



---

## 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, April 27, 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. Consent Calendar. – none**

**5. Old Business.**

**a. Lloyd G. McCarter American Legion Post #25; Shed at Veterans Memorial in Woodlawn Cemetery. – action item**

Ron Hodge, representing American Legion Post #25, reported that they received the draft agreement from the City Attorney regarding the placement of a shed at the Veterans Memorial in Woodlawn Cemetery. Mr. Hodge stated that they would prefer to forgo the agreement and instead donate the shed to the City, with American Legion Post #25 continuing to maintain it.

A motion was made to approve the placement of the shed, accept ownership of the shed by the City, and allow American Legion Post #25 to be responsible for its ongoing maintenance.

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

**b. Northwest IT Consultants; Agreement for services. – action item**

A motion was made to TABLE this agreement.

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

**6. New Business.**

**a. Race the Joe – Special Exemption Permit at Cormana Building. – action item**

A motion was made to approve the special exemption permit for the Race the Joe event at the Cormana Building on May 17, 2026.

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

**b. Approve library board recommendation for board member vacancy. – action item**

A motion was to approve Rona Gosby as a board member at the St. Maries Library.

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

**c. Discuss PFAS Class Action.**

Jaidyn Kinzer, City Clerk, provided an update to the City Council regarding the PFAS Class Action. Kinzer reported that the City's PFAS testing results were returned from the laboratory as non-detect for all water sources tested, indicating that PFAS levels were below the laboratory's detection limits. Kinzer stated that the City will continue to monitor for PFAS.

**7. Reports and Communications.**

**a. Mayor's Update.**

No Updates.

**b. City Council Comments.**

Councilor Jeff Pugh reported that he has been in contact with Steve Blodel of Inland Forest Management regarding the blowdown timber in Section 34. Councilor Pugh requested that an item be placed on an upcoming agenda to consider moving forward with soliciting a contractor and to receive a full timber report from Mr. Blodel. Councilor Waylon Newton added that Benewah County has discussed the potential use of FEMA funding for the removal of downed trees and suggested exploring that option.

Councilor Waylon Newton also reported that his communications with Benewah County have been positive and that joint meetings have been productive.

Councilor Ed Spooner commended the Public Works Department for their work on tree removal at Aqua Park.

**c. Public Works Updates.**

No updates.

**d. Police Updates.**

No updates.

**e. Engineer Updates.**

Updated provided in the packet. No comments.

**8. Public Comments.**

Suzy Epler, with the Benewah Community Hospital Board, addressed the City Council regarding recent staffing challenges, including the loss of two surgeons, which resulted in temporary financial challenges. She explained that, in an effort to remain transparent, the hospital notified Benewah County that it would be unable to make a scheduled bond payment, as the hospital is county-owned. Epler also expressed concern about misinformation circulating on social media. She noted that the hospital undergoes annual audits, and while the most recent audit identified a material weakness related to internal controls, there were no findings of fraudulent activity. Epler further clarified that the hospital funds its bond payment account one year in advance and that funds for the 2026 payment are already in place.

Yvette Johnson Benham addressed the Council with concerns about a white stripe that had been painted on 1st Street in front of her business.

**9. Adjourn.**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 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 May 11, 2026.

---

Tina Thomson, Mayor

---

Attest: Jaidyn Kinzer, City Clerk