Council Chambers at City Hall
602 College Ave.
St. Maries, Idaho

City of St. Maries
"On the Shadowy St. Joe"
602 College Avenue, St. Maries, Idaho 83861

July 13, 2026
at 5:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

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, July 13, 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. – action item**
   Mayor Thomson noted for the record the amount of expenses presented for payment approval, as shown below.

   a. **Approve Minutes from the Regular Council Meetings on June 8 & 22, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting on June 30, 2026. - action item**
   b. **Approve Expenses from June 2026 in the amount of $392,533.72. – action item**
   c. **Approve Treasurer Report. – action item**
   d. **HMH Engineering Invoice M25023-04 for Manganese Treatment. - 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

5. **Old Business. – none.**
6. **New Business.**
   a. **Schedule budget workshops.**
   Celia Sibert, City Treasurer, and Councilors scheduled a budget workshop for July 16, 2026 at 3:00pm.

   b. **Solid waste fee 2026 proposal (Sara Sexton). – action item**
   Sara Sexton proposed removing the current solid waste levy and implementing a flat fee that would be the same for all residents. Sexton explained that the fee could either be

billed and collected by Benewah County or collected by the City. City Treasurer Celia Sibert stated that having the County collect the fee would be the preferred option. Sexton informed the Council that she has been working on developing a fair approach to ensure all residents contribute equally and stated that she plans to present the proposal to the Benewah County Commissioners at their next meeting.

No motion was made.

Result:	No motion made.

c. Facility Use Agreement for GSMYSA Fall Soccer. – action item

Motion to approve the Facility Use Agreement for GSMYSA Fall Soccer.

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

d. Request for Sandy Haines Free Swim Day (Claudia Spooner). – action item

Claudia Spooner requested Council approval to host an annual free swim day on July 29th in memory of Sandy Haines. Spooner requested that the City waive the pool entry fees for the event. The Council discussed the request.

Motion to approve the request for Sandy Haines Free Swim Day.

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

e. Stop signs at College Avenue/14th Street and 14th Street/Jefferson Avenue (Councilor Buell). – action item

Councilor Janelle Buell explained that she requested the item be placed on the agenda due to concerns about speeding on 14th Street between Main Avenue and Jefferson Avenue, which she described as a high-traffic area. She suggested installing a stop sign on College Avenue at 14th Street for southbound traffic and another stop sign on Jefferson Avenue at 14th Street for southbound traffic.

Motion to approve installing a stop sign on College Avenue at 14th Street for southbound traffic and another stop sign on Jefferson Avenue at 14th Street for southbound traffic, contingent upon approval by the City public works department and police department.

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

f. Discuss wastewater treatment cost allocation (Councilor Newton).

Councilor Waylon Newton presented a proposed monthly fee to bill Benewah County for wastewater treatment services. Newton explained that he worked with City staff to calculate the costs associated with providing wastewater treatment and developed a proposed monthly charge for the County. He provided a detailed cost breakdown, which was included in the Council packet. Newton noted that the calculation did not include the cost of paying an individual to maintain the required wastewater treatment licenses, as the City is required to maintain those licenses regardless of the County's use of the system.

7. **Reports and Communications.**
   a. **Mayor's Update.**
   Mayor Thomson shared that the city-wide swap meet will be this Saturday.

   b. **City Council Comments.**
   Councilor Willard shared that she attended the Benewah County Commissioners meeting that morning, where there was discussion regarding noxious weeds.

   Councilor Pugh requested that the Council receive regular updates on the City's sidewalk projects to help keep the Council informed of their progress.

   Councilor Winter commended Councilor Newton for his research and work on the proposed wastewater treatment cost analysis.

   Councilor Spooner stated that he would be requesting placement on an upcoming agenda to discuss several topics.

   Councilor Newton commented that the Aqua Park improvements look good.

   Councilor Buell shared that she and Councilor Willard would be meeting to discuss the ambulance topic.

   c. **Public Works Updates.**
   No updates.

   d. **Police Updates.**
   Update provided in the packet.

8. **Public Comments.**
   Tami Holdahl, a City resident, expressed concerns about the presence of noxious weeds throughout the City, particularly those growing along sidewalks, stating they could cause damage. She also requested that the City address damage at the Lower City Park where a backhoe had left large holes.

   Aaron Nelson, representing the Chamber of Commerce, commented that the newly painted curbs and the Aqua Park improvements looked good.

   Claudia Spooner, a City resident, shared that the morning lap swimmers volunteered to help clean the pool area by pressure washing the building and pulling weeds.

9. **Executive Session §74-206(1)(b)**

Motion to convene into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent at 6:35 PM.

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

10. Reconvene and Adjourn.
With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was reconvened and adjourned at 6:59 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