor to approve increasing the amount paid per call to each fireman to \$30.00. Erwin

and Padilla abstained. Forthun yea. Motion carried. Clerk will pay the first responders when the donation is received from the township.

Council reviewed delinquent water bills. Motion by Erwin and second by Padilla to issue shut-off notices to the following accounts: Gary Rech; Hunter Schultz; Zebidiah Tamez; Bryant Westrom; Oscar Rainville and Matt Rahlf. All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion by Taylor and second by O'Connor to adjourn the meeting. All yeas. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Natalie Carroll
Clerk