

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2026

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 not present. Attorney Shayne Nope attended in his place.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the February 19, 2026, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. **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 \$20,240.26. **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 Resolution 219-2026 Irrigation System

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. She stated that this resolution was discussed at the last meeting and the council requested some changes. She asked the council if they had any other changes or comments regarding the resolution. There were none. **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to accept Resolution 219-2026 Irrigation System as presented. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye; Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Irrigation Public Hearing

Mayor Vipperman opened the public hearing at 6:36 PM. She read the public hearing rules, and 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 and investigate all addresses making requests 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:

Jerry Allen-227 S Gooding

He requested access to irrigation water stating that his understanding is that an irrigation pipe runs

under his property. He stated that he does not know how to find it or how to find out if the water comes through that pipe or not. He also asked questions regarding the maintenance fee and what it is used for. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that the maintenance fee, found in Idaho Code, is paid by everyone for the maintenance, repair, and extension of the irrigation system. She also stated that Public Works would investigate the request.

April Carlson-447 N Wendell

She asked what the ditch rider fee was for. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that the ditch rider fee, also found in Idaho Code, is paid by those who have access to the irrigation water. The city bills the fee based on access or the ability to tie-in to access the irrigation water regardless of usage. **April Carlson** also asked to fill in a section of irrigation ditch on 5th that is not in use. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that Public Works would investigate her request regarding the ditch.

Eliza Jenks-335 4th Ave E

She stated that they are experiencing issues with their landscaping and addressing it to prevent flooding in their home. She asked to be taken off the ditch rider's list until next year, so they have time to make the necessary changes. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that Public Works would investigate the request.

Zulema Juarez-Servin-549 1st Ave E

Her representative stated that they do not use the water and have put concrete in the yard. He asked the council to remove the ditch rider fee. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that Public Works would investigate the request.

Mayor Vipperman closed the public hearing at 6:44 PM.

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Appointing Library Board Member-Leather Terra

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. She stated that the council has met Leather and spoken to her. She recommended Leather Terra be appointed to the vacant Library Board position in its current rotation. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion to appoint Leather Terra as of 3/5/26 to the empty seat on the Library Board. **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 Estimate-Reliant Plumbing-Shop Bathroom

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** presented the council with a quote from Reliant Plumbing. He stated that preliminary work has been completed to provide Public Works with a shower and a new eye wash station. This addition will allow employees to shower when needed for decontamination, particularly in the event of sewage mishaps. The eye wash station is also a necessary safety measure. The quote covers all plumbing and fixtures, while Public Works will handle the framing and complete the project. He noted that Reliant Plumbing is familiar with building codes and regulations to ensure the work is done correctly. He also stated that he plans to install lockers so employees can store a change of clothes and toiletries for use when showers are necessary. After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the quote from

Reliant Plumbing in the amount of \$5072.00. **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 Proclamation-National Senior Nutrition Program

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. She read the proclamation into record and asked the council to approve it. A representative for the Wendell Senior Center was present and stated that the Wendell Senior Center offers lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He stated that they also deliver meals to those unable to leave their homes (shut-ins). He thanked **Mayor Vipperman** on behalf of the Wendell Senior Center and invited those in attendance to, "come have lunch sometime with the seniors". After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion for **Mayor Vipperman** to sign the 54th Annual National Senior Nutrition Program Proclamation. **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 STEAM Night-Shawna Tvrdy

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. **Shawna Tvrdy** was present to update the council on the upcoming STEAM Night. It will be held on March 19, 2026, at Wendell Elementary School from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. She requested that the City promote the event and invited the Mayor and Council to attend and participate, as some of them did during the previous event. She also stated that she is in the process of applying for a grant for the next 5 years to continue these types of events for the community. She expressed interest in partnering with the City to provide activities such as visiting City Hall, visiting the Fire Station, and having **Mayor Vipperman** and/or Council members speak to the children. She noted that if the City agrees to partner in providing events for the program, she will need a letter of support to accompany the grant application. She offered to send examples of what the letter should contain to **Mayor Vipperman**. The council expressed support for the idea. No motion needed.

Consideration of Library Board Budget-Library Board Treasurer Kelsey Tappan

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. **Library Board Treasurer Kelsey Tappan** was present to request the use of a large portion of the Library's funds to purchase new items for the new library location, including a circulation desk, new shelves, computers, and other needed items. She also asked how to access the funds in the Library's bank account that were intended for the new library. She presented the council with a packet showing the types of items they will need. She stated that while it was not a complete list, she wanted to give the council an idea of the Library's needs and the associated costs of some of the items. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that she had spoken to the auditor, regarding the fact that originally, the library remodel was budgeted in the library fund, but those costs will now come out of the general fund. She stated that there was no need to amend the budget at this time. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that the library should order what they need and, if necessary, the budget can be amended later. **Councilwoman Marshall** also stated that the Library Board needs to plan for next year's budget to include more adult programs, since the library will have more hours and additional space to do so. **Library Board Treasurer Kelsey Tappan** stated that the library has already started more adult programs, such as a Book Club, Mommy & Me, and painting classes. Additionally, the board is already planning more programs for both children and adults. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that the Library Board also needs to plan for additional payroll costs to

accommodate the extended hours the library will be open, as well as increased utilities and other related expenses. **Library Board Treasurer Kelsey Tappan** stated that the library has already started to plan for the future budget as well. **Councilwoman Marshall** also stated that the library currently has a carryover balance of \$122,133.80. No motion needed.

Consideration of Simplot Water Line Extension

Mayor Vipperman stated that the city has a meeting with Simplot on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Tabled.

Consideration of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law-Anderson Vacate Application

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. She stated that **Code Enforcement Officer Nathan Lewis** was unable to attend the meeting and present the document. This is the final step in the Anderson Vacate application process. **Councilman Gonzales** stated that it was well written and easy to understand, adequately representing the council's decision made at the last meeting. After a brief discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for the Anderson Vacate application 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of GFOA Membership Renewal

At the last meeting, **City Clerk Karri French** requested that the council approve renewing the City's membership in the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The council asked her to provide more information about the specific classes she would like to take and, if possible, the associated costs. She presented the council with a packet highlighting classes she would like to take in the future. **Councilwoman Marshall** questioned the clerk about her education and accounting background, suggesting that some of the classes were too advanced and it might be more appropriate to start classes via the eLearning path, stating, "we will see how it goes." **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to approve renewing the GFOA membership. **Councilwoman McRoberts** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilwoman McRoberts- Aye; Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LeeAnn Gonzales, Library Board President, thanked the city for the beautiful new building, Public Works for all their hard work, and **Councilwoman Marshall** for explaining the financials. She stated that the new location is going to be fabulous.

Gooding County Sheriff's Officer Rivera introduced **Gooding County Sheriff's Officer Chance Freeman** to the mayor and council. He stated that Officer Freeman is from Hagerman and is a welcome addition to the force.

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall thanked the Library Board for their hard work and for the work ahead. She stated it was great to have Shawna Tvrdy here to talk about the upcoming STEAM night. **Councilwoman Marshall** also stated that she will help like she did last year. **Shawna Tvrdy**

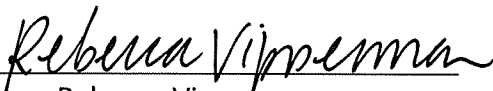
recommended, not only helping, but participating and having fun while she was there like she and **Councilman Gonzales** did last year.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman announced that plans for this year's Easter Egg Hunt are underway and preparations for Dairy Days are also underway. She stated that the city has a great crew. She stated that it was great to have **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** back even if it is only in a limited capacity at this time. She also thanked **City Clerk Karri French** and **Deputy Clerk Maria Sanchez** for all their efforts regarding irrigation this year.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:19 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Mayor Rebecca Vipperman

Attest:



Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer