

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2025

Mayor Rebecca Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:30 PM. Council members present were Council President BJ Marshall; Councilwoman McRoberts; Councilman Juan Gonzales and Councilman Donald Dunn. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Dunn made a motion to approve the July 17, 2025, Special Meeting (Budget Workshop) minutes. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to approve the July 29 Special Council Meeting (Budget Workshop) minutes as presented. **Councilwoman McRoberts** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts–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 \$26,317.20. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Public Hearing

Mayor Vipperman opened the Public Hearing at 6:49 PM. She stated that over the past few months, the budget has been a primary focus for the council and the city clerk. Budget workshops were held this summer starting in June and those workshops have brought us to the public hearing today. The new budget will take effect on October 1, 2025, and end on September 30, 2025.

City Clerk Karri French stated that the city budgeted **\$5,805,484** for fiscal year 2025-2026 and allocated the following amounts for each fund:

General Fund \$1,669,310

Streets Fund \$ 952,936

Library Fund \$690,217

Irrigation Fund \$114,499

Sanitation Fund \$143,898

Water Fund \$1,044,520

Sewer Fund \$1,190,104

She also noted an error in the budget public hearing publication. The tort property tax of **\$4334** was mistakenly included in the Non-Property Tax Revenue line. The correct total for the Property Tax Levy, which includes the tort property tax amount, is **\$817,640** for fiscal year 2025-2026. This error does not affect the proposed budget total.

Mayor Vipperman asked the council if they had any questions, comments, or anything to discuss. There was no discussion. **Mayor Vipperman** opened the public hearing for public comment.

In Favor:

None

Neutral:

None

Against:

None

Mayor Vipperman asked the council if they had any questions, comments, or anything to discuss. There was no discussion.

Mayor Vipperman closed the public hearing at 6:55 PM

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Republic Services dba Western Waste-5% Rate Increase

Rachele Klein, representing Republic Services, dba Western Waste, was present to discuss the rising cost of operations for Western Waste. She stated that the company increased wages to boost employee retention, and they have also seen an increase in maintenance, parts and petroleum related costs due to inflation and tariffs. As a result, they are requesting an increase in their contract with the city of 5% per year for the next 5 years. The council had questions regarding the increase related to current inflation rates. **Rachele Klein** stated that from 2019-2025, the rate was not changed from the current contract after Republic Services acquired Western Waste in January of 2025 even though, at times, inflation was higher than the increases in the agreement. **Mayor Vipperman** asked if the city was required to commit to all 5 years of the rate increase or a partial agreement and revisit the proposed increases after that. **Rachele Klein** stated that the city could agree to a partial increase, annually or more years, and revisit the contract after that time. **City Attorney Tim Stover** recommended revisiting the increase annually but also stated that the price increase was still below what a company quoted another city recently able to serve Wendell for the same services. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept the 5% annual increase for the next 3 years, ending September 30, 2028. **Councilwoman McRoberts** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye** and **Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of J-U-B Annual Reuse System Agreement

Tabled.

Consideration of Law Enforcement Agreement- FY25-26- Gooding County

Mayor Vipperman presented the council with the Law Enforcement Agreement for fiscal year 2025-2026 from the Gooding County Sheriff. The council noted that the Gooding County Sheriff does a great job, and the increased cost of the proposed contract over last year is approximately 4%. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the 2025-2026 Law Enforcement Agreement with the Gooding County Sheriff in the amount of \$587,274. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Veteran's Park-Jim Benson & Wayne Chandler

American Legion Post 41 Commander Wayne Chandler stated that it is great to be an American. He talked about many of the services the Legion provides to Wendell and its veterans both living and passed on. He stated that the Legion Hall is ready to start remodeling the Veteran's Park located on the grounds at City Hall. Since it is on city property, Legion Post 41 needs the city's permission to proceed with the remodel. He provided the council with the design plans and discussed them with the council. He stated that they are working with grants and have received donations to help fund the project including the cement, which has been donated by Sutton's Concrete. He also stated that they are seeking additional donations, both monetary and from volunteers willing to help with the project. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the American Legion starting the Veteran's Park remodel project. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of FY25-26 Budget

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic and asked the council if they had anything to discuss. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that the tort property tax error in the publication should be noted in the minutes. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that there was an error in the budget public hearing publication. The tort property tax of \$4334 was mistakenly included in the Non-Property Tax Revenue line. The correct total for the Property Tax Levy, which includes the tort property tax amount, is \$817,640 for fiscal year 2025-2026. This error does not affect the proposed budget total. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to accept the proposed fiscal year 2025–2026 budget in the amount of \$5,805,484, with the correction that the tort property tax amount be included in the Property Tax Levy total of \$817,640. **Councilwoman McRoberts** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Ordinance 565-2025-Annual Appropriations

This Ordinance is required annually after the council accepts the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion that proposed Ordinance 565-2025 pass its first reading by Title only and that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed relative thereto. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that it has been

moved and seconded that the 2nd and 3rd reading rules be dispensed, and that proposed Ordinance No. 565-2025 pass its first reading by title only. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 565-2025. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Councilman Gonzales made a second motion that Proposed Ordinance 565-2025- AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WENDELL, IDAHO, ENTITLED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$5,805,484 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF WENDELL FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR, AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SAID APPROPRIATION IS MADE. **Councilwoman Marshall** seconded the motion.

Mayor Vipperman stated that it has been moved and seconded that proposed Ordinance 565-2025 be formally adopted. **Mayor Vipperman** then asked the council if they had anything to discuss regarding proposed Ordinance 565-2025. There was no discussion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Possible Water Line Extension-Simplot

Public Works Director Steve Devereaux and the city council discussed options for potentially connecting Simplot to city water. To be continued. No motion needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Finishing 7th W & Lewiston, Finishing N Milner

The council tabled this at the last meeting to see what was left in the streets fund for road repair after the annual chip seal project payment was issued. **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** presented the quote for both projects to complete the street on 7th W & and Lewiston and to finish N Milner. When asked, he stated that 7th W & Lewiston needed to be done as soon as possible due to the way water collects at the unfinished end and the damage it has caused. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that there was enough in the overall streets fund to complete both projects. After discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to accept the quote to finish 7th W & Lewiston and to finish N Milner with hot mix in the amount of \$67,450. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded was completed. seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that the citizen the LDS church and Public Works has been assisting with cleanup is looking great.

Councilman Dunn asked if the Dairy Days Committee had opened a bank account yet.

Councilwoman Marshall stated it needed to be moved before the end of the fiscal year. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that the committee is working on getting a meeting scheduled to get it taken care of.

MAYOR

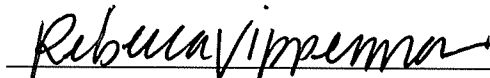
Mayor Vipperman stated that there would be a company at the next All-Team meeting to do a presentation with individual consultation available after the meeting. She stated that chip seal is done for the year, it looks great, and everyone did a great job. She stated that the budget was done, and everybody did a great job. She also stated that the Gooding County Sheriff's Office is doing a great job.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 8:02 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor