City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
December 18, 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.

<u>**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**</u>

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the November 20, 2025, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. **Councilwoman Marshall-**Aye, **Councilwoman McRoberts-** Aye, **Councilman Gonzales-** Aye and **Councilman Dunn-** Aye; motion passed.

<u>**BILLS**</u>

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of $21,770.43. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-**Aye, **Councilwoman McRoberts-** Aye, **Councilman Gonzales-** Aye and **Councilman Dunn-** Aye; motion passed.

<u>**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**</u>

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

<u>**PUBLIC HEARINGS**</u>

Water Master Plan Alternatives

Mayor Vipperman opened the public hearing at 6:50 PM. She explained the rules for public hearings to the gallery. She then introduced the topic to be discussed and invited **Tracy Ahrens** to come to the podium.

Tracy Ahrens, representing J-U-B, was present to discuss the city's existing water system, as well as the future needs of the water system. This public hearing is the next step in the process. In previous meetings with the council, **Tracy Ahrens** and other representatives from J-U-B outlined the current state of the water system and the options available to the city that will bring the system into compliance with the newest federal requirements. **Tracy Ahrens** reviewed portions of the original presentation (2022) previously shared with the council to address any remaining questions or concerns. **Gary Hatterly, also representing J-U-B**, discussed details of the city's current water rights, both senior and junior, as well as encouraging the city to pursue additional water rights, especially senior water rights that may be available. **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** and **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** provided details regarding upgrades to the water system since the original plan was presented. **Tracy Ahrens** went over IDAPA requirements, the deficits in the city's current system, after improvements already made, and compared these to the new regulations. He discussed how future improvements to the water system should be prioritized and informed the council that grants and loans may be available once a master plan was in place to bring the city's water system into compliance.

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.

Opposed:

None

Neutral:

Wayne Chandler stated that water is so important to the community and the state. The aquifer keeps dropping due to not having enough water reentering the system to replace what is being used. He also stated that he agrees that the city needs to stay on top of keeping its water rights and possibly obtaining more.

In Favor:

None

Rebuttal:

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 7:31PM.

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Code Enforcement Truck

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux stated** that the truck used by **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** needs repaired. He stated the truck is in good shape except for the motor. He presented three options to the council. The first option was a bid from a shop to replace the motor for approximately $15,000.00. Steve stated that he was told the motor for this truck was difficult to find and that is why it would cost so much. He stated that he and **Public Works employee Ethan Howell** conducted an online search and located two motors within an hour. The second option would be for the city to purchase one of those motors and have the shop install it for approximately $12,000.00. The third option would be to purchase the motor for $4,000.00-$5000.00 and have **Public Works employee Ethan Howell**, a certified mechanic, install the motor at the City Shop with the whole project costing between $5000.00-$6000.00. After discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to accept the third option to have the city purchase the motor and for **Public Works employee Ethan Howell** to install it, not to exceed $6,000.00. **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 Master Water Plan Alternatives

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. She stated that the council needs to pick the plan that would be the most beneficial for the city. After a plan was chosen, the city would be able to apply for grants, look for funding, and then approach the project in stages. **Councilwoman McRoberts** stated that the third option appeared to be the best plan for the city. **Councilwoman Marshall** asked if the price of option three would include the cost of land required for an additional well. **Gary Hatterly** stated that it did include funding for land. He stated that 1-1 ½ acres would be enough. When asked, **Tracy Ahrens** confirmed that the city could adjust the plan as it progressed depending on the city's position. **Gary Hatterly** stated that there is a grant deadline in January and that J-U-B could assist the city by applying for the grant on the city's behalf. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve option three of the master water plan. **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 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law-Ortega

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. **City Attorney Tim Stover** presented the council with the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law regarding the recent public hearing held on the Ortega Lot Line Adjustment application. **Councilman Gonzales** noted a correction to the name of the surveying company Chris Harmisson works for. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law- Ortega as amended. **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 Liquor License Application-Silver Spur

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that city ordinance requires the council to approve the two liquor licenses the city is allotted. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve the liquor license for Silver Spur. **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 Liquor License Application-Stockman's Club

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to approve the liquor license for Stockman's Club. **Councilman Gonzales** 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)

Consideration of Gooding County Sheriff's Office-Flock System

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. At the last meeting, the council asked for more information from **GSCO Sergeant Swanson**. He stated that there was an incident in Elmore County where the FLOCK system gave law enforcement advance information that assisted in apprehending an individual, thereby preventing a potential situation. The subject of the search had publicly threatened harm to an individual and then proceeded to travel toward the intended target. The FLOCK system was used to identify the subject and law enforcement officers were able to apprehend the individual before this individual was able to arrive at the location of the intended target. When asked what the city's portion would be and how it would be paid, **GSCO Sergeant Swanson** stated that after the system was paid for by the county, the city would reimburse a portion of the cost, $3500.00. After discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve spending $3,500.00 on the FLOCK 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 Wendell Area of Impact

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that he has been working with Gooding County. He stated that he asked Gooding County to make no changes and pass an ordinance to keep it the same. He also stated that he likes the way Gooding County does things concerning the city's area of impact by actively involving the city in decisions. No motion needed.

Consideration of Comprehensive Plan

This is still in process of completion. Tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne Chandler stated that approximately one year ago, Michele McFarlane with Frontier Community Resources assisted the American Legion Hall with applying for grants for the Veteran's Park. The Legion was not awarded a grant. He also stated that Sutton's Concrete quoted $28,000.000 for the concrete work. He stated that the city committed to help, the Legion actively sought and received donations, Sutton's Concrete donated the labor ($10,000.00) and the American Legion paid the balance from their funds. Now they need to order 600 new tiles, and they hope to have them by July and installed in time to rededicate the Veteran's Park next November on Veteran's Day. They will be using the tiles as part of their fundraising campaign. Wayne expressed concern that the Legion Hall will not have enough money to complete the project since their building is no longer being rented and used as a school. He also stated that there will not be enough funds to continue the Wreaths Across America program in the same manner as they have in the past. Mayor Vipperman instructed City Clerk Karri French to put this on the agenda for the next city council meeting to be held on January 8, 2026.

COUNCIL

Councilman Dunn stated that the city is fortunate to have the crew we have including the GSCO. He expressed his thanks to all.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman stated that the SMILES grant has been submitted and the LHTAC grant is still in process of completion. She announced that full-time city employees would be receiving a $100 Christmas bonus this year and there would be Christmas hams for the council members and city attorney.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 8:13 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Rebecca Vipperman

Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor

Attest:

Karri A French

Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer