

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2026

Mayor Rebecca Vipperman called the regular meeting of the Wendell City Council to order at 6:31PM. 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

Councilman Dunn made a motion to accept the Amended Agenda for February 5, 2026, adding new business item discussion item D. Irrigation Rates-Method of Billing and item 9. Council Executive Session – Idaho Code Title 74-206 (1) F. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye** and **Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the December 18, 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.

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the January 8, 2026, special council meeting minutes, as presented. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye; and Councilman Gonzales- Aye; Councilman Dunn- Aye** motion passed.

BILLS

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$35,943.42. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye, Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye; and Councilman Gonzales- Aye; Councilman Dunn- Aye** motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Updates from McHugh Bromley-Water Mitigation

This is an update of recent litigation regarding water mitigation for the coalition of cities working with McHugh Bromley to protect their water rights. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that a recent Supreme Court decision awarded the state their attorney fees in this case. McHugh Bromley stated that they will pay most of those fees, passing only a portion to the cities in the coalition. He also stated that McHugh Bromley plans to appeal the decision. No

motion needed.

Consideration of Pro Lawn Care Quote-Landscaping

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. She asked **City Clerk Karri French** if the city had received any other bids for the city's landscaping needs. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that she sent out emails in November listing the specific needs of the city in an attempt to obtain additional bids. She stated that no other bids were received. The council all agreed that Pro Lawn Care has continued to do a great job for the city. After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the bid from Pro Lawn Care in the amount of \$21,545.00. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye**; and **Councilman Gonzales- Aye**; **Councilman Dunn- Aye** motion passed.

Consideration of Forever Green Quote-Spraying-Weeds/Trees

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. She asked **City Clerk Karri French** if the city had received any other bids for the city's weed/tree spraying needs. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that she sent out emails in November listing the specific needs of the city in an attempt to obtain additional bids. She stated that no other bids were received. **Mayor Vipperman** then recused herself due to a conflict of interest. **Council President Marshall** stated that the city was happy with the work Forever Green did last year. **Mark Vipperman** was present to answer questions from the council regarding the bid. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that Forever Green does a great job, and he has seen **Mark Vipperman** walking alleys and sections of town to make sure the job is done well. **Mark Vipperman** stated that when he would do quality control checks, if he had found small areas that needed additional attention, many times he took care of spraying the area himself to ensure the weeds stayed under control. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the bid from Forever green in the amount of \$24,481.10. **Councilwoman McRoberts** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye**; and **Councilman Gonzales- Aye**; **Councilman Dunn- Aye** motion passed.

Council Executive Session – Idaho Code Title 74-206 (1) F

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:54 PM pursuant to Idaho Code Title 74-206 (1) F. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye**; and **Councilman Gonzales- Aye**; **Councilman Dunn- Aye** motion passed.

Councilwoman Marshall made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:24 PM. stating that no decisions were made. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye**, **Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye**; and **Councilman Gonzales- Aye**; **Councilman Dunn- Aye** motion passed.

Irrigation Rates-Methods of Billing

Mayor Vipperman stated that due to the way the Idaho Statutes (Title 50, Chapter 18) directs cities to bill irrigation, the potential alternate billing method discussed at the

Irrigation Workshop held on January 29, 2026, is not possible. The method of billing will remain the same for 2026. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to bill 2026 irrigation using the same method that has been used to bill in previous years, if you can receive the water you will pay the ditch rider fee regardless of whether you use the water, and farm acreages with headgates are to be charged one ditch rider fee per headgate. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye**, **Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye**; and **Councilman Gonzales- Aye**; **Councilman Dunn- Aye** motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gooding County Sheriff's Officer Rivera introduced **Gooding County Sheriff's Officer Zach Wert** to the mayor and council. He stated that Zach lives in Wendell, which is great for Wendell. When asked, **Officer Rivera** stated that he will get the city an updated schedule and contact information for the officers assigned to Wendell.

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that she had provided the mayor and council members with an organizational chart showing the city government structure as well as a funds chart that gives some accounting basics. She asked **City Clerk Karri French** if she had heard from Susan regarding the audit. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that she had received a response by email today and Susan should be calling tomorrow regarding the final steps in completing the audit.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman stated that she is working with the Dairy Days Committee to finalize the date for Dairy Days 2026. She stated that she and city department heads had a meeting with the railroad to finalize dates for the railroad crossing repairs. When asked, she stated that there was no longer a concern that the repair schedule would interfere with Dairy Days since they will not occur at the same time. She also stated that she had another meeting with Blue Cross for Health to work on a grant. She stated she was told that the reason Blue Cross for Health likes working with Wendell is because of Wendell's consistent leadership and cooperation with the council. She stated that she was told that the level of cooperation between elected officials as well as city departments in Wendell is something that is not often seen. She thanked the council and the employees for doing an amazing job.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Tim Stover introduced Shayne Nope, a new attorney at Stover, Gadd & Associates. He stated that Shayne may attend meetings in his place from time to time. **Shayne Nope** introduced himself to the council.

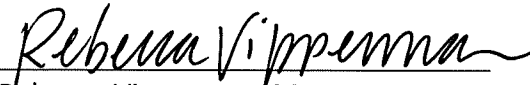
ADJOURN

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:32PM. **Councilwoman McRoberts** seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Attest:



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer



Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor