

City of Wendell
Special Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025

Mayor Rebecca Vipperman called the special meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:33 PM. Council members present were Council President BJ Marshall; Councilman Juan Gonzales; and Councilman Donald Dunn. City Attorney Tim Stover was not present.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to approve the March 6, regular council meeting minutes, as amended. He requested an edit regarding the Dairy Days application and **Councilwoman Marshall** noted a name that was misspelled on page 3. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

APPROVE SPECIAL AGENDA

Councilman Dunn made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

BILLS

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$9,175.01. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Irrigation Public Hearing

Mayor Vipperman opened the public hearing at 6:45 PM. She read the public hearing rules and Idaho Statute 50-1805A that outlines the maintenance fee that every citizen within city limits must pay. She also stated that if you do not know if you have access to irrigation, want to find out about getting water, or have other concerns about the irrigation in your area, Public Works will evaluate the city's irrigation access points and give you any additional information you may need. She also stated that Public Works will investigate all addresses presented at tonight's meeting.

Mayor Vipperman stated that public comment was now open.

The following citizens of Wendell came forward with their requests to Council:

Don Bunn- 540 E Ave A

He stated that he is currently being charged for the ditch rider at 530 N Milner, but he is installing sprinklers and would like to opt out of the ditch rider.

Justin Mowry- 138 3rd W

He stated that he would like to opt out of the ditch rider because he only received the irrigation water about four times last year, he and his wife work and his elderly dad cannot take care of the water.

Egidio Pires- 547 N Hagerman

He stated that he would like to opt out of the ditch rider because he has only received the irrigation water two or three times over the last 8 years. He has also sold the property.

Jesus Luna-

He stated that he has paid for the ditch rider for 5 years but cannot use it. The home he occupies is on top of the irrigation access on his property.

Zulema Juarez-Servin- 549 1st Ave E

He stated that Zulema would like to opt out of the ditch rider fee because they have not used the water for the last 2 years. The pump is out, and he does not want to replace it. Additionally, he stated that they took the grass out and now use the area for parking.

Ted Anderson- 730 N Gooding/Block178 LT 1-4

He stated that he would like to opt out of the ditch rider fee because he has no ditch, does not get water and has a sprinkler system.

Ray Ormond- 230 E Ave D/240 E Ave D

He stated that he has lived at his address for approximately 35 years, he bought the lot next to him and, for the first time, was assessed a ditch rider fee on the adjoining lot. He stated that he called City Hall and was advised that he could combine the lots into a single lot and then he would only be charged a single ditch rider fee. He stated that he did that, but it was not completed until after the irrigation bills had gone out for this year. He asked if the second ditch rider fee could be waived now that the two lots were now combined into one lot.

Vernal Olsen- 445 3rd Ave W

He stated that it takes him an hour to get the irrigation pump primed and running to get water to his property. He stated that he does not get the water he should because it is turned off before he is able to finish watering his property. He asked if he could opt out of the ditch rider fee because he does not get enough water.

Kali Lasater for Carol Reynolds- 447 N Bliss

He stated that he was present on behalf of Carol Reynolds. He stated that he would like to opt out of the ditch rider on her property because the water goes off the property and down the hill. He stated that she is unable to manage the water herself due to her health.

Darcy Herrington- 347 W Main St

He stated that he would like to opt out of the ditch rider fee because, even though the property has a pipe that he could connect to that would give him access to get the water, he does not want to purchase a pump and pipe to connect his property to receive irrigation. He stated that he would rather use city

water for his yard.

Jerry Allen- 227 S Gooding

He stated that he wants access to irrigation water. He stated that there is a ditch near his property. He stated he does have a sprinkler system using city water, but it is costing him too much money to use the sprinklers. He also stated that he would prefer to get a pump and connect to the irrigation if it is available.

Mayor Vipperman closed the public hearing at 7:08 PM.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(Public Works/Clerk-Treasurer/Fire/Police/Library/Ordinance)

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Reliance Engineering Design & Construction

McKade Lusk and Scott Lindsey, representing Reliance Engineering, stated that they had come before council to discuss the project, the fiber route, and to answer any questions the city may have. They are seeking council approval of the proposed route for Wendell. During the question & answer discussion of this project, **McKade Lusk or Scott Lindsey** stated that the company has a 25-year commitment to the project. They showed the mayor and council maps of the entire project and a map specific to Wendell that included coming across the freeway by way of a trench to Maverik (directional bore required by ITD). They would then work with Public Works for all DigLine requests to put in micro conduit with access boxes to extend access. From there, it can be hardwired to essential services and will also go to existing towers for wireless connection. The network itself will be county owned. The company will work with the county and city regarding any/all permits and documentation requirements. The project should start in late May or early June 2025. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve the proposed route of the Gooding County fiber project in city limits. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Side Caster Purchase for Streets-Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Devereaux presented council with a purchase request for a piece of equipment called a side caster. He stated that this will help public works with graveling alleys, asphalt and much more. If purchased, public works will no longer have to borrow a side caster from other agencies for these projects. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to approve the purchase of the side caster not to exceed 11,779.40. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Proposed 4 Day Work Schedule-Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Devereaux presented council with a request for the public works department to change to a Monday-Thursday schedule, working 10-hour shifts each day. He stated that there would still be one person on call each week with a rotating schedule of the public works crew. The on-call person would work 8-5 Monday-Friday. He also stated that he would still work

Monday-Friday as well. This could reduce overtime and allow for more personal time for the crew. Members of the council suggested a trial basis through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2025). After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the proposed 4 day a week (Monday-Thursday) 11-hours per day, 7am-6pm, schedule with a rotating on call person working a 5-day (Monday – Friday) regular 8 hours per day schedule on a trial basis through the end of the fiscal year. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Gonzales-Aye** and **Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Hidden Heroes-Military Caregivers Proclamation

Mayor Vipperman stated that, after speaking with a DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) representative, the proclamation was modified to fit Wendell's current abilities to honor the proclamation. **Mayor Vipperman** read the proclamation into record. **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve the Hidden Heroes-Military Caregivers Proclamation. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilman Gonzales-Aye** and **Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Mayor Vipperman, **Councilwoman Marshall**, **Councilman Gonzales**, **Councilman Dunn**, and **City Clerk Karri French** all signed the proclamation. **Mayor Vipperman** then presented it to the DAR representative in the audience on behalf of the City of Wendell.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that she is glad to be back from Arizona and she had a great time there. She thanked **Mayor Vipperman** and **City Clerk Karri French** for working it out so that she was able to attend council meetings virtually while she was away. She thanked Public Works for Wendell's roads after traveling roads in Arizona. She also thanked Wendell's small local stores and markets for being so great after visiting similar stores in Arizona.

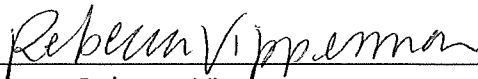
Councilman Dunn stated that he is very proud of **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** and **Public Works employee Ethan Howell** for getting their water operator license.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman announced that the Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 19 at 9 AM at McGinnis Park. This year's Easter Egg Hunt is co-sponsored by Magic Valley Manor. She also announced that Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 28th - May 9th. Dumpsters for garbage and appliances will be located at City Hall. Public Works will start picking up items from the alleys on May 7th. All items for pickup need to be in the alleys by May 7th. Items put in alleys after May 7th will not be picked up. The tire dumpster will now be located at the city shop and each resident may bring up to four tires. She thanked the public works crew for attending the meeting and stated that Public Works, the Fire Department, the Clerk's Office, and Code Enforcement/Animal Control are all doing a great job.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:51 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Mayor Rebecca Viperman

Attest:



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer