

**City of Wendell**  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 2, 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; Councilman Juan Gonzales; and Councilman Donald Dunn. City Attorney Tim Stover was also present. Councilwoman McRoberts was not present. She emailed the mayor and clerk in advance of her absence.

**AMENDED AGENDA**

Councilman Dunn made a motion to accept the Amended Agenda for April 2, 2026, adding new business item discussion item B. Consideration of Irrigation Fee-Jim Prince Park and item C. Consideration of Tree Removal-215 E Avenue A. **Councilman Gonzales** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye, Aye, Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to approve the March 19, 2026, regular council meeting minutes, as presented. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

**BILLS**

**Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$34,492.09. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall-Aye; Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS (discussion/action items)**

**Consideration of RFQ Selection**

Mayor Vipperman introduced the topic. She stated that it has been an arduous process that she, **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** and **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** have worked on it together since the beginning and now they are ready to decide. **Councilman Juan Gonzales** recused himself due to a conflict of interest. **Fire Chief Bob Bailey** stated that a total of nine firms sent in bids to the city. The top four are, from first to fourth, as follows: RH2 Engineering, TDH Engineering, HMM Engineering and J-U-B Engineers. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the council if they had any questions or comments; they had none. **City Attorney Tim Stover** stated that his office will draft a resolution and that the Clerk's office will keep copies of the scoring for any record's requests it will undoubtedly receive. After a brief discussion, **Councilwoman**

**Marshall** made a motion to accept the RFQ selection of the engineering firms, 1-4, as scored. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall**- Aye; **Councilman Gonzales**- Abstain and **Councilman Dunn**- Aye; motion passed.

#### **Consideration of Irrigation Fee-Jim Prince Park**

**Mayor Vipperman** introduced the topic. **Misha Baxter**, board member of the **Wendell Recreation District**, was present to request this year's irrigation fee be waived. She stated that the Rec District is a vital part of the community, supporting local children. She further stated that waiving the fee would benefit the Recreation District's budget, as it is a government entity. When asked, she stated that Jim Prince Park does have access to irrigation water but does not use it. **Mayor Vipperman** asked the clerk if the cemetery and local schools pay irrigation fees every year. **City Clerk Karri French** stated that the schools and the cemetery pay irrigation annually. **Councilwoman Marshall** stated that the city has not waived irrigation for the Recreation District before and stated that citizens who receive the irrigation water but do not use it still pay for it. She added that the expense should be included in Recreation District's annual budget. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that since both the cemetery and the schools pay the fee, the Recreation District should be treated the same. No motion needed.

#### **Consideration of Tree Removal-251 E Avenue A**

**Mayor Vipperman** introduced the topic. **Public Works Director Steve Devereaux** stated that the tree is in poor condition and should be removed and replaced. **Mayor Vipperman** stated that the tree is an ash tree and was one of several planted in 1950. She also stated that she would like to see it replaced. The council stated that they would like to speak to the homeowner before deciding. Tabled.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (discussion/action items)**

##### **Consideration of Novo Solutions (GIS)**

**Mayor Vipperman** introduced the topic. **Public Works employee Chris Bailey** stated that he presented information on the GIS system to the council at the previous meeting. Since then, he and Public Works employee Rigo Mendoza attended a demonstration program and gained a more in-depth understanding of how it works. He also contacted four cities currently using the program to evaluate their experiences. Violet Township, Ohio (population 52,000) reported that the program is easy to use and user-friendly for non-technical staff. Dover, Massachusetts (population 6,000) stated that they were the first customers in Massachusetts to adopt the program and found it very easy to use. They added that the price point was a deciding factor and that they are satisfied with the program. Rockland, Maine (population 8,000) reported that the program is easy to use, highly customizable, and offered assistance if the city chooses to implement it. Chubbuck, Idaho (population 16,000) also stated that the program is easy to use. The annual cost allows up to five users. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to accept the proposal from Novo Solutions, with the annual fee and startup costs totaling \$8,495.00. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall**- Aye; **Councilman Gonzales**- Aye and **Councilman Dunn**- Aye; motion passed.

### **Consideration of Special Event Application-Dairy Days**

**Mayor Vipperman** introduced the topic. **Cynthia Scott, a Dairy Days Committee Joint Director of the Board**, was present to ask the council approval of the Special Event application for Dairy Days including a parade. She also stated that there would not be a beer garden this year. She further stated that the Dairy Days committee has completed the process to become a 501C entity, has obtained the proper liability insurance for the event itself, but has been unable to secure liability insurance for a parade. She explained that they cannot use someone else's insurance for the parade and requested the city to sponsor the parade by hosting it, which would allow the city to use its own liability insurance coverage. **Councilwoman Marshall** asked how the city would sponsor a parade. **Mayor Vipperman** suggested making an announcement if the council decides to grant the request. **City Attorney Tim Stover** recommended contacting ICRMP before deciding to ensure proper procedures are followed. The council agreed with this recommendation. After discussion, **Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to approve the Dairy Days Special Event application excluding the city sponsoring the parade. The parade is tabled pending insurance. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; **Councilwoman Marshall- Aye; Councilman Gonzales- Aye and Councilman Dunn- Aye**; motion passed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **COUNCIL**

**Councilwoman Marshall** announced that, in two weeks, there will be a public debate between candidates held at the Senior Center across the street at 7 PM. She stated that it would be interesting and hopes to be there if the city council meeting scheduled for the same night concludes in time. She announced that she will be attending AIC's Spring meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Twin Falls on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Councilman Gonzales** stated that he recently observed Mayor Vipperman and Public Works employee Rigo Mendoza hosting a group of second graders at the new library building. He noted that the mayor gave all the children a small gold key and stated that she did an excellent job using props and storytelling. He also stated that Rigo did a great job with the children and that both were effective in engaging participation and attention.

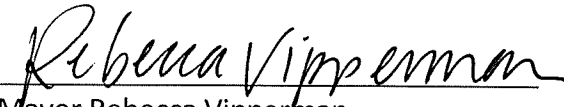
### **MAYOR**

**Mayor Vipperman** announced that the City Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 2 at 9 AM at McGinnis park. She thanked Councilman Gonzales and his wife for their hard work filling eggs for the event. She stated that she is still seeking assistance with distributing eggs prior to the event. She also thanked the Fire Department for roping off the park and thanked Magic Valley Manor for their donations. She also announced that there will be an ITD open house on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn in Twin Falls.

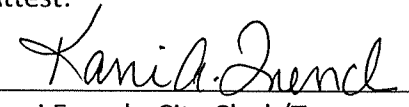
### **Adjourn**

**Councilman Gonzales** made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wendell City

Council at 7:10 PM. **Councilman Dunn** seconded the motion. Motion passed.

  
Mayor Rebecca Vipperman

Attest:

  
Karri French, City Clerk/Treasurer