

January 13th, 2026
VILLAGE OF BELLE CENTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Belle Center Village Council met in regular session on January 13th, 2025 at 7:00 PM with Mayor Lance Houchin presiding.

Mayor Houchin said that two council position are open as of the first of January and he would accept motions:

*Council member James made a motion to appoint Megan Hogue to the Village Council, 2nd by council person Penny, a roll call vote resulted in all voting yes.

*Council member Legge made a motion to appoint Joe Matthews to the Village Council, 2nd by council person James, a roll call vote resulted in all voting yes.

Solicitor Stratton then administered the oath of office to Council Members Hogue and Matthews.

Roll call was taken with council members: James, Hogue, Legge, Lowery, Penny and Matthews were present. Village Officers: Mayor Houchin, Village Administrator Bingham, Fiscal Officer Ridder and Solicitor Stratton were present.

Motion to approve minutes from the regular session on December 9th, 2025 was made by council person Lowery, and 2nd by council person Legge, all approved.

Motion to pay monthly bills was made by council person James, and 2nd by council person Penny, all approved.

Motion to approve the bank reconciliation for December 2025 was made by council Hogue, and 2nd by council person Matthews, all approved.

Mayor Houchin discussed the ongoing contract negotiations with the Logan Sewer District and the next meeting is set for January 20th.

We had a water main break on Center Street last month with resulted in water for the town being temporary shut off. A water boil alert was also issued and the water test came back clean.

Fiscal Officer Ridder presented the final 2025 Fund Summary report to council and said that the numbers look very good and our fund balances are doing well.

Administrator Bingham presented Council with resolution 2026-1 "An Ordinance adjusting the Utility Fees for Water, Sewer, Garbage and Capital Improvement" as follows:

Resident Inside Village	Old Rate	Increase	New Rate
Water	\$12.42	\$0.23	\$12.65
Sewer	\$55.71	\$ (.01)	\$55.70
Sewer w/ Electric Cr	\$42.98	\$0.02	\$43.00
Garbage	\$18.14	\$0.36	\$18.50
Capital Improvement	\$13.80	\$0.00	\$13.80
Resident Outside Village			
Water	\$16.03	\$0.32	\$16.35
Garbage	\$22.16	\$0.44	\$22.60
Bulk Water	\$13.24	\$0.26	\$13.50

Dumpster rates increase by 2%, rates were rounded to nearest .05 and

a \$2.00 monthly credit will give given to any resident who receives their bill by email.

Mayor Houchin called for a motion to pass this resolution on one reading and on an emergency measure, council person Legge made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person Matthews, a roll call vote resulted in all approving. Mayor Houchin then called for the approval of the resolution, council person Penny made the motion to approve, and 2nd by council person James, a roll call vote resulted in all approving.

In attendance was Aaron Smith of the Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission. Belle Center has been a long-time member of the LUC. Smith said that they are helping members to review and update their zoning laws, Belle Centers were last reviewed in the 1990's. The Village will need to appoint a zoning board of appeals to begin the review process. Council discussed updating the zoning map this year and reviewing the zoning laws next year, no decision was made.

Council Member Legge told council that the Veterans Memorial Foundation received a \$2,500 grant from the Logan County Visitors Bureau for the monuments project.

Administrator Bingham told council of the need to repair and replace part of the water main in the spring. This would result in having to temporarily shut of water to the town. Bingham said that we would plan this well in advance and notify the Village residents accordingly.

At 7:40 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by council person Lowery, 2nd by council person James, all approved.

Next council meeting is February 10th, 2026 at 7:00 PM.



Lance Houchin, Mayor



Joe Bidder, Fiscal Officer