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## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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1. **Call to Order.**

The regular meeting of the St. Maries City Council was called to order by Mayor, Tina Thomson, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 602 College Avenue, St. Maries, Idaho.

2. **Roll Call.**

PRESENT

Mayor, Tina Thomson  
Councilors, Jeff Pugh, Charles Winter, Ed Spooner, Waylon Newton, Janelle Buell

3. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mayor Thomson led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Consent Calendar. – none**

5. **Presentation to Outgoing Elected Officials.**

a. **J&E Solid Waste Contract for Dumpsters in Milltown. – action item**

Mayor, Tina Thomson, recuses herself due to a conflict of interest on the matter.

Terrun Zolman, City Attorney, explained that the City received a \$1,600.00 bill in December 2025 and again in January 2026 for garbage services provided by J&E Solid Waste in Milltown. Zolman stated that the current agreement is vague regarding its terms; however, he advised the Council to terminate the agreement and pay for the services rendered in December 2025 and January 2026. He further noted that City residents should utilize the City's garbage services and that paying for the Milltown dumpsters effectively subsidizes Benewah County's waste services.

Motion to terminate the J&E Solid Waste Contract for the dumpsters in Milltown, and to pay the past due contracted amount.

<b>Result:</b>	Passed
<b>Moved By:</b>	Pugh
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Newton
<b>Voted Yes:</b>	Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell
<b>Absent:</b>	Willard
<b>Abstain:</b>	Thomson

6. **New Business.**

a. **Ordinance No. 2026-788 ; Titus Vacation of Alleyway.**

Councilor, Waylon Newton, recuses himself due to a conflict of interest on the matter.

City Clerk, Jaidyn Kinzer, explained that this vacation was approved by the City Council following a public hearing held on August 25, 2025 with conditions of approval. Kinzer shared that the applicant has satisfied the required conditions of approval and that this was the finalizing document to approve the alleyway vacation. Kinzer read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion to approve that the Ordinance pass its first reading by title only.

<b>Result:</b>	Passed
<b>Moved By:</b>	Spooner
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Pugh
<b>Voted Yes:</b>	Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Buell
<b>Absent:</b>	Willard
<b>Abstain:</b>	Newton

Motion that the rules requiring three separate readings, once in the Ordinances entirely, be suspended and that the Ordinance pass its second and third readings under suspension of the rules.

<b>Result:</b>	Passed
<b>Moved By:</b>	Spooner
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Pugh
<b>Voted Yes:</b>	Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Buell
<b>Absent:</b>	Willard
<b>Abstain:</b>	Newton

The motion passes, and Ordinance No. 2026-788 is considered read, passed and adopted under suspension of the rules.

**b. CDA Septic Pumping – Agreement for Portable Toilet Waste Disposal. – action item**

Motion to approve the Agreement for Portable Toilet Waste Disposal with CDA Septic Pumping.

<b>Result:</b>	Passed
<b>Moved By:</b>	Spooner
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Pugh
<b>Voted Yes:</b>	Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell
<b>Absent:</b>	Willard

**c. Discuss Utility Rates for Non-Users.**

Terrun Zolman, City Attorney, shared that he reviewed how other Idaho cities structure their utility rates and found that most charge a base rate for water and sewer that applies to all users. This base rate covers maintenance of the lines up to each connection. Users are then charged a separate usage fee for any water or sewer services utilized. Zolman recommended moving forward with developing a fee schedule that includes a base rate and a separate usage charge for both water and sewer services.

Celia Sibert, City Treasurer, stated that residential accounts are not metered and that only commercial accounts are metered.

The Council agreed to direct the Public Works Department to review and develop a proposed base rate and separate usage rate and to schedule a public hearing following that review.

**7. Public Comments.**

Jen Izzarelli requested that City Council look into amending the chicken ordinance within the St. Maries City Code, specifically the permit requirements.

**8. Reports and Communications.**

**a. Mayor's Update.**

Mayor, Tina Thomson, thanked the City staff for the smooth transition when entering her new position.

**b. City Council Comments.**

Jeff Pugh expressed concern regarding the river gauge and reported that he reached out to determine what steps could be taken to restore it. Pugh stated that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) would provide a matching contribution of \$3,000.00 to replace the gauge, allowing the City to monitor water levels and make flood predictions.

Charles Winter suggested adding a notice to City water bills requesting that residents refrain from dumping waste in the Milltown dumpsters.

Janelle Buell stated that the Council would need to review garbage services in Milltown with Benewah County in order to develop a solution.

Ed Spooner also stated that he would like to work with Benewah County to resolve the solid waste issues.

**c. City Clerk's Annual Report for 2025.**

There were no comments regarding the City Clerk's Annual Report for 2025.

**9. Adjourn.**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was reconvened and adjourned at 6:18 PM.

I presided over this meeting and can confirm that the foregoing minutes, prepared by the City Clerk, were approved by City Council during their regular meeting held on **February 9, 2026**.

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Tina Thomson, Mayor

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Attest: Jaidyn Kinzer, City Clerk