
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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, June 22, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 602 College Avenue, St. Maries, Idaho.

2. Roll Call.

PRESENT

Mayor, Tina Thomson

Councilors, Cindy Willard, 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. A motion was made to amend the agenda to include "Discussion of Obtaining Environmental Law Firm" under New Business.

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Willard
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

5. Consent Calendar.

Mayor Thomson noted for the record the amount of expenses presented for payment approval, as shown below.

- a. HMH Engineering Invoice M25023-03 for Manganese Treatment in the amount of \$5,663.75. – action item**

Motion to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Newton
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

6. Old Business.- none.

7. New Business.

- a. Public Hearing; Seasonal commercial utility rate reduction for temporary water service shutoffs and for public records requests by nonresidents.**

City Attorney Terrun Zolman provided an overview of the public hearing and the proposed fee changes. Mayor Tina Thomson explained the order and procedures for the hearing. Notice of the public hearing was published in the St. Maries Gazette Record on June 10 and June 17, 2026. No written comments were received.

The public hearing was opened at 5:43 p.m.

Derick Driggs testified in favor of the proposal but expressed concern that the seasonal rate reduction applied only to water charges and did not include sewer rates. There was no additional testimony in favor, neutral testimony, or testimony in opposition. With no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 5:49 p.m.

During Council deliberation, Councilor Newton asked City Treasurer Celia Sibert how much of each water connection fee is allocated to the Water Reserve Fund and the Water Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Fund. Sibert explained that \$14.00 from each water connection is deposited into the Water Reserve Fund, with the remaining water charges allocated to the O&M Fund.

The Council discussed the impact of the proposed seasonal disconnect rates on customers with larger meter sizes, particularly 5-inch meters. Council members noted that because no water would be used during the seasonal disconnect period, the reduced rate should be sufficient to cover the reserve fund contribution and a portion of O&M costs. Councilor Newton proposed establishing a seasonal commercial utility rate of \$20.00 per month for temporary water service shutoffs. The Council expressed consensus in support of the proposal.

The public hearing was reopened at 6:03 p.m.

Aaron Nelson testified in support of the proposed \$20.00 monthly rate. There was no additional testimony or comment.

The public hearing was closed at 6:03 p.m.

- i. **Ordinance No. 2026-790; Seasonal Utility Disconnect Policy. – action item**
City Clerk, Jaidyn Kinzer, read Ordinance 2026-790 by title.

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

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Willard
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

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.

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Newton
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

- ii. **Resolution No. 2026-362; Amend fee schedule to establish a fee for a seasonal utility commercial utility rate reduction for temporary water service shutoffs, and for public records requests from nonresidents. – action item**

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-362 establishing a Seasonal Commercial Utility Rate Reduction for Temporary Water Service Shutoffs, as amended to provide for a flat rate of \$20.00 per month in lieu of a 50% reduction of the commercial user base rate.

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Newton
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

- b. **Ordinance No. 2026-791; Code Amendments to Cemetery Regulations. – action item**

City Clerk, Jaidyn Kinzer, read Ordinance 2026-791 by title.

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

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Willard
Seconded by:	Pugh
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

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.

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Willard
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

- c. **Removal of the stop sign at 10th Street and Railroad Avenue (East and West). – action item**

Councilor Jeff Pugh stated that he had requested the item be placed on the agenda for consideration; however, after conducting further research, he wished to withdraw his request to remove the stop signs at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and 10th Street. Pugh noted that removing the stop signs could create a safety concern, particularly due to the businesses located on the west side of 10th Street along Railroad Avenue. He further stated that if the stop signs were ever removed, he would recommend reducing the speed limit in the area to 15 mph to help mitigate potential safety issues.

No motion made.

Result:	Failed
----------------	--------

- d. **Discuss Council Member task assignments.**

Councilor Jeff Pugh stated there are a lot of tasks that go unaddressed and suggested breaking into groups with certain assigned topics and then bringing back findings and information to the rest of the Council. Pugh suggested the following task assignment:

- Councilor Winter and Newton to handle sewer and water discussions.
- Councilor Pugh will handle telemetry/technology discussions.
- Councilor Buell and Willard will handle dispatch, attorney fees, and the ambulance building discussions.
- And Councilors Pugh and Spooner will handle garbage, streets, sidewalks, land/timber and parks & recreation department discussions.

e. Request for additional sidewalk and drainage improvements. – action item

Shiloh Pfeiffer, Public Works Director, explained that he was requesting funding for improvements at two locations within the City. The first project is located on 10th Street between Jefferson Avenue and College Avenue, where gaps currently exist in the sidewalk system. Pfeiffer stated that completing this section would provide a continuous pedestrian pathway between the two streets.

The second project is located on Jefferson Avenue between 14th Street and the alley immediately west of 14th Street. Pfeiffer explained that this area would benefit from the installation of a valley gutter to help direct and manage stormwater runoff originating from the alleyway. The project would also include the construction of an ADA-compliant curb ramp at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and 14th Street to improve accessibility.

The Council suggested Pfeiffer get quotes for the additional work, or see if it can be added into the current projects taking place.

A motion was made to TABLE this item.

Result:	TABLED
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Willard
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

f. Ordinance No. 2026-792; Water Revenue Bond, 2026. – action item

Laura McAloon, Bond Attorney, shared that the bond was approved in May 2017 by City voters. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved \$1.1 million which overtime has accrued interest totaling \$1,176,573.80 due for repayment to DEQ.

City Clerk, Jaidyn Kinzer, read Ordinance 2026-792 by title.

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

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Spooner
Seconded by:	Pugh
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

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.

Result:	Passed
----------------	--------

Moved By: Spooner
Seconded by: Willard
Voted Yes: Willard, Pugh, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell

g. Discussion of Obtaining Environmental Law Firm.

Terrun Zolman, City Attorney, explained the City has some violations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and while he can review the violations, he is not an environmental attorney and would recommend the City Council hiring outside counsel to represent the violation. Zolman stated that he will come back to Council with outside legal counsel options and terms at the next meeting.

8. Reports and Communications.

a. Mayor's Update.

Mayor Thomson notified Council that Eric Bailey, police lieutenant, has resigned effective July 12, 2026.

b. City Council Comments.

No Comments.

c. Public Works Updates.

Shiloh Pfeiffer, Public Works Director, shared with Council that a public works employee has resigned. Pfeiffer also shared that the public works crew would like to start dust abatement soon and will be looking into costs.

d. Police Updates.

No updates - absent.

9. Public Comments.

Aaron Nelson, representing the Chamber of Commerce, informed the Council that the Chamber is collaborating with the North Idaho Tourism Alliance to host a photography and videography project in the area on July 10, 2026.

10. Adjourn.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 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 _____.

Tina Thomson, Mayor

Attest: Jaidyn Kinzer, City Clerk