

# Council Meeting

January 13<sup>th</sup> 2026

Mayor Pat Walden called the meeting to order

Pledge

Roll Call: TJ Duncan, Ken Collins, Allan Adelman, and Debra Rice were all present.

Approval of the bills for \$76,757.33. Debra motioned to approve the bills, TJ 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Approval of the December minutes: Ken motioned to approve the minutes, Allan 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Mayor Pat Walden turned the meeting over to Randy Jones. (newly elected officials were sworn in by the Clerk before the meeting began)

Randy thanked Pat for his years of service.

Liz Hart gave the treasurers report in Brenda's absence.

TJ motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Allan 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Accounting report: Liz handed out the monthly budget report. The water fund is up and that is great. She did not have to transfer money to keep the fund afloat. She was able to transfer into capital improvement. They wrapped up 2025 in a good place.

Attorney: needs executive session: Allan motions to go into executive session for 20 minutes, for consultation with the attorney for the public body which would be deemed privileged in the attorney- client relationship, and include the police chief and city clerk, Debra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

No action was taken

Allan motioned to go back into regular session, Debra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Unfinished business: water plant. Ernie handed out a packet from an engineering firm regarding their qualifications. Ernie is waiting to hear from a few other firms. He has not gotten any quotes yet. USG is going to look at the reservoir and see what it needs. They could put it on a contract like they do with the water tower maintenance.

City Office: Amy Tucker city clerk said the neighbors by the old torn down church on Clemens are upset that nothing is being done about clean up. The owner has come before the council before over it. He tore it down but can not afford to haul it off. They need to come up with some kind of solution. Randy said maybe they could at least put a fence around it for now to keep people out until they get something figured out. The clerk will send a letter requesting the owner Greg Baker come back to the council and try to get something worked out.

GN and BMO bank need the council to designate someone to be able to negotiate the CDS and to remove Patrick Walden from the accounts since he is no longer Mayor. Allan motions to designate Randy Jones and Amy Tucker to negotiate the CDS, and to remove Patrick Walden, Ken 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

The clerk presented Resolution 2026-01 GAAP Waiver for the year 2026, Ken motioned to adopt the resolution, TJ, 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

The clerk handed out the updated disaster plan for 2026.

The League is holding a Local Government Day at the Capitol January 28<sup>th</sup>. If anyone from the Governing Body want to attend, they need to tell the clerk. The last day to register is the 21<sup>st</sup>. Ken says he will already be there. Randy says he plans to go, and if anyone else wants to they can ride with him.

Randy asks if there is an agenda for the event. Amy said she would print it off.

Police Dept: Chief Joey Adelman says he will be off on Thursday. He is taking his son for eye surgery. Joey handed out his monthly report. Randy asks if the PD needs anything. Joey said no.

Fire dept: Chief Ernie Chase said they did not have any fire calls. County lets him know about burn bans and he has a banner he hangs up downtown. They had 4 medical calls, 3 were the same residence. He gained 3 new members. One is available during the day. They all have jobs and crazy schedules. He needs to order at least 2 new masks for their breathing apparatus. He has gotten new lights for the dept. The tanker needs to go to Henegar's to have the brakes fixed. TJ asks if he has a price on the masks. Ernie says no. Randy asks for a ball park figure. Ernie says maybe \$500 each. Randy says they should approve \$1500.00 so he can go ahead and get them. TJ motions to approve \$1500.00 for the masks, Allan 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried. If there is money left over buy hoodies for the department and Josh.

City Plant: Ernie Chase says he has the safety equipment for the electric dept. ordered. It was about \$2,700. They have been out trimming trees. Tim Foxwell came in with his mulcher to trim brush hanging out into the roads and alleys. He saved the city a lot of time and money. The bucket truck is broken down. He can use it in case of an emergency, but he needs Altec to come make the repair. Greg got some repairs done at the cemetery. The wind had torn down some of the fence.

Ernie needs approval for him and Josh to attend the KRWA conference in March. They need to get rooms booked before they all fill up. Allan motions to send them both to the conference, Debra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

They have a training in Pittsburg January 20<sup>th</sup> put on by the gas company.

Randy asks when the fire meetings are. Ernie says the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7. The 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend is training. It varies because of everyone's schedules.

Agenda: Randy says he is setting a time frame limit of 5 to 10 minutes, that way the meetings do not run too late.

Hallie Hart was 1<sup>st</sup> to speak. She stated that she was the 1<sup>st</sup> applicant for the LPF home program here. She was approved and is excited to be part of the

community. Allan said it is exciting and they have already gotten a second applicant.

Gerald Hixon was not present.

Next was Craig Wright owner of Davidson trucking and his employee Chris Mitchell. Craig stated his weekend driver lives in Mulberry and parks his truck at his residence. He received a letter stating they were in violation of the City Ordinance, and the truck needs to be parked at the designated parking area. He believes it is because of a personal dispute between the Police Chief and his driver. It is an abuse of authority. His truck is also considered an emergency vehicle by State Statute.

City Attorney Marshall Blinzler says the Statute does not apply during regular operating, only if on scene of an accident is a tow truck an emergency vehicle. Ordinance 2019-04 only applies if they are actively performing a job. If the weight is 12,000 pound or more it can not be driven on that road unless they are doing tow job. He does not do selective prosecution. He is an equal opportunity hater. Carig says his truck does meet the criteria since it is over 12,000 pounds. He asks where the parking area is located. Craig asks if they could get some kind of waiver. Marshall says he does not advise waivers or exemptions. They can petition the council to amend the ordinance. Until then, he will instruct the Police department to cite anyone in violation. He is not aware of any personal dispute between the Chief and the driver.

Ken asks them what the weight of their truck is. They are not for sure, but it is over 12,000 but under 14,000.

Ken motions to amend the Ordinance and make the weight be 14,000 or more. There was no second and the motion died.

TJ says it needs to be tabled and they can discuss it further before making a decision. Randy told the owner and driver to return to the February meeting. They will give the driver a 30 day reprieve until then.

The driver Chris Mitchell let it be known he was upset that the courtesy letter about the Ordinance violation went to his boss and not to him. Joey stated that is because he is the legal owner of the truck. He is responsible.

Council remarks: TJ nothing else

Ken asks if they should select a new president of the council since there was an election. Randy says they should. Ken nominates TJ to remain President of the Council, Debra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Allan says he will miss Pat.

Debra had nothing else.

Mayor: He says to spread the word around that council meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 6:30. If anyone wishes to speak, they should call the clerk and be added to the agenda. He plans to run the meetings a little tighter. He asks everyone to be prepared when they come in. He asks the council to take part and over see a department. The clerk let Randy know Debra is the utility hearing officer.

Ernie said he noticed an error on the city website. It has the incorrect time for the meeting. Amy will call Archer data and have them correct it.

Allan motioned to adjourn, Debra 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02PM

