

Finding Aid to the Fargo (N.D.). Board of City Commissioners Records

Fargo (N.D.). Board of City Commissioners

Records, 1875-2002.

31.4 linear feet

Collection number: Mss 42

Mss 167

Mss 176

[History](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Box and Folder List](#)

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding aid to the [Fargo City Council Meeting Minutes Index, 1875-1910](#)
City of Fargo Commission meeting minutes on [Digital Horizons](#)
City of Fargo Commission meeting minutes [2008-Present](#)

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: The 1875-1934 minutes deposited by Fargo Board of City Commissioners, 1976 (Acc. 1944). The 1954-1970 minutes came with the Herschel Lashkowitz papers, 1990 (Acc. 2261). Mss 176 records deposited by the Commissioners Office with concurrence of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1986 (Acc. 2155). Complete set of minutes 1942-2002 deposited by City of Fargo, 2016 (Acc. 2016-021irs).

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HISTORY

The City of Fargo had its origins in the early 1870s with the coming of the Northern Pacific Railway in 1871. On September 22, 1871, a post office was established on the present site with the name Centralia. In 1872 the name was changed to Fargo in honor of William G. Fargo, who was the founder of Wells Fargo Express and on the Northern Pacific Board of Directors. Fargo developed slowly in the 1870s becoming the county seat of Cass County in 1873. On January 5, 1875, the Dakota Territorial Legislature passed "An Act to Incorporate the city of Fargo." In response to that law, the organizational meeting of the Fargo City Government was held in the office of S.G. Roberts on April 12, 1875. Those in attendance were S.G. Roberts, W.D. Maddocks, A.C. Kvello, P.H. McCarthy, E.A. Grant and George A. Strout, all of whom had been elected alderman in an election of April 5, 1875. The council form of government was retained until 1913 when the city voters on April 7 approved a change to the commission form of government. The change was effected on May 6, 1913 remaining in effect to the present.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Meeting Minutes Series (Mss 42 & 167)

The Fargo Board of City Commissioners meeting minutes consist of the original minutes of the commission and its council predecessor from 1875 to 2002. They are recorded in 16 bound volumes with typed minutes beginning with February 11, 1904. The first three volumes (1875-1888) are transcribed copies from burnt originals which likely were damaged in the June 1893 fire which destroyed much of the Fargo business district. There are several gaps in the first two volumes including the periods August 10, 1875 - April 11, 1876, August 9, 1876 - April 4, 1877 and February 9 - May 3, 1880, possibly caused by the fire. Included in the minutes for 1883 to 1900 are the minutes of the Board of Equalization.

The meeting minutes found in Mss 167, were the unofficial copies provided to Mayor Herschel Lashkowitz between February 1954 and December 1970. Although most of the minutes are identical to the official minutes, some copies of supporting documents can be found interspersed in among the mayoral minutes.

The meeting minutes give a good, detailed account about the operation of Fargo city government for the period. Included in the first folder (Box 1, folder 1) is a 30-page index done by Roy Johnson to some of the minutes from 1875 to 1910.

Mss 176

The Fargo, N.D. Board of City Commissioners records (Mss 176) consists of five series: Administrative files, including the correspondence of Herschel Lashkowitz; Calendar of commission meetings; General

administrative files; Legal opinions of the city attorney; Urban renewal, and transportation and planning files. All of the records within each file are arranged in chronological order.

Fully half of the [Administrative File Series](#) is the correspondence of Herschel Lashkowitz. This correspondence consists of letters to colleagues and constituents, letters of congratulations and sympathy, as well as letters asking for information on such topics as urban renewal, home rule and housing. Notable in this correspondence are letters from Harry Truman (Feb. 8, 1963, box 1, folder 2) and from John Glenn (July 3, 1962, box 1, folder 2). Also contained in this series are the proclamations of mayors Herschel Lashkowitz, Richard Hentges and John Lindgren. Included in this series are subseries pertaining to the Home Rule Charter Commission, low-income housing, and the Police Youth Center located in the Burlington Northern Depot. The POW-MIA subseries focuses on the "week of concern," March 26-April 2, 1972, for POW-MIA members of the armed forces. The final subseries contains records concerning the creation and governing of the Model Cities Agency. The agency was responsible for programs such as vocational counseling, dropout prevention and preschool.

The [Calendar of Commission Meetings \(Agendas\) Series](#) contains the agendas for the Fargo Board of City Commissioners meetings from 1955 through 1979.

The [General Administrative Series](#) contains administrative records on several subjects including: Dutch Elm disease, flood control, Radisson-Fargo hotel, Sheyenne Diversion and the tornado disaster of 1957. This series is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each subseries.

The large [Legal Opinions \(City Attorney\) Series](#) contains twenty-seven folders spanning the years 1947 through 1973. The series contains legal opinions which were submitted to the Board of City commissioners by four city attorneys: Norman G. Tenneson, 1947; E.T. Conmy, Jr., 1947-1968; Scott G. Anderson, 1968-1970; and Wayne O. Solberg, 1970-1973.

The [Urban Renewal and Transportation and Planning Study Series](#) is composed of two subseries: urban renewal records, and transportation and planning study records.

The subseries concerning Fargo urban renewal contains resolutions of the Board of City Commissioners setting up the City of Fargo Urban Renewal Agency and the agency's records. These include inspections records detailing the condition of property in urban renewal areas. Correspondence in these subseries include correspondence with Herschel Lashkowitz, an advisory member of the Urban Renewal Agency; correspondence with federal authorities concerning funding; and correspondence with property owners within the urban renewal zones.

The subseries pertaining to the planning and transportation study are composed of reports and correspondence. The planning and transportation study was administered by a coordinating committee of officials representing Fargo, West Fargo, Moorhead, Dilworth, Cass County and Clay County. The goal of the study was to evaluate the existing street system and develop a future street, highway, transit network and land use plan for the West Fargo-Fargo-Moorhead-Dilworth urban area and to execute the plan.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Content
MSS 42 Collection	
1/1	Historical material and finding aid
Meeting Minutes Series	
1	April 12, 1875 - April 11, 1879
1	April 21, 1879 - April 2, 1883
2	April 5, 1883 - December 31, 1888
3	January 7, 1889 - February 27, 1893
4	March 6, 1893 - July 17, 1896
5	July 20, 1896 - July 20, 1900
6	August 6, 1900 - February 4, 1904
7	February 11, 1904 - May 6, 1907
8	May 13, 1907 - April 25, 1910
9	May 2, 1900 - May 6, 1912
10	May 15, 1912 - July 17, 1914
11	July 22, 1914 - March 29, 1916
12	April 3, 1916 - December 31, 1925
13	January 1, 1921 - December 31, 1925
14	January 1, 1926 - December 31, 1929
15	January 6, 1930 - December 31, 1934
16/1	January 2, 1935 – August 5, 1935
16/2	August 12, 1935 – December 30, 1935
16/3	January 6, 1936 – August 4, 1936
16/4	August 10, 1936 – December 28, 1936
16/5	January 2, 1937 – July 2 1937
16/6	July 6, 1937 – January 3, 1938
16/7	January 3, 1938 – July 18, 1938
16/8	July 19, 1938 – January 3, 1939
17/1	January 3, 1939 – August 14, 1939
17/2	August 16, 1939 – December 27, 1939
17/3	January 2, 1940 – July 8, 1940
17/4	July 10, 1940 – January 6, 1941
17/5	January 6, 1941 – January 5, 1942
17/6	January 5, 1942 – January 4, 1943
17/7	January 4, 1943 – January 5, 1944
17/8	January 12, 1944 – January 3, 1945
17/9	January 3, 1945 – January 2, 1946
17/10	January 2, 1946 – July 5, 1946

18/1	July 9, 1946 – January 6, 1947
18/2	January 6, 1947 – July 18, 1947
18/3	July 21, 1947 – January 6, 1948
18/4	January 6, 1948 – July 8, 1948
18/5	July 6, 1948 – January 4, 1949
18/6	January 4, 1949 – July 27, 1949
18/7	July 27, 1949 – January 3, 1950
18/8	January 3, 1950 – June 13, 1950
19/1	June 16, 1950 – December 26, 1950
19/2	December 26, 1950 – July 17, 1951
19/3	July 24, 1951 – December 26, 1951
19/4	January 2, 1952 – June 17, 1952
19/5	June 25, 1952 – December 23, 1952
19/6	January 2, 1953 – August 18, 1953
19/7	August 19, 1953 – January 5, 1954
20/1	January 5, 1954 – June 15, 1954
20/2	June 15, 1954 – January 4, 1955
20/3	January 4, 1955 – June 7, 1955
20/4	June 14, 1955 – January 3, 1956
20/5	January 3, 1956 – May 29, 1956
20/6	May 29, 1956 – October 9, 1956
20/7	October 16, 1956 – December 19, 1956
21/1	January 2, 1957 – June 4, 1957
21/2	June 11, 1957 – September 20, 1957
21/3	September 24, 1957 – January 7, 1958
21/4	January 7, 1958 – March 18, 1958
21/5	March 18, 1958 – July 22, 1958
21/6	July 23, 1958 – October 2, 1958
21/7	October 7, 1958 – December 31, 1958
21/8	January 6, 1959 – April 11, 1959
22/1	April 23, 1959 – August 4, 1959
22/2	August 25, 1959 – January 12, 1960
22/3	January 12, 1960 – May 3, 1960
22/4	May 10, 1960 – August 16, 1960
22/5	August 23, 1960 – December 30, 1960
22/6	January 10, 1961 – April 18, 1961
23/1	April 25, 1961 – June 20, 1961
23/2	June 21, 1961 – September 27, 1961
23/3	October 3, 1961 – January 2, 1962
23/4	January 2, 1962 – May 10, 1962
23/5	May 15, 1962 – September 11, 1962
23/6	September 18, 1962 – January 8, 1963
24/1	January 8, 1963 – May 21, 1963
24/2	June 4, 1963 – July 24, 1963

24/3	August 6, 1963 – September 24, 1963
24/4	October 1, 1963 – December 24, 1963
24/5	January 7, 1964 – March 31, 1964
24/6	April 7, 1964 – June 23, 1964
24/7	July 8, 1964 – August 25, 1964
24/8	September 1, 1964 – October 27, 1964
25/1	November 10, 1964 – January 26, 1965
25/2	February 2, 1965 – April 27, 1965
25/3	May 4, 1965 – June 29, 1965
25/4	July 1, 1965 – October 19, 1965
26/1	November 1965 – December 1965
26/2	January 1966 – March 1966
26/3	April 1966 – June 1966
26/4	July 1966 – September 1966
26/5	October 1966 – December 1966
26/6	January 1967 – March 1967
26/7	April 1, 1967 – June 30, 1967
26/8	July 1, 1967 – September 30, 1967
26/9	October 1, 1967 – December 31, 1967
26/10	January 9, 1968 – March 3, 1968
26/11	April 3, 1968 – June 30, 1968
26/12	July 9, 1968 – September 30, 1968
26/13	October 1, 1968 – December 31, 1968
26/14	January 1, 1969 – March 31, 1969
26/15	April 1, 1969 – June 24, 1969
27/1	July 1, 1969 – September 30, 1969
27/2	October 7, 1969 – December 23, 1969
27/3	January 6, 1970 – March 31, 1970
27/4	April 14, 1970 – June 30, 1970
27/5	July 7, 1970 – September 29, 1970
27/6	October 6, 1970 – December 31, 1970
27/7	January 5, 1971 – March 30, 1971
27/8	April 1, 1971 – January 29, 1971
27/9	July 1971 – September 1971
27/10	October 1971 – December 1971
27/11	January 3, 1972 – March 28, 1972
27/12	April 11, 1972 – June 27, 1972
27/13	July 11, 1972 – September 26, 1972
27/14	October 3, 1972 – December 19, 1972
28/1	January 2, 1973 – March 27, 1973
28/2	April 10, 1973 – June 26, 1973
28/3	July 10, 1973 – September 25, 1973
28/4	October 2, 1973 – December 18, 1973
28/5	January 8, 1974 – February 26, 1974

28/6	March 5, 1974 – May 7, 1974
28/7	May 14, 1974 – June 25, 1974
28/8	July 9, 1974 – August 20, 1974
28/9	August 27, 1974 – November 12, 1974
28/10	January 28, 1975 – April 29, 1975
28/11	May 6, 1975 – June 16, 1975
28/12	July 1, 1975 – August 26, 1975
29/1	September 9, 1975 – October 28, 1975
29/2	November 4, 1975 – December 23, 1975
29/3	January 6, 1976 – March 9, 1976
29/4	March 23, 1976 – May 24, 1976
29/5	June 7, 1976 – July 20, 1976
29/6	July 26, 1976 – October 4, 1976
29/7	October 18, 1976 – December 29, 1976
29/8	January 3, 1977 – March 25, 1977
29/9	April 18, 1977 – June 6, 1977
29/10	June 10, 1977 – August 8, 1977
29/11	August 22, 1977 – October 4, 1977
29/12	October 17, 1977 – December 19, 1977
29/13	January 3, 1978 – March 13, 1978
29/14	March 20, 1978- May 15, 1978
29/15	May 22, 1978 – July 17, 1978
29/16	July 24, 1978 – September 25, 1978
29/17	October 2, 1978 – December 18, 1978
30/1	January 8, 1979 – February 26, 1979
30/2	March 12, 1979 – June 11, 1979
30/3	June 18, 1979 – August 3, 1979
30/4	August 6, 1979 – September 24, 1979
30/5	October 1, 1979 – November 5, 1979
30/6	November 19, 1979 – December 20, 1979
30/7	January 7, 1980 – March 3, 1980
30/8	March 17, 1980 – May 5, 1980
30/9	May 12, 1980 – July 7, 1980
30/10	July 14, 1980 – September 15, 1980
30/11	September 22, 1980 – December 22, 1980
30/12	January 5, 1981 – April 6, 1981
30/13	April 13, 1981 – June 22, 1981
30/14	June 29, 1981 – August 31, 1981
30/15	September 3, 1981 – November 16, 1981
30/16	November 23, 1981 – December 28, 1981
31/1	January 11, 1982 – April 5, 1982
31/2	April 12, 1982 – July 12, 1982
31/3	July 19, 1982 – September 30, 1982
31/4	October 4, 1982 – December 20, 1982

31/5	January 3, 1983 – March 28, 1983
31/6	April 11, 1983 – June 29, 1983
31/7	July 11, 1983 – September 26, 1983
31/8	October 3, 1983 – December 27, 1983
31/9	January 9, 1984 – April 2, 1984
31/10	April 9, 1984 – June 4, 1984
31/11	June 6, 1984 – August 13, 1984
31/12	August 27, 1984 – October 22, 1984
31/13	November 5, 1984 – December 27, 1984
31/14	January 7, 1985 – May 20, 1985
31/15	June 3, 1985 – September 30, 1985
31/16	October 7, 1985 – December 30, 1985
32/1	January 6, 1986 – May 19, 1986
32/2	June 2, 1986 – August 26, 1986
32/3	September 8, 1986 – November 17, 1986
32/4	December 1, 1986 – December 29, 1986
32/5	January 12, 1987 – June 1, 1987
32/6	June 15, 1987 – September 14, 1987
32/7	September 21, 1987 – December 21, 1987
32/8	January 11, 1988 – May 23, 1988
32/9	June 6, 1988 – October 10, 1988
32/10	October 24, 1988 – December 19, 1988
32/11	January 3, 1989 – June 5, 1989
32/12	June 19, 1989 – September 25, 1989
32/13	October 9, 1989 – December 18, 1989
32/14	January 2, 1990 – July 2, 1990
32/15	July 16, 1990 – November 5, 1990
32/16	November 19, 1990 to December 28, 1990
33/1	January 14, 1991 – June 17, 1991
33/2	July 1, 1991 – October 21, 1991
33/3	November 4, 1991 – December 30, 1991
33/4	January 13, 1992 – May 18, 1992
33/5	June 1, 1992 – September 21, 1992
33/6	September 24, 1992 – December 21, 1992
33/7	January 4, 1993 – April 26, 1993
33/8	May 10, 1993 – August 2, 1993
33/9	August 16, 1993 – December 20, 1993
33/10	January 3, 1994 to April 11, 1994
33/11	April 25, 1994 to July 18, 1994
33/12	August 1, 1994 – December 19, 1994
33/13	January 3, 1995 – May 8, 1995
33/14	May 22, 1995 – July 31, 1995
33/15	August 7, 1995 – December 28, 1995
34/1	January 2, 1996 – May 28, 1996

34/2	June 3, 1996 – September 23, 1996
34/3	October 7, 1996 – December 30, 1996
34/4	January 13, 1997 – July 14, 1997
34/5	July 28, 1997 – November 3, 1997
34/6	November 3, 1997 – December 29, 1997
34/7	January 5, 1998 – March 26, 1998
34/8	April 6, 1998 – June 29, 1998
34/9	July 13, 1998 – October 19, 1998
34/10	November 2, 1998 – December 28, 1998
34/11	January 11, 1999 – June 14, 1999
34/12	June 28, 1999 – September 20, 1999
34/13	October 4, 1999 – December 27, 1999
34/14	January 10, 2000 – June 12, 2000
34/15	June 26, 2000 – September 18, 2000
34/16	October 2, 2000 – December 26, 2000
34/17	January 8, 2001 – May 29, 2001
34/18	June 11, 2001 – October 29, 2001
35/1	November 13, 2001 – December 26, 2001
35/2	January 7, 2002 – May 28, 2002
35/3	May 28, 2002 – September 16, 2002
35/4	September 30, 2002 – December 23, 2002

MSS 167 Collection

1/1	Finding aid
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Meeting Minutes Series

1/2	February - May, 1954
1/3	June - July, 1954
1/4	August - September, 1954
1/5	October - December, 1954
1/6	January - February, 1955
1/7	March - April, 1955
1/8	May - June, 1955
1/9	July - August, 1955
1/10	September - October, 1955
1/11	November - December, 1955
2/1	January - February, 1956
2/2	March - April, 1956
2/3	May - June, 1956
2/4	July - August, 1956
2/5	September - October, 1956
2/6	November - December, 1956

2/7	January - February, 1957
2/8	March - April, 1957
2/9	May - June, 1957
3/1	July - August, 1957
3/2	September - October, 1957
3/3	November - December, 1957
3/4	January - February, 1958
3/5	March - April, 1958
3/6	May - June, 1958
3/7	July - August, 1958
3/8	September - October, 1958
4/1	November - December, 1958
4/2	January - February, 1958
4/3	March - April, 1959
4/4	May - June, 1959
4/5	July - August, 1959
4/6	September - October, 1959
4/7	November - December, 1959
4/8	January - February, 1960
4/9	March - April, 1960
4/10	May - June, 1960
4/11	July - December 1960
5/1	January - May, 1961
5/2	June - July, 1961
5/3	August - September, 1961
5/4	October - September, 1961
5/5	December - January, 1962
5/6	February - March, 1962
5/7	April - May, 1962
5/8	June, 1962
5/9	July, 1962
5/10	August - September, 1962
6/1	October - November, 1962
6/2	December, 1962
6/3	January - February, 1963
6/4	March - April, 1963
6/5	May - June, 1963
6/6	July, 1963
6/7	August - September, 1963
6/8	October, 1963
6/9	November - December, 1963
6/10	January - February, 1964
7/1	March - April, 1964
7/2	June - July, 1964

7/3	August, 1964
7/4	September, 1964
7/5	October, 1964
7/6	January - February, 1965
7/7	March, 1965
7/8	April - May, 1965
7/9	June - July, 1965
7/10	August - September, 1965
8/1	October - December, 1965
8/2	January - February, 1966
8/3	March - April, 1966
8/4	May - June, 1966
8/5	July - August, 1966
8/6	September - October, 1966
8/7	November - December, 1966
8/8	January - February, 1967
8/9	March - April, 1967
9/1	May, 1967
9/2	June, 1967
9/3	July - August, 1967
9/4	September - October, 1967
9/5	November - December, 1967
9/6	January - February, 1968
9/7	March - April, 1968
9/8	May - June, 1968
10/1	July - August, 1968
10/2	September - October, 1968
10/3	November - December, 1968
10/4	January - February, 1969
10/5	March - April, 1969
10/6	May - June, 1969
10/7	July - August, 1969
11/1	September, 1969
11/2	October, 1969
11/3	November - December, 1969
11/4	January - February, 1970
11/5	March - April, 1970
11/6	May, 1970
11/7	June, 1970
11/8	July, 1970
11/9	August, 1970
11/10	September, 1970
12/1	October, 1970
12/2	November - December, 1970

MSS 176 Collection

1/1 Finding aid

Administrative File Series

Herschel Lashkowitz Correspondence-

1/2 1956-1963
1/3 1964-1966
1/4 1967
1/5 1968
1/6 January 1-June 30, 1969
1/7 July 1-December 31, 1969
1/8 January 1-June 30, 1970
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1/11 July 1-December 31, 1971
1/12 Proclamations, 1969-1980
1/13 Home Rule Charter Commission, 1960-1970
1/14 Housing, 1967-1974
1/15 Police Youth Center, 1972
1/16 POW-MIA, 1972
Model Cities Agency-
1/17 Executive Director, 1970-1973
Miscellaneous-
1/18 1968-1969
2/1 1970
2/2 1971-
2/3 1972-1974

Calendar of Commission Meetings (Agendas) Series

Agendas-

2/4 1955
2/5 1956
2/6 1957
2/7 1958
2/8 1959
2/9 1960
2/10 1961
2/11 1962
2/12 1963

2/13	1964
2/14	1965
2/15	1966
2/16	1967
2/17	1968
2/18	1969
2/19	1970
3/1	1971
3/2	1972
3/3	1973
3/4	1974
3/5	1975
3/6	1976
3/7	1977
3/8	1978
3/9	1979

General Administrative Files Series

3/10	Bicentennial, 1973-1974
3/11	Personnel - City Commission Personnel, 1968-1971
3/12	Dutch Elm Disease, 1973-1974
3/13	Dutch Elm Disease, 1972-1973
3/14	Flood Control, 1969-1974
3/15	Flood - 1978-1979
3/16	Forestry, 1974-1977
3/17	Metro Council (Metropolitan Council of Governments of Planning Commissions), 1967-1975
3/18	Northwestern Bell Telephone Tax, 1970-1977
3/19	Planning - Central business district, 1965-1970
3/20	Planning - Comprehensive study, 1967-1968
3/21	Radisson Fargo Hotel, 1970-1977
3/22	Revenue sharing, 1972-1975
4/1	Second Street grade separation, 1962-1965
4/2	Second Street grade separation, 1959-1961
4/3	Sheyenne Diversion, 1970-1976
4/4	Sunday opening, 1972
4/5	Tornado disaster, 1957
4/6	Transportation--Mayor, 1972

Legal Opinions (City Attorney) Series

4/7	1947
4/8	1948
4/9	1949

4/10	1950
4/11	1951
4/12	1952
4/13	1953
4/14	1954
4/15	1955
4/16	1956
4/17	1957
4/18	1958
4/19	1959
4/20	1960
4/21	1961
4/22	1962
4/23	1963
4/24	1964
5/1	1965
5/2	1966
5/3	1967
5/4	1968
5/5	1969
5/6	1970
5/7	1971
5/8	1972
5/9	1973

Urban Renewal, and Transportation Planning Study Series

	Urban Renewal - R 1 Project-
5/10	1955-1957 file 1 of 2
5/11	1955-1957 file 2 of 2
5/12	1958-1960 file 1 of 2
5/13	1958-1960 file 2 of 2
	Urban Renewal - R 1 Project-
5/14	1961-1964
	Urban Renewal - R 2 Project-
5/15	1956-1962 file 1 of 2
5/16	1956-1962 file 2 of 2
5/17	1964-1966 file 1 of 2
5/18	1964-1966 file 2 of 2
5/19	1967-1970 file 1 of 2
5/20	1967-1970 file 2 of 2
6/1	1964-1971
6/2	General Urban Renewal 1963-1973 Transportation and Planning Study-

6/3
6/4

1961-1962 file 1
1963 file 2