

**Regular Council Meeting
February 2, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Tom Kloss.

Roll Call: Deb Marsolek, Cleo Skroch, Linda Longmore, Randy Symicek, Elaine Conrad and Jason Ekern-Absent. 5 Present and 1 absent.

Others Present: Jase Baldart, Derrick Bushman, Gareth Shambeau, Logan Seipel, Mark Helgeson, Brandi Berg, Ron Guza, Atty Rick Schaumberg, Tamasey “Macey” Johnson, Eric Theisen, Chief Jim Waniorek, Lois Boe, Jim Woychik, Zach Rastall, and City Clerk Dawn Smieja.

Mayor Kloss verified proof that public notice was given.

Approval of Agenda: Symicek motioned to approve agenda, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Minutes –January 5th, 2026

Motion to approve minutes by Marsolek, seconded by Longmore. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Public Comments-

Chief Waniorek made a comment thanking Eric Theisen for all his work.

Licenses and Permits

M. Pomeroy-Operators- Skroch motioned to approve, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

R. Baecker-Operators- Skroch motioned to approve, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

A. Halvorson-Kulig-Operators- Skroch motioned to approve, seconded by Longmore. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Street Superintendent Report- Eric contacted the County about the alternate side parking signs. This will be discussed a little later in the agenda.

Police Department Report- Chief Waniorek advised the department got a check for tactical helmets from Global Finishing Solutions. Motioned by Marsolek to approve the purchase of Tactical helmets, seconded by Skroch. Roll Call- Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes. 5-0 Ayes and 1 absent, motioned carried. Chief Waniorek advised National Night Out is August 4th. They also had a successful hiring process for a full-time officer.

Old Business

Tri-R-Recycling- Tamasey “Macey” Johnson from Trempealeau County Health Care Center looking into bringing back the recycling drop off again. Looking at the 3rd Saturday of the month and starting March 21st and run from 8:30am-11:30am. It would be \$125.00 per Saturday and that includes the cost of glass. Glass collection alone is \$120.00 per ton. Motioned by Conrad to approve and do a trial basis for 3 months for every 3rd Saturday and bring back for June meeting, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call Vote- Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Conrad-Yes. 5-0 Ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

Independence State Bank Loans- Ron Guza-Executive Vice President/CCO at Independence State Bank presented loan option on three of the city loans at last month's meeting and deciding on them today.

#1 Loan- Line Credit for the Lake Dredge- Motioned by Symicek to go with \$68,700 annual payments (Interest Rate at 5.99%) (20-year amortization), seconded by Skroch. Ron advised the amount might be lower due to the city paid the interest payment. Roll Call- Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Absent, Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-No. 4-1, Ayes, 1 Absent, motion carried.

#2 Loan- Motioned by Symicek to go with 10-year annual payment (Interest Rate at 5.99%) of \$12,252, seconded by Longmore. Roll Call- Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Absent, Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes. 5-0 Ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

#3 Loan- Motioned by Skroch to go with 10-year annual payment (Interest Rate at 5.99%) of \$18,516, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call- Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Absent, Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-No, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes. 4-1 Ayes, 1absent, motion carried.

Ron Guza also advised payments can be paid off sooner with no penalty.

Open the public hearing for the Amendment to the Restrictive Covenants to Markham Hillside Addition at 6:16pm.

Atty Schaumberg read the amendment. No public comments. Public Hearing closed at 6:21pm. Motion to approved the amendment to the Restrictive Covenants to Markham Hillside Addition by Symicek, seconded by Longmore. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Hi-Crush-Derrick Bushman asked for the council to change the name on the agenda. Reclamation was presented to the council but cannot vote without a public hearing. Gareth Shambeau from Ayres gave an update on the reclamation plan. Meeting with Gareth February 25, 2026 at 5:30pm. Bushman Brothers also have Ayres (Logan Seipel) working on the Reclamation plan and our engineer (Gareth Shambeau) is also from Ayres. Motioned by Skroch to waive any potential conflict because our engineer is from the same firm as the Sand Mine engineer, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Historical Society/City Hall Basement Update- Atty Schaumberg presented the amended lease agreement to Lois and Jim. Motioned by Skroch to approve the amended lease agreement, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Sesquicentennial Celebration- There is a meeting on February 12th at 6pm.

Veteran's Park- No one was present.

Library Update- Kayla provided an update.

Block 1 Alley- Motioned by Symicek to have SEH to put out for bid, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Markham Addition Lots- Clerk Smieja provided an update of the sale of lots 41 & 42 received a check for the sale of the amount of \$23,160.60. Mayor Kloss provided an update that our contract with Realtor Josh Baecker is up, and we are no longer on contract. Brandi Berg provided a packet and explained the contract. Brandi would like a 3-year contract. Atty Schaumberg approved how the contract is written. Motioned by Skroch to accept Brandi Berg's Listing agreement, seconded by

Conrad. Roll Call Vote- Conrad-Yes, Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes. 5-0 Ayes, 1 absent, motion carried.

Ferguson Apartments-Atty Schaumberg will follow up with Total Title. Bring this back next month.

Building Permits and Cigarette License- Clerk Smieja provided an update on reaching out to GEC and they don't do building permits; they come and inspect them. Clerk Smieja represented the Civic Review quote a few months ago. Marsolek also provided other options Geo Civic, Open Government, and Government Pilot. Marsolek motioned to table, seconded by Skroch. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Alternate Side Parking- Mayor Kloss provided an update that council approved this years prior and for us to purchase new signs we can't hang on existing posts. We would have to contract with the county to purchase the signs and put the posts in and it would be close to \$5,000. Skroch motioned to not spend money on signs due to it is in the ordinance, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

New Business

Flower Hanging Baskets- Clerk Smieja provided an email from Raintree Garden Center about prices. Conrad motioned to check prices, seconded by Marsolek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Water/Sewer Payment back to City- Mayor Kloss and Clerk Smieja provided an update on total amount of \$152,618.00 due to the city and a one-time payment of \$62,618.00 in 2023, which did not happen. The only payment made back was in 2025 for \$9,884.00 leaving the total \$142,734.00 and paying back over 10-years with Biannual payments of \$7,136.00 due January 1st and July 1st.

Tax Booklets-Mayor Kloss and Clerk Smieja provided an update on the tax booklets. People can either view the report in the city hall office for free, view it on our city website for free or Dawn and Abby can make a copy of the report for \$8.00 for people to take home.

Committee Reports:

Street- Symicek waiting for Bids and possibly could fill out a grant application.

Lake Dredge- Met with Andy on truck loads and Andy will meet with Cedar Corp on how many yards were taken. Need on agenda about the contract and possibly seeding the pile ourselves to save money.

LEP- Met with Water/Sewer Commission on January 13th and things were tabled. In the process/background for hiring Justin Zareczny at the end of the month.

Correspondence: Clerk Smieja provided a letter from Cedar Corp and Independence Opera House/Friends of City Hall. Marsolek asked question on the financial report from Independence Opera House/Friends of City Hall and asked for someone to come to next meeting.

Approval of Invoices and Payments:

Motioned by Skroch to approve; seconded by Symicek. Roll Call Vote. Marsolek-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Longmore-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Absent, Conrad-Yes. 0-0 Ayes, 1 absent, Motion Carried.

Future Agenda:

- Historical Society/City Hall Basement Update
- Library Community Center

- Sesquicentennial Celebration
- Veterans Park
- Block 1 Alley
- Hi-Crush Whitehall LLC
- Markham Addition Lots
- Ferguson Apartment
- Flower Hanging Baskets
- Independence Opera House/Friends of City Hall

Future Meeting Dates:

Council Meeting March 2nd , 2026 @ 5:30 PM

After having completed all matters before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Dawn Smieja, City Clerk