

City of Wendell
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 19, 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 also present.

AMENDED AGENDA

None

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the March 2, 2026, special meeting minutes for bid opening, 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 March 5, 2026, 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.

BILLS

Councilwoman McRoberts made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$28,015.27. 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

None

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Adjusting Ditch Rider Fees on Combined Lots

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. City Clerk Karri French stated that there were three lots that the owners intended to combine into one before irrigation season began. She stated that most of the documents were filed with Gooding County on February 20, 2026. The annual irrigation bills were mailed on February 25, 2026. The owners later discovered, when checking with the Clerk's Office, that there was an additional document that they needed to file with Gooding County to complete the process. The Clerk's Office received confirmation that the last document had been filed before this meeting. Charles Brewster, the property owner, was

present to state that they had paid separate ditch rider fees for the three lots but only received the same amount of time to access the irrigation water as their neighbors. They learned that if they combined their lots, they would pay one ditch rider fee and still receive the same amount of time they do now to access the irrigation water. He also stated that his neighbor had put up a fence that blocked his previous access point to the irrigation water, so he worked with **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** to get the pipe he needed and laid the pipe himself. He now has access to the irrigation water again. **Councilman Juan Gonzales** asked a few questions to clarify the timeline of the lots being combined. **City Clerk Karri French** clarified and then asked the council to consider reducing the three ditch rider fees to one ditch rider fee. After discussion, **Councilwoman McRoberts** made a motion stating that the lots were now combined into one lot, documents were filed before the irrigation was billed and therefore the city would charge the property owners only one ditch rider fee. **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 Special Events Application-Dairy Days

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. She stated that the application was nearly complete, but the Dairy Days committee is waiting for the required certificate of liability insurance to arrive. Tabled.

Consideration of Week of the Young Child Proclamation

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. She read the proclamation into record. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman Marshall** made a motion to have Mayor Vipperman sign the Week of the Young Child 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 GIS Presentation

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. Tabled for a presentation already scheduled by **Public Works**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)

Consideration of Simplot Water Line Extension

Mayor Vipperman introduced the item. This was an update on the water line planned to be put in at Simplot's expense to connect to the City's water system. It will be installed with a T-shaped connection so that the city will have the ability to connect additional properties, as needed, in the future. No motion needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COUNCIL

Councilwoman Marshall stated that Wendell has a massage therapy school in town. She said she had a very good massage and encouraged others to try it.

Councilwoman McRoberts asked when the Easter Egg hunt is scheduled. **Mayor**

Vipperman responded that it will be held at 9 AM on April 4th at McGinnis Park.

MAYOR

Mayor Vipperman stated that the city received a \$500,000.00 LHTAC grant for street lighting. She stated that the engineering will need to be completed first and it will likely be next year that the lighting is put in. She expressed her appreciation at seeing **Councilman Gonzales** at the Family STEAM Night event earlier today.

Adjourn

Councilman Gonzales made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City Council at 7:15 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.


Rebecca Vipperman, Mayor

Attest:


Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer