

CITY OF TIOGA
City Commission Meeting Minutes
02/02/2026
Unofficial

A meeting of the City Commission of the City of Tioga was called to order at 7:01 pm on January 20, 2026, at the Tioga City Hall, by President of the City Commission Brett Rieniets.

PRESENT: Brett Rieniets, Kyle Ralston, Jaden Iverson, Steven Dye, Robert Fuson, Liz Pendlay (remote), Wendy Lenzen

Guest: Chief Hallin, Josh Reiner - Remote (Moore Engineering), Josh Vachal, Jeffery Moe Jr, Brian Colbert, Kristine Colbert, Kaare Hallesy

Pledge of Allegiance:

Minutes: Exhibits of Commission Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2026, Commission Meeting were presented.

Ralston made a motion to approve as presented with no errors or omissions, second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Fuson, Rieniets

Commissioners Reports:

Street: Commissioner Ralston advised that he had a pre-construction meeting with ND DOT regarding the intersection of Hwy 40 and Signal Street. Replacing the stop lights with stop signs has been approved. They do not anticipate the change until 2027.

Finance: None

President: Rieniets shared that the City of Tioga currently has 2 city vehicles that have not been utilized this year. He is considering options to assist the airport with their need for a courtesy vehicle and suggested that the commission look at repurposing one of the vehicles that is not being used.

Water: None

Modifications/Approval of Agenda: Ralston made a motion to approve the agenda as is, with no modifications. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye, Rieniets

Old Business:

1. **Legal Report:** Liz is reviewing discovery responses to the new 3rd party defendant in the Tera Flex litigation.
2. **Engineer Report:** Josh Reiner discussed the update on design for the baseball fields was 60% complete. The site visit and soil testing on S Benson Street will need to wait until the frost is out. Rieniets also advised that the NDDWR project info and planning form is due April 30, 2026, if the City of Tioga would like to remain on the list. Discussion held regarding remaining homes to need new water and sewer and Rieniets estimated possibly a dozen blocks.
3. **Colbert Property:** Further discussion was held regarding the purchase of property from Mr. Colbert to extend S 5th Street. **Motion by Ralston to approve a purchase agreement for \$38,000.00. Second by Fuson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye, Rieniets.**

New Business:

4. **Promotion and Raise Recommendation - PD:** Chief Hallin advised that he has identified a need for a detective in his department. This position would be a hybrid role that would still patrol as the primary

duty and absorb the additional detective duties. Hallin recommended promotion patrol officer Nick Oster to the position of Detective and approving a salary increase to a detective step zero. Rieniets clarified that patrol officer duties would be the priority and that Oster would also serve as the second in command for Chief Hallin as needed. **Motion by Ralston to approve the promotion and raise recommendations for Nickolas Oster as detective effective February 15, 2026. Second by Dye. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye, Rieniets.**

5. **Raise Recommendation – PD:** Chief Hallin advised that Officer Shaffett has completed three years of service with the City of Tioga and requested approval to move to the next step on the salary step schedule. Rieniets advised that he prefers to table until performance improvement can be recognized. Discussion Held. **No Motion.**
6. **EMR Course:** Chief Hallin requested approval to apply to the Williams County 1% grant for Emergency Medical Response training for his officers offered by our local emergency services. Cost of the training is \$3,552.00 to send all 5 officers to the training. **Motion by Ralston to approve the application to Williams County 1% in the amount of \$3,552.00 for Officer EMR training. Second by Dye. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye.** Hallin also requested approval to apply to the Williams County 1% to purchase 6 medical bags with upgraded EMR equipment that their basic medical bags don't include. The cost for these bags is \$4,348.47. **Motion by Ralston to approve the application to the Williams County 1% in the amount of \$4,348.47 for the purchase of medical bags. Second by Fuson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye**
7. **Back the Blue Grant:** Chief Hallin advised that the Tioga police department received the Back the Blue Grant in November 2025. The grant can be used for Recruitment, Retention, and training. \$14,097.00 was awarded to the Tioga Police Dept in November 2025. Hallin advised that he intended to use a portion of the grant to pay his officers \$1500.00 each totaling \$7500.00 as a retention bonus that would be paid on the February 20 payroll. **Motion by Ralston to approve the \$7500.00 disbursement of the back the blue grant. Second by Dye. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye.**
8. **Audit Proposal:** Iverson advised that the proposal has been received from Rath & Mehrer for the annual audit for the City of Tioga. The proposal stated that the fee would not exceed \$20,000.00 **Motion by Iverson to approve the audit proposal from Rath and Meher not to exceed \$20,000.00. Second by Ralston. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye, Rieniets**

Consent Agenda:

9. **Bills (1)**
10. **Payroll 3**
11. **Tioga Fund Application – Tioga Airport Authority**
12. **Pledge Holdings December - FSBT**

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ralston. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Fuson, Dye, Rieniets.

Public Comment:

With no further business the meeting of the Tioga City Commission was adjourned by unanimous vote moved by Ralston second by Iverson at 8:23 p.m.

The next meeting of the City of Tioga is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., to be held at the Tioga City Hall.

Brett Rieniets, President of the City Commission

ATTEST:

Wendy Lenzen, City Auditor