

CITY OF TIOGA

City Commission Meeting Minutes
06/01/2026
Unofficial

A meeting of the City Commission of the City of Tioga was called to order at 7:00 pm on June 1, 2026, at the Tioga City Hall, by President of the City Commission Brett Rieniets.

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

ABSENT:

Guest: Patrick Carabello – Brosz Engineering, Nickolas Oster, Jason Steele, Josh Vachal, Scott Grosche, Josh Reiner- Moore Engineering, Kaare Hallesy, Deon Iverson, Judy Odegaard.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Minutes: Exhibits of Commission Meeting Minutes for May 18, 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, Fuson, Dye, Rieniets

Commissioners Reports:

Street: Ralston advised that the street department has been assisting with the ball field construction and urged everyone to participate in Pick Up the Patch on June 4th, 2026.

President: Rieniets shared that he is participating in a building committee with TAEDC working on a building project for the main street lots. It is in the very early stages, and they are currently interviewing architectural firms.

Police: Fuson advised that he accidentally got into some trouble with the Tioga PD and with the election coming up in just a week, he was going to let the people of Tioga decide if they want him to be a commissioner. Fuson advised that effective immediately he would be resigning as commissioner of the City of Tioga but is still seeking re-election and hopes to have the communities vote on June 9th. Rieniets advised that a motion would be needed to accept Fuson's resignation. **Motion by Ralston to accept Robert Fuson's resignation. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.**

President: Rieniets advised that although he doesn't participate in social media, he is made aware of what is being said regarding the city commission by community members. Rieniets clarified that he is an elected voting member of the City Commission further clarifying the different types of municipal government and intends to continue doing so to allow the community to know where he, as the commission president stands on city business. Rieniets addressed comments criticizing the employee retention and turnover within the City stating that although there has been turnover, this is not an issue specific to the City of Tioga. It happens in every industry and is an issue everywhere and is not accurate to place blame directly on the city for every employee or official that leaves the City. Rieniets referenced a list that was put on social media that included the former commission president, who was not elected by the voters to serve another term, stating that it was unfair to blame the current commission. In addition, Rieniets advised that there was one previous employee that was actually terminated by another on the list which again is just used to pad stats. Rieniets shared that any positions that open due to departures were backfilled and the City wasn't left short. Further, the positions were filled by highly competent and motivated people and giving the impression that the City is not in a strong employee position today is inaccurate as the employee base is great. Regarding comments made in reference

to the former Chief of Police removal hearing, Rieniets advised that the City of Tioga followed North Dakota Century Code and will continue to do so. Rieniets shared that he was disappointed to hear and read comments made by previous commissioners that either don't know the rules themselves or chose not to follow them. Finally, Rieniets clarified that a previous commissioner had offered to come back to help the commission until open term expired, and that he did reject that offer due to the fact that the offer came with conditions that weren't shared on social media. The conditions included only attending one meeting per month, only voting on matters relating to the Tioga PD, and refusal to go into City Hall. Rieniets stated that the city needs commissioners that are all in and he could not allow a commissioner to come in with those conditions and not want to be a full participant further stating that if you can't go all in, we don't want you to go at all.

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

Old Business:

- 1. Legal Report:** Attorney Liz Pendlay advised that she would be busy with depositions regarding the Benson Street litigation for the next couple of weeks and would keep the commission updated as needed. Pendlay commended Commission President Rieniets stating this his comments were hard to say and he has a hard job with hard truths. Pendlay also thanked Robert Fuson for his time on the commission.
- 2. Engineer Report:** Josh Reiner shared an update on the ballfield project and presented pay application one in the amount of \$286,546.50. **Motion by Ralston to approve pay application one in the amount of \$286,546.50. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.** Rieniets presented a change order for changes to the size of the softball field as well as improvements to the south ball field that included adjustments to reduce the size of the north field from 275' to 220', yet the cost savings will go towards additional stamped concrete. **Motion by Ralston to approve change order number 1.** Reiner explained that he had not yet explained the entire change order. **Motion by Ralston to table his motion. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.** Reiner advised of the changes proposed for the south field including Sod, infield skin and replacement of portions of the fence. Rieniets questioned the cost of mobilization for the project and Rieniets advised that he felt it was reasonable. **Motion by Ralston to approve change order number one in the amount of \$304,674.75. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.**
- 3. Brosz Engineering – Task Orders:** Patrick Carabello presented the commission with Task orders previously submitted to the commission regarding potential street projects. Carabello shared that the orders are unchanged except for the effective dates. Rieniets shared that they were waiting on estimates from Moore Engineering as well for the projects and that he has not had time to give this sufficient attention and they could discuss at the next meeting.

New Business:

- 4. 2025 Audit:** Rieniets advised that the 2025 audit performed by Rath and Mehrer was complete and would need approval. **Motion by Iverson to approve the 2025 audit. Second by Ralston. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.**
- 5. Tecta America:** Rieniets advised that there had been an inspection and estimate submitted for repairs to the City Hall roof that has had some issues with leaking in the past. **Motion by Ralston to approve the quote from Tecta America to complete the repairs on the roof of City Hall in the amount of \$3,883.00. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.**
- 6. CD Renewal:** Iverson advised that a CD in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 was matured with The Bank of Tioga and would need to be renewed or redeemed. The current rate offered on the renewal of the CD

is 3.25% for either a 6-month term or 12-month term. **Motion by Iverson to renew matured CD in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 for 6 months at a rate of 3.25% with The Bank of Tioga. Second by Ralston. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.**

7. **Request to Advertise – Chief of Police: Motion by Iverson to advertise for Chief of Police until July 1, 2026. Second by Ralston. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.**
8. **Quote – 90’ Mower: Ralston advised that one of the street department mowers has been breaking down lately. The quote is to purchase an attachment mower for the toolcat vs replacing the grasshopper mower. The cost is \$8,862.00. **Motion by Ralston to approve the quote for the 90” mower from Bobcat in the amount of \$8,862.00. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.****
9. **Salary Policy: Iverson presented a proposed Salary Policy that modifies the current policy and allows for annual salary adjustments within a range and also requires that supporting documentation be identified and presented to the commission in relation to Cost of Living Adjustments. Annual reviews and salary adjustments, if applicable, will happen at the end of each year. **Motion by Iverson to adopt Policy 2026-03 to include an in-step range of 6%. Second by Ralston. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.****

Consent Agenda:

10. Bills
 11. Payroll 11 bi-weekly
 12. April Financials
 13. Planning & Zoning – Antonio Gutierrez – Building Application
 14. Planning & Zoning – Blacklake Real Estate – Conditional Use
 15. Gaming site Authorizations – Tioga American Legion
 16. Special Event Liquor License – Model Tavern
- Motion to approve the consent agenda by Ralston. Second by Iverson. Roll Call: Ayes; Ralston, Iverson, Dye, Rieniets.**

Public Comment: Josh Vachal offered to recommend a recruiting firm that could assist with the search for a Chief of Police.

With no further business the meeting of the Tioga City Commission was adjourned by unanimous vote moved by Ralston. Second by Iverson at 8:07 p.m.

The next meeting of the City of Tioga is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 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