
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, May 26, 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, 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. IT Agreement for Services. – action item

The Councilors reviewed the two draft agreements submitted by Dr Irish & Associates IT Network Consulting and Northwest IT Consultants.

A motion was made to approve the Northwest IT Consultants Agreement for Services.

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

6. New Business.

a. HMH Engineering & City Staff Project Update.

Agenda item not discussed.

b. Steve Blodel; 2026 Timber Harvest Contract. – action item

Steve Bloedel discussed the City's forest land with the City Council. He reviewed the draft 2026 Timber Harvest Contract and recommended moving forward with the hiring of Schiermeister Logging, Inc.

A motion was made to approve the 2026 Timber Harvest Contract with Schiermeister Logging Inc.

Result:	Passed
Moved By:	Willard

Seconded by: Pugh Voted Yes: Willard, Pugh, Winter, Newton, Buell Absent: Spooner
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c. Discuss separating City-owned property via Quitclaim.

Councilor Waylon Newton presented the idea of separating the river frontage from City-owned property parcel number RP46N01E218400. Councilors Winter and Buell stated they were not interested in selling a City asset. Councilor Willard discussed the costs and maintenance associated with recreational use of the property. Councilor Winter suggested future discussion regarding development of the timberland area in conjunction with a future timber sale.

d. Discuss seasonal utility disconnect policy.

Celia Sibert, City Treasurer, provided the Council with various proposed seasonal commercial meter rates by percentage based on meter size. Shiloh Pfeiffer, Public Works Director, advised the Council to ensure that any reduction would still allow the City to maintain adequate water reserve funding.

The Council discussed offering a temporary seasonal shutoff rate reduction equal to 50% of the base rate for each commercial meter size, available once per year for business commercial accounts only.

e. Lease Agreement for Benewah County EMS Ambulance District Building. – action item

Terrun Zolman, City Attorney, expressed concerns regarding the draft lease agreement, noting that the proposed no-fee rental arrangement could result in City residents subsidizing County residents and the appropriation clause would allow the County to terminate the contract if it does not have the money to repair the building. Zolman also stated that the agreement should include a provision with respect to conversion of personal property left on premises after termination of the agreement.

A motion was made to TABLE this item.

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

f. Paul Bunyan Days:

- Request to waive fees for park and street use. – action item**

A motion was made to approve waiving all fees for the park and street use.

Result: Approve Moved By: Pugh Seconded by: Willard Voted Yes: Willard, Pugh, Winter, Newton, Buell Absent: Spooner
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- **Street Closure request for Pet & Doll Parade and PBD Parade. – action item**

A motion was made to approve the street closure request for the Pet & Doll Parade and the PBD Parade.

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

- **Special exemption permits for Blue Ox and Demolition Derby. – action item**

A motion was made to approve the special exemption permits for the Blue Ox and Demolition Derby.

Result:	Approve
Moved By:	Pugh
Seconded by:	Willard
Voted Yes:	Willard, Pugh, Newton, Buell
Absent:	Spooner
Abstained:	Winter

- **Request to allow for camping at Aqua Park during event and to waive fees. – action item**

A motion approve allowing camping at Aqua Park during the Paul Bunyan Day weekend and to waive the fees.

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

- g. **Ordinance No. 2026-789; Code amendments to revise definitions and provisions for yards and setbacks in various zoning districts, and to repeal provisions for the City Impact Area. – action item**

City Clerk, Jaidyn Kinzer, read Ordinance 2026-789 by title.

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

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

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

h. Tamarack Creek Investments, LLC; Variance request to setback requirements. – action item

Terrun Zolman, City Attorney, explained to the City Council that the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing regarding the request for a variance to the setback requirements at 1000 Railroad Avenue. Following deliberation, the Commission recommended denial of the request due to no natural undue hardship being found.

A motion was made to deny the variance request based on the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation that no natural undue hardship existed.

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

7. Reports and Communications.

a. Mayor's Update.

No Updates.

b. City Council Comments.

Jeff Pugh inquired about the possible removal of the four-way stop at Railroad Avenue and 10th Street.

Janelle Buell inquired about the possible addition of a stop sign at College Avenue and 14th Street.

c. Public Works Updates.

Shiloh Pfeiffer, Public Works Director, reported that the check valve at the well site is leaking back and that the repair quote was approximately \$14,000.00. Pfeiffer also stated that the pool is being prepared for the upcoming season and that the wheelchair-accessible swing is expected to arrive at the park soon.

d. Police Updates.

No updates - absent.

8. Public Comments.

Aaron Nelson, Chamber of Commerce, shared that the Summer Concert Series begin next week.

Jacob Parsons, Benewah County resident, questioned whether an agreement is currently in place for the Benewah County Ambulance lease. Parsons stated that any agreement that is signed will be less beneficial than what they have now.

Chris Renaldo, City resident, suggested allocating funds towards a new frame for the City zoning map.

9. Adjourn.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 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

DRAFT