

**RESOLUTION OF POLICY
REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS AT REGULAR MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the City of Kindred (the “City”) is a political subdivision under Chapter 40 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, as a North Dakota political subdivision, the City is subject to North Dakota’s open meetings requirements under Chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2180, a bill that includes a new public meeting requirement in Chapter 44-04 for cities, counties, townships, school districts, park districts, and water resource districts (the “Public Entities”).

WHEREAS, under SB 2180, at every regularly schedule meeting, the Public Entities must include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

WHEREAS, SB 2180 directs the Public Entities to implement policies that include rules for public comments, including time limits for public speakers, total meeting time limitations for public comment, rules regarding permissible topics, and rules of decorum.

WHEREAS, as a city, the City must comply with SB 2180 and approves this RESOLUTION OF POLICY in compliance with the public comment policy requirements under SB 2180.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY represents the City’s official policy regarding public comments at regular council meetings as mandated under SB 2180.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City’s policy under this RESOLUTION OF POLICY ensures the public’s right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City approves the following policy regarding public comments at the City’s meetings, under SB 2180:

1. The City will include a public comment agenda item as an agenda item at all regular meetings of the City.
 - a. “Regular” meetings include the City’s regularly scheduled monthly meetings, as approved by the City and filed with the Cass County Auditor, all as required under N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-20(3).
2. To provide public comments, each person must submit a speaker card, in person or via email, to the City’s Auditor prior to the meeting being called to order that includes:
 - a. the person’s name; and
 - b. the person’s address.

3. The City will afford each person three minutes to provide comments. The City will notify each speaker when the three minutes have expired.
4. To ensure orderly and efficient meetings, the City will limit the public comment agenda item to a total of thirty minutes, regardless of how many people have submitted speaker cards.
5. The City will call on each person who has submitted a completed speaker card to present public comments, in the order of submission.
6. All comments must:
 - a. be pertinent to the City; and
 - b. be directed to the board as a whole.
7. Comments may not:
 - a. be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful;
 - b. include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records or open meetings law; or
 - c. interfere with the orderly conduct of the City's meeting.
8. Speakers may not yield their allotted time to another person.
9. Anyone unable or unwilling to speak in-person may submit written comments to the City Auditor prior to the meeting; the written comments must include the person's name and address and must be pertinent to an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda. If a person submits written comments to the City Auditor at least twenty-four hours prior to the City's meeting, the Auditor will circulate and distribute the comments to the City Council prior to the meeting and the City will address and discuss the comments. If a person submits written comments to the City Auditor less than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting, the City will not address or discuss the comments at that meeting and the Secretary will circulate and distribute the comments to the City Council after the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY supersedes any of the City's previous policies or practices regarding public comments at the City's meetings.


Date Approved: July 2, 2025

CITY OF KINDRED



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Auditor