

FARGO CITY COMMISSION AGENDA
Monday, April 13, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

Executive Session at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call.

PLEASE NOTE: The Board of City Commissioners will convene in the City Commission Chambers at 4:30 p.m. and retire into Executive Session in the Red River Room to discuss negotiating strategy or provide negotiating instructions to its attorney or other negotiator regarding a pending annexation proceeding with Fercho Properties, LLP and to receive its attorneys advice and guidance on the legal risks, strengths and weaknesses of an action of a public entity, which, to discuss these matters in an open meeting will have a negative fiscal effect on the bargaining and/or litigation position of the City. Thus, an Executive Session for this matter is authorized pursuant to North Dakota Century Code 44-04-19.1, subsections 2, 5 and 9 and North Dakota Century Code § 44-04-19.2, subsection 1.

Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

City Commission meetings are broadcast live on TV Fargo Channel 56 and online at www.FargoND.gov/Streaming. They are rebroadcast Mondays at 5:00 p.m., Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. They are also included in the video archive at www.FargoND.gov/CityCommission.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Roll Call.
- C. Approve Order of Agenda.
- D. Minutes (Regular Meeting, March 30, 2026).

CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Letter of Support for Valley Wealth Advisors to the ND Opportunity Fund Consortium.
2. Interest Buydown Agreement, Escrow Agreement – PACE Program and Community PACE Interest Buydown Authorization with the Bank of ND and The Shop, LLC.
3. 1st reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 31-0102 of Article 31-01 of Chapter 31 of the Fargo Municipal Code Relating to the International Property Maintenance Code.
4. Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order, and Notice of Entry of Order of the Board of City Commissioners of the City of Fargo for property located at 115 6th Avenue North.
5. Site Authorizations for Games of Chance.
6. Applications for Games of Chance.
7. Concur with the findings of staff and apply the penalty matrix fine of \$500.00 for a first offense to the liquor license violations identified at El Agave.

8. Concur with the findings of staff and apply the penalty matrix fine of \$750.00 for a second offense to the liquor license violations identified at Chili's.
9. Encroachment Agreement (Security Fencing and Guard Shack) with Case Equipment Corporation for 3101 1st Avenue North and waive the initial processing and annual fees.
10. Quitclaim Deed with The Park District of the City of Fargo.
11. Bid award to Curb to Curb, LLC in the amount of \$692,321.00 for Project No. SR-26-B1.
12. Bid advertisement for Project No. NR-26-C.
13. Bid advertisement for Project No. UR-26-A.
14. Traffic Calming Update for 64th Avenue South.
15. Contract and bond for Project No. SR-26-A1.
16. Contract Amendment No. 5 with Apex Engineering Group in the amount of \$48,510.00 for Improvement District No. BR-23-G0.
17. Bid award to Dakota Underground Co., Inc. in the amount of \$6,816,754.88 for Improvement District No. BN-26-C1.
18. Bid award to Key Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$3,791,070.90 for Improvement District No. BR-26-B1.
19. Bid award to Border States Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$2,852,633.90 for Improvement District No. PN-26-A1.
20. Contract and bond for Improvement District No. AN-26-A1.
21. Contract and bond for Improvement District No. BR-26-C1.
22. Contract and bond for Improvement District No. BR-26-I1.
23. Contract and bond for Improvement District No. PR-26-C1.
24. Contract and bond for City Hall Parking Structure Repairs (ITB26150).
25. Addendum to Agreement with Rieger, Borgen, Benson Electric, Inc. (RFP25283).
26. Items from FAHR Meeting:
 - a. Interlocal Agreement with Cass County for the 2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$79,603.00 and related budget adjustment.
 - b. Acceptance of the ND Forest Service grant funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 and related budget adjustment.
 - c. Direct the City Attorney to revise Ordinance 11-0809.
 - d. Extension of additional security for the Main Library on Saturdays through May.
 - e. Piggyback purchase through Sourcewell Cooperative Contract No. 082025-RVG with Spartan Fire, LLC in the amount of \$980,382.00 for a 2026 Fire Pumper truck (PBC26163).
 - f. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Property.

- g. Trustee Delegation of Authority and Certificate of Authority to Director of Finance Susan Thompson and Finance Manager Wyatt Papenfuss.
- 27. Denial of the request for an extension to the dangerous building located at 1544 3rd Avenue South and direct appropriate staff to solicit a contractor to demolish the structure.
- 28. Task Order No. 2026-2 with HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$335,250.00 for Cell 22 Waste Excavation and Construction Project.
- 29. Bid advertisement for the Water Treatment Plant Recycling Drop Site Construction Project.
- 30. Mass Transit Agreement with the City of West Fargo for 2026.
- 31. Task Order No. 2026-1 with HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$46,350.00 for Project No. WW2353.
- 32. Leave of absence extension for Jay Drechsel.
- 33. Bid award to Capital Exteriors, Inc. in the amount of \$628,272.50 for Project No. WA2505.
- 34. Bid award to J.D. Kraemer Enterprises, LLC in the amount of \$308,212.00 for Project No. WA2506.
- 35. Amendment No. 3 to Task Order No. 41 with AE2S in the amount of \$123,200.00 for Regional Water System Master Plan.
- 36. Bills.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 37. Presentation of the 2025 Fire Department Annual Report.
- 38. Appointment of Police Chief.
- 39. Liaison Commissioner Assignment Updates.
- 40. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (2.5 minutes will be offered for comment with a maximum of 30 minutes total for all public comments. Individuals who would like to address the Commission, whether virtually or in person, must sign-up at FargoND.gov/VirtualCommission).**

People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special accommodations should contact the Commission Office at 701.241.1310 at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements.

Minutes are available on the City of Fargo website at www.FargoND.gov/CityCommission.



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FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT
637 NP Avenue North
Fargo, ND 58102-4916
Phone: 701.241.1540 | Fax: 701.241.8125
FargoFire.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: FIRE CHIEF GARY LORENZ

DATE: 4/13/2026

SUBJECT: FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO COMMISSION

The Fire chief will provide a slideshow summary of the 2025 Fire Department annual report to the Commission. The annual report will be released following the city commission meeting on Fargo Fire Department's website.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Receive and file the Fire Department's Annual Report.



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Michelle Turnberg, City Commissioner
Fargo City Hall
225 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102-4817
Phone: 701.831.5915 | Fax: 701.476.4136
Email: MTurnberg@FargoND.gov
www.FargoND.gov

TO: BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: CITY COMMISSIONER MICHELLE TURNBERG

DATE: APRIL 13, 2026

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CHIEF

The Fargo Police Department is currently transitioning away from several years of what has been widely described as a toxic work environment. Both our officers and residents have expressed a clear desire for leadership rooted in our community. We need a Chief capable of mending vital relationships, both within the department and with our neighboring jurisdictions.

After being restricted from access for nearly two years, I have engaged in extensive dialogue with department staff and the Interim Chief. It is clear that the current constraints are counterproductive. We should provide the Chief the necessary latitude to implement essential changes that will improve fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency. Under the current timeline, the Interim Chief's ability to lead is hindered; he is tasked with composing next year's budget and preparing for the most critical interview of his career, all while being unable to enact the very changes the department requires.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: To appoint Interim Police Chief Travis Stefonowicz to the position of Chief.

Dear Mayor Mahoney, Deputy Mayor Kolpack, Commissioners Piepkorn, Strand, and Turnberg, Administrator Redlinger, and Assistant Administrator Derrig,

As police officers, investigators, detectives, and civilian staff employed by the Fargo Police Department, we write to express our support for Interim Chief Travis Stefonowicz and our belief that he is the right leader to serve as the next Chief of Police for the City of Fargo.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz has already demonstrated the leadership, judgment, and work ethic needed to guide our organization forward. During his time serving as Assistant Chief, and now as Interim Chief, he has shown a strong understanding of the department and the needs of both the employees who work here and the community we serve.

With more than twenty years of service to the Fargo Police Department, Interim Chief Stefonowicz brings significant institutional knowledge and a deep understanding of the department's mission, operations, and challenges. Many of us have worked with him throughout our careers and have seen firsthand the professionalism and commitment he brings to the job.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz has also developed strong working relationships with our partner agencies and with members of the media. These relationships help strengthen cooperation across jurisdictions and improve communication with the public. His ability to build and maintain trust both inside and outside the department contributes to a positive working environment and helps support the success of the organization as a whole.

He has demonstrated the ability to lead during challenging situations while maintaining clear communication and strong collaboration across divisions and with outside partners. His leadership style encourages input and accountability, which has earned the respect of many throughout the department.

Appointing Interim Chief Stefonowicz as Chief of Police would allow the department to continue moving forward with stability and continuity. His experience within the organization and his understanding of the community place him in a strong position to lead the Fargo Police Department into the future.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz has earned the trust of the men and women who work in this department through consistent leadership and dedication to the profession. For these reasons, we respectfully express our support for his appointment as the next Chief of Police for the City of Fargo.

Respectfully,

Fargo Police Department Sworn and Civilian Staff

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE SERGEANTS OF THE FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF TRAVIS STEFONOWICZ**

April 9th 2026

Mayor Dr. Tim Mahoney
Deputy Mayor Denise Kolpack
City Commissioner Dave Piepkorn
City Commissioner John Strand
City Commissioner Michelle Turnberg
City Administrator Michael Redlinger
Assistant City Administrator Brenda Derrig

City of Fargo
225 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Mayor Mahoney, Deputy Mayor Kolpack, Commissioners Piepkorn, Strand, and Turnberg, Administrator Redlinger, and Assistant Administrator Derrig,

As sergeants of the Fargo Police Department, we write to express our strong support for Interim Chief Travis Stefonowicz and our belief that he is the right leader to serve as the next Chief of Police for the City of Fargo.

The undersigned sergeants represent much of the supervisory leadership responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fargo Police Department. There are currently twenty-four sergeants within the department, and this letter reflects the perspective of those supervisors who wished to express their support. From our position within the organization, we work closely with the officers and staff delivering police services to our community and see firsthand how leadership decisions affect both the people performing the work and the overall culture of the department.

Based on our experience working with him over many years, we have a high level of confidence in Interim Chief Stefonowicz and the leadership he brings to this organization. He is approachable and listens carefully, and he makes a genuine effort to understand the challenges faced by officers, supervisors, and staff. He leads with professionalism, fairness, and clear expectations, which has earned him the respect and trust of many throughout the department.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz understands the Fargo Police Department because he has grown with it. Many of us have worked alongside him throughout our careers, and he understands both the realities of the job and the responsibility that comes with serving this community. The Fargo Police Department is built on strong relationships and shared experiences, and Interim Chief Stefonowicz has been a part of that culture for many years. In many ways, he is family to this department.

At this time, continuity and steady leadership are especially important for both the department and the community we serve. Confirming Interim Chief Stefonowicz as Chief of Police in a timely manner would provide stability for the organization and allow the department to continue moving forward without unnecessary disruption.

We respect the responsibility the City Commission and administration carry in selecting the next Chief of Police, and we appreciate your continued support of the Fargo Police Department and the men and women who serve this community.

Respectfully,

The Sergeants of the Fargo Police Department

The following sergeants of the Fargo Police Department express their support for Interim Chief Travis Stefanowicz as the next Chief of Police for the City of Fargo.

1. A. Balman
[Signature]
years of service
2. J. Loos
[Signature]
19 years of service
3. R. ESSLER
[Signature]
11 years of service
4. P. Simonson
[Signature]
14 years of service
5. Aldin Gylos
[Signature]
11 years of service
6. J. WHITE
[Signature]
18 years of service
7. L. Mock
[Signature]
9 years of service
8. J. Mathis
[Signature]
11 years of service
9. B. Kerr
[Signature]
9 years of service
10. Chris Mathison
[Signature]
18 years of service
11. [Signature]
8 years of service
12. Shawn Gamradt
[Signature]
years of service
21
13. T. Falcognier
[Signature]
8 years of service
14. M. Anderson
[Signature]
11 years of service
15. A. McQuist
[Signature]
13 years of service
16. [Signature]
6 years of service
17. Brod Cerank
[Signature]
10 years of service
18. J. Wagner
[Signature]
17 years of service
19. Jan Nowacek by: Sgt. Mathis
10 years of service
20. Dan Hulbert by: Sgt. Mathis
9 years of service
21. Kyle Seehusen by: Sgt. Mathis
12 years of service
22. Sam Ballaman by: Sgt. Mathis
16 years of service
23. Alex Nelson by: Sgt. Mathis
3 years of service
24. Zach Robinson by: Sgt. Mathis
9 years of service

4/9/2026

Mayor Dr. Tim Mahoney
Deputy Mayor Denise Kolpack
Commissioner Dave Piepkorn
Commissioner John Strand
Commissioner Michelle Turnberg
City Administrator Michael Redlinger
Assistant City Administrator Brenda Derrig

On behalf of the Fargo Police Department's Lieutenant group, we respectfully submit this letter in support of Interim Chief Travis Stefonowicz's appointment to the position of Chief of Police. Interim Chief Stefonowicz's long-standing commitment to this department, along with his extensive experience and thoughtful leadership, make him well suited to guide the Fargo Police Department into its next chapter.

The appointment of Interim Chief Stefonowicz would provide stability for the Fargo Police Department while helping ensure the continued safety of our city and the well-being of our staff. His leadership positions him to effectively manage the evolving public safety needs of our community while maintaining a steady and supportive environment for the men and women who serve within this department. We believe his appointment would have a positive impact on the progress, priorities, and long-term goals of our agency.

Over the course of more than two decades of service, he has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the welfare of our staff and the safety of our community. A strong advocate for employee wellness, he has been instrumental in developing programming that supports the physical, emotional, and professional needs of the members of this department.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz is deeply invested in ensuring that Fargo Police Department personnel receive the highest quality training. He has played a significant role in the development and guidance of training initiatives, including the establishment of the department's first Fargo Police Academy. Nearly all current employees have benefited from his instruction, mentorship, or strategic oversight at some stage in their careers.

His professional demeanor is exemplary both within our ranks and throughout the Fargo community. He consistently demonstrates respect, fairness, and integrity, enabling him to build strong, productive relationships with staff, community members, and regional law enforcement partners. His ability to connect with others while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism reflects the values we strive to uphold as a department.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz possesses a combination of long-term institutional knowledge of our agency and a forward-thinking vision. He is able to honor our past while strategically positioning the department for future success. His fiscal responsibility, including a strong understanding of our agency's budget, ensures that decisions are made thoughtfully and in the best interest of both our staff and the community we serve.

His professional background and accomplishments reflect a career marked by excellence. From his early service in Aurora, Colorado, to his leadership within the Red River Regional SWAT Team, to earning

distinctions such as Officer of the Year and Supervisor of the Year, Interim Chief Stefonowicz has consistently demonstrated exceptional capability. His completion of the FBI National Academy and the Senior Management Institute for Police underscores his commitment to continuous growth and leadership at the highest level. As Assistant Chief, he has provided critical leadership in operational oversight, personnel management, and community-oriented policing.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz's dedication to Fargo—its residents, its visitors, and the officers who serve here—is evident in his work. He brings stability, integrity, and vision to a role that demands all three. We are confident that his leadership will continue to benefit the Fargo Police Department and the community as a whole.

For these reasons, the Fargo Police Department Lieutenant group offers our support for Interim Chief Travis Stefonowicz to be appointed as the next Chief of Police.

Respectfully,

Lt. Shane Aberle, Lt. Joel Erickson, Lt. Junell Krabbenhoft, Lt. Tom Shaw, Lt. Matthew Siders, Lt. Nathan Nieman, Lt. Cristie Jacobsen, Lt. Travis Berger, Lt. Nick Kjonaas

Letter of Support for Interim Chief Stefonowicz

4/9/2026

To: City Manager Michael Redlinger, Assistant City Manager Brenda Derrig, Mayor Tim Mahoney, and Commissioners.

The Division Commanders of the Fargo Police Department are submitting this letter of support for Interim Chief Stefonowicz as the next Chief of Police for the Fargo Police Department. Throughout his career, Interim Chief Stefonowicz has demonstrated unwavering professionalism, strong leadership, and a deep commitment to the safety and well-being of the community. This leadership is demonstrated on a daily basis within the walls of the Fargo Police Department, by his calm approach to conflict, his well thought out decision making, his countless efforts to ensure a positive healthy working environment for all Fargo Police Staff members, and his genuine candor when interacting with civilian staff, officers, and all supervisors. Interim Chief Stefonowicz leads by a people first philosophy, by ensuring every department member feels heard and validated.

Interim Chief Stefonowicz is known for fostering collaboration, encouraging transparency, and consistently modeling integrity in every aspect of his work. His ability to connect with officers, community members, and partner agencies reflects a leadership style that builds trust and drives meaningful progress. He has shown exceptional judgment during critical incidents, a dedication to developing officers through mentorship and training, and a forward-thinking approach to modern policing.

We are confident that Interim Chief Stefonowicz possesses the experience, character, and vision necessary to guide the department effectively into the future. His commitment to accountability, community engagement, and officer wellness makes him the only choice for this important role.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. We fully endorse Interim Chief Stefonowicz as the next Chief of Police for the Fargo Police Department.

Sincerely,

Captain Matt Christensen

Captain Troy Hannig

Captain Travis Moser