



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.**

The regular meeting of the St. Maries City Council was called to order by Council President, Jeff Pugh, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 602 College Avenue, St. Maries, Idaho.

2. **Roll Call.**

PRESENT

Councilors, Jeff Pugh, Cindy Willard, Charles Winter, Ed Spooner, Waylon Newton, Janelle Buell

3. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

Council President Pugh led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Consent Calendar. – none**

5. **Old Business. – none**

6. **New Business.**

a. **Benewah County – Request to waive fees for Cormana Building and Sports Field Use for Benewah County Resource Fair. – action item**

Motion to approve waving the fees for the Cormana Building and Sports Field Use for the Benewah County Resource Fair.

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

b. **St. Maries Chamber of Commerce – Request to waive fees for City Park and Amphitheater for Concert in the Park event. – action item**

Motion to approve waving the fees for the City Park – Concert in the Park events.

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

c. **Race the Joe, Shirley Ackerman:**

- **Street closure request and waived/reduced fee. – action item**
Motion to approve waving the fees and approve the street closure request.

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

- **Special Exemption Permit. – action item**
Motion to approve waving the fees and approve the street closure request.

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

- d. **Appeal of planning administrator’s interpretation of City Code §9-8-3 regarding RV park frontage requirement (110 N. 1st Street). – action item**

Motion to approve the request by Derick Driggs, on behalf of Anton Properties, to overturn the decision of the Planning Administrator, subject to the condition contained in Article IV, paragraph 7 of the Planning and Zoning Commissions Recommendation to City Council, dated February 5, 2026.

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

- e. **Appointment of Brian Cravens as Planning and Zoning Commissioner. – action item**

Motion to approve the appointment of Brian Cravens as Planning and Zoning Commissioner.

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

- f. **Appointment of Mike Walters as Planning and Zoning Commissioner. – action item**
Motion to approve the appointment of Mike Walters as Planning and Zoning Commissioner.

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

Abstain: Pugh – Council President

g. Discuss City Water Capacity.

Councilor Newton shared with Council the possibility of clearing out the Rochet Creek dam to increase capacity. Councilor Winter questioned the necessary permits that would be required to disturb the main water source, which acting City Attorney, Andrew P. Doman, stated that they should work with the City's engineer to get an idea of the requirements. Councilor Spooner mentioned the possibility of looking into grant opportunities to enlarge reservoirs at the site.

7. Reports and Communications.

a. Mayor's Update.

No Updates – Absent.

b. City Council Comments.

Ed Spooner stated that the city has received bids for the sidewalk projects and the city is working through those now.

c. Public Works Updates.

Shiloh Pfeiffer, Public Works Director, stated that the capacity at the water treatment plant has a good amount.

8. Public Comments.

Maureen Hodgeson mentioned Welch Comer possibly being involved in the City's plans for Rochet Creek.

Aaron Nelson stated that the City-Wide Clean Up is on April 11th.

9. Executive Session §74-206(1)(f)

Motion to convene into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

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

The Mayor announced that those not participating in the executive session were asked to please exit the room. An executive session was held, as noted above.

The Executive Session ended, and the meeting was reconvened at 6:41 PM.

10. Retain Outside Counsel for Class Action Lawsuit. – action item

Motion to approve the Resolution and Contract for Legal Services, contingent upon City Attorneys review.

Result: Passed
Moved By: Buell

<p>Seconded by: Willard</p> <p>Voted Yes: Willard, Winter, Spooner, Newton, Buell</p> <p>Abstain: Pugh – Council President</p>

11. Adjourn.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was reconvened and adjourned at 6:43 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 **March 9, 2026.**

Jeff Pugh, Council President

Attest: Jaidyn Kinzer, City Clerk

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