

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 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.

Amended Agenda

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to accept the Amended Agenda for December 4, 2025, adding item H. Consideration of Gooding County Sheriff's Office-Flock System and item I. Consideration of Library Board Appointment-Jennifer Lambert. Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye; motion passed.

BILLS

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$34,893.95. Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of South-Central Health District-Public Pool Regulations

Mattye Brecht, representing South Central Public Health District, was present to discuss upcoming changes in state legislature and future needs to continue local regulation of swimming pools for public health and safety. The council felt that this should be a joint effort between the city and the Wendell Recreation District. Tabled for review.

Consideration of Smiles Grant Application

Mayor Vipperman stated the Frontier Community Resources has a Smiles Grant available that offers up to \$5,000.00 for each city and county in South-Central Idaho. She presented a rough draft of the grant application to the council and discussed her ideas. If awarded, she stated that she would like to use it to highlight Wendell's lost history. She provided the council with printed copies of sample webpages to highlight Wendell's historical buildings and stories, with emphasis on the historical buildings lost to the downtown fire in 1981. She asked for any changes or input the council may have and asked them to approve submitting the application. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to approve Mayor Vipperman completing and submitting the Smiles Grant application. 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 Idaho Street Illumination Project

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item to be discussed. She stated that LHTAC has a grant that, if awarded, would allow the city to add streetlights to a portion of Idaho Street. She stated that LHTAC is putting the grant together. She asked the council to look at light post design options for the streetlights to pass on to LHTAC. A preference for a lantern style lamp post was noted. No motion needed.

Consideration of 447 N Wendell- April Carlson

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item to be discussed. **April Carlson** was present to discuss the subject with the council. She stated that previously, in 2017, an agreement was made between the city and herself regarding easements in exchange for no charge to connect to the city's sewer when she was able to put a new home on the property. She stated that the city clerk advised her to come before council since 8 years have passed since the agreement was made. She stated that she is now able to put a home on the property and would like to proceed as agreed in 2017. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to honor the 2017 agreement as recorded in the meeting minutes on February 2, 2017, waiving connection fees to the city's sewer system. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye; motion passed.**

Consideration of Caselle W2 & 1099 Preparation

City Clerk Karri French presented the council with a Caselle proposal to prepare 2025 W-2's & 1099's, asking for council approval. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that in the past, Caselle has helped the Clerk's Office with year-end payroll services including preparation of W-2's and 1099's. This year's contract price increased from \$1625.00 to \$1795.00. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve the agreement allowing Caselle to complete the W-2 and 1099 preparation, not to exceed \$1795.00. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye; motion passed.**

Consideration of Closing at 2 PM on Christmas Eve

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item to be discussed. She stated that it has been a tradition to close the city offices early on Christmas Eve and pay the employees for the whole day. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve closing city offices at 2PM on Christmas Eve with the employees receiving pay for the whole day. **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 Alternate Date for January 1, 2026- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting

City Clerk Karri French stated that the first meeting of 2026 falls on New Year's Day. Since city offices will be closed for the holiday, she asked the council to choose an alternate date. The council discussed the schedule for January 2026 and decided to move both meetings. After discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to move the January 1, 2026, meeting to January 8, 2026,

and move the January 15, 2026, meeting to January 22, 2026. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Gooding County Sheriff's Office-FLOCK System

Gooding County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Swanson explained what the FLOCK system does and gave examples of recent events that highlight the reason GSCO would like to have it in Wendell. Associated costs were also discussed. This item will come before council again. Tabled for more information.

Consideration of Library Board Appointment-Jennifer Lambert

Mayor Vipperman recommended Jennifer Lambert for the vacant Library Board position. She stated that she and the council members met with several candidates before this meeting. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to appoint Jennifer Lambert to the Library Board. **Councilwoman McRoberts** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Property Line Adjustment Application

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. **Chris Harmison, a surveyor for EHM Land Surveyors**, was present to address the council regarding the land split detailed in the Property Line Adjustment application. He stated that the original parcel had been divided and that members of the Ortega family purchased two parcels. He reported that they were informed the parcels could be further divided, provided each resulting parcel met the minimum lot size requirement of 6,250 square feet. He also reported contacting the City to confirm minimum lot size requirements and to inquire about road and utility access. Then the process was paused while the Property Line Adjustment application was considered, leading to this moment. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that, originally the city expected the initial split of the parcel, but then, unexpectedly, there were additional splits requested to the already split parcels, creating the need for a pause to evaluate potential impacts on the City of Wendell. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that the original parcel is part of the city's lot and block and that the City had previously vacated roads and alleyways to allow the area to be combined into one parcel. He stated that further subdivision does not alter the original vacation and that the City is not responsible for providing roads or utilities to the newly created parcels. **Chris Harmisson** stated that the Ortegas have been working with Gooding County. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that working with Gooding County does not supersede City ordinances within Wendell city limits. One of the parcel owners asked if the city would maintain a road once it was built to the properties. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that the city would not because the planned road to the parcels would be a private road and the owner's responsibility to maintain. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to approve the land division of parcels 1-4 and A-D with no roads or utilities included to the parcels and at no expense to the city. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts-Aye, Councilman Gonzales-Aye and Councilman Dunn-Aye**; motion passed.

Consideration of Wendell Area of Impact

This is still in process of completion. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that he has been working with Gooding County regarding the Wendell Area of Impact. Tabled.

Consideration of Comprehensive Plan

This is still in process of completion. Tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LeeAnn Holmes, Library Board President, expressed her thanks to the mayor and council for taking the time to thoroughly consider all applicants for the empty library board position.

Mayor Vipperman stated that six students from Wendell High School were in attendance as part of a class assignment. They introduced themselves to the council. In attendance were Angela, Mark, Elena, Marcos, Annabelle and Rosa.

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that she went to see the new shop addition at Public Works amid the wiring issues that were recently discovered and Idaho Power was called for. She also stated that public works employees are working hard.

Councilwoman McRoberts stated that the new sheetrock in the library (remodel) looks great.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman stated that this year's Tree Lighting was cold and windy but well attended. She expressed her thanks to the Sutton's for the parade. She thanked public works employees **Ethan Howell, Kirk Weinmeister**, and **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** for all their help at the event after working all day beforehand. She thanked **Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer Nathan Lewis, City Clerk Karri French**, and **Deputy Clerk Maria Sanchez** for all their hard work. She stated the city has great employees.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 8:00 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor

Attest:


Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer

