

City of Melbourne  
Regular City Council Meeting  
December 15, 2025  
7:00 at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on December 15, at 7:00 pm at the Melbourne Library basement. Present were Council persons Gaege Bracy, Beth Smith and Beth Opperman. Hauser was absent. Also in attendance were David Gibbs, Eric Thoms, Josh Fuller, Jeff Arnold, Amy Birkenholtz, Steve Hopers, Lois Wermager, Dean Schade and Scott Smith (IMWCA), City Clerk Mary Pothast, Mayor Cynthia Mansager and Deputy McMillen. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, and the pledge was led by Mayor Mansager. Councilman Fricke arrived at 7:02. Mayor adjusted the order to allow the Deputy to speak first. Deputy McMillen presented the Sheriff's report. There was a question about a dog complaint. A letter had been received by the City with a complaint about dogs being vicious and running at large. City Hall had not received a complaint prior, so the letter was distributed to Mayor and Council to move forward. Both parties were invited to the council meeting. The dogs' owners explained what they were doing to try to alleviate the problem, which included fixing the fence at the rental property they live at, bark collars on the dogs, and trying to ensure the dogs are not out when the neighbors are around. Deputy McMillen explained that after one dog call, the second results in a citation as their policy dictates. Mayor Mansager thanked them for their steps and encouraged them to permanently fix the fence as quickly as they could, knowing the ground may be frozen, to avoid any further issues. The Deputy and residents left the meeting. Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda, bills and approve the November minutes with Opperman offering a second. Vote was all ayes.

Scott Smith and Dean Schade of IMWCA, the City's Work Comp provider, spoke next. Three years ago the City was at risk of losing its work comp due to a large number of indemnity claims. They proposed the city enter a 2-year Risk Management Action Program, as a last chance. The city complied and initiated a safety program. Working closely with IMWCA, the city was able to successfully complete a 3-year program instead, and develop a safety culture, according to Smith and Schade. This was a congratulatory presentation on successfully implementing the program that the city will now continue to avoid any further issues.

Steve Hopers had questions regarding the possible purchase of a partial lot and the ability to build a garage there. While the city cannot give a building permit to someone who is not the owner, they advised that with a variance, it would be likely to be approved. In new business, Lois Wermager inquired if the city would be willing to pay half of the removal for the dead trees on the right of way (ROW) that she had removed. The entire bill was \$1000, which included stump grinding and dirt fill. As the city has not been removing stumps, a motion was made by Fricke, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Smith to pay half of the bill minus the stumps & dirt, which equaled \$700. Motion to issue reimbursement of \$350 to Lois Wermager made by Fricke, with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Motion to table discussion of other locations until January. Resolution 25-12-01 Resolution for the Adoption of the Iowa LOSAP Program. Motion to retain Lincoln National Life Company as the service provider made by Fricke,

second by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Next the discussion of water rates due to the increase by IRUA (Iowa Regional Utilities Assn) by 17%. Per ordinance, the City is to increase the same rate plus 3% to meet expenses. After much discussion, the base bill for 1000 gallons will increase from \$81.69 for water and sewer to \$92.69. Gallons after the base of 1000 for sewer will increase from \$5.16 to \$15.10 to help accommodate the upcoming increase from the sewer project and bring it into alignment with water rates. It will increase a 2000 gallon bill from \$117.85 to \$127.38. First reading of the ordinance will be at the January 12 meeting.

Resolution 25-12-02 Approving Intergovernmental Agreement Confirming and Continuing the Solid Waste Management Commission of Marshall County, As Amended, to include Roland and McCallsburg was presented. It was unanimously approved by the landfill committee and forwarded to the city for approval. Motion to approve as amended by Opperman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fricke. Vote was all ayes.

Hauler permit for Prairie Waste Management with all requirements satisfied was presented. Motion to approve by Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Opperman. Vote was all ayes.

Mayor tabled the approval of the updated city hazard mitigation plan until January. Clerk discussed the need to upgrade the meter reading software to be compatible with the new gWorks cloud platform the city will be migrating to sometime next year. Clerk will contact Dan Sinclair to arrange a meeting to discuss the options with Metering Technology. Clerk presented the Textmygov proposal that would allow the city to send messages to the residents via text. Clerk said she would rather use the current emergency program that we are able to access. It is free and would be for emergencies only,

Bids for demo at 307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street were presented. Fricke made a motion to go with Needham Excavating at \$13,000, as the lowest bid. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Public Works will contact them. Mayor Mansager said the purchase of the property for the lagoon expansion is moving slowly due to an issue at the county level that have been resolved. The survey has been recorded, and the attorney will move forward from there. The Oath of Office was given to Cynthia Mansager as second term Mayor, Gary Fricke as second term councilman and to Joshua Fuller as first term councilman. A certificate of appreciation was given to Gaege Bracy for his service to the City for the past four years. Motion to adjourn by Opperman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bracy. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$25,859.39, ROAD USE \$82,652.83, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS \$3772.39, LOST FIRE ASSN \$202.50, WATER \$12,823.29, SEWER \$63,196.21. TOTAL EXPENSES \$188,506.61.

REVENUES: GENERAL \$24,280.69, ROAD USE \$9352.19, EMP BENEFITS \$1363.25, LOST FIRE \$1117.31, LOST 1<sup>ST</sup> RESP \$1117.31, POOL \$1118.60, LOST REC CENTER \$1676.24, WATER \$15,490.02, SEWER \$19,489.58. TOTAL REVENUE \$74,905.19.

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