

City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
January 12, 2026
7:00 at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on January 12, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Melbourne Library basement. Present were Council persons Lucas Hauser, Beth Smith, Beth Opperman, Josh Fuller and Gary Fricke. Also present were Mayor Cynthia Mansager, Clerk Mary Pothast and resident P.J. Pickett. Motion to approve the consent agenda, approving the December minutes with the following corrections: “The base bill for 1000 gallons will increase from \$81.69 for water and sewer to **\$94.99**. Billing after the base of 1000 gallons for sewer will increase from \$5.16 to **\$15.72** 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 **\$100.74** to \$127.38.” This motion included approval of the bills and agenda with order changes, and was made by Fuller, 2nd by Hauser. Vote was all ayes to approve. The deputies were not yet present, so first order of business was for Mayor Mansager to set the public hearing for a budget amendment for the February 9, 2026 meeting at 7 pm. In new business, the liquor license for Melbourne Pub was up for approval—all requirements were satisfied. Motion to approve made by Opperman, 2nd by Hauser. Vote was 4 aye, 1 abstain. Motion passed. Deputies Thompson and Cecak arrived and presented the Sheriff’s department report. There was a question regarding a noise complaint, but deputies did not have any specifics. Next order of business was resident PJ Pickett requesting an adjustment to his utility bill. When the meter was read in December it was found that there was a usage of 43,678 gallons. Prior month’s usage was 4466 gallons. Deputy Clerk contacted resident to make him aware. PW read the meter again the following day, and Clerk reached out to Pickett. An additional 32,149 gallons had gone through the meter. He stated they had gone out and found the outdoor spigot to be running. It appeared that during the freeze/thaw, a chunk of ice had dropped on the spigot, turning it on, and slicing the hose. Since it is on a side of the house not normally frequented in the winter, it had gone unnoticed. None of the water seeped in the basement, as it ran away from the home. Since it is in the ordinance that water leaks cannot be forgiven, Council, after much deliberation, decided to forgive a portion of the sewer bills since none had entered the sewer system. Clerk estimated roughly \$700 in sewer charges would be removed. Pickett thanked the council. Clerk will refigure both bills and notify Pickett of the charges as adjusted.

The first reading of the Water rate ordinance, Chapter 92 and Sewer rate ordinance, Chapter 99, was completed. Motion to approve the first reading made by Smith with 2nd by Fricke. Roll call vote was 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion to waive the 2nd and 3rd reading of both

ordinances made by Opperman with 2nd by Fuller. Roll call vote was 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Motion to approve the following resolutions was made by Hauser, with 2nd by Opperman: Resolution 2026-01-01 Resolution Naming Depositories, Resolution 2026-01-02 Resolution approving the Melbourne Hazard Mitigation Plan, Resolution 2026-01-03 Approving Organization Resolutions with MidWest One Bank, Resolution 2026-01-04 Annual Appointments, Resolution 2026-01-05 Designating the Official Newspaper of the City of Melbourne.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-01-06 To Transfer Remaining Fire Department Budget Balance to Interest Bearing Account after June 30, 2026, to save for turnout gear was made by Hauser, with 2nd by Fuller. Roll call vote was 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Clerk addressed the renewal of the ICAP insurance coverage packet. The main changes currently were to continue replacement cost (RC) of one of the fire trucks instead of reverting to actual cash value (ACV) for an additional \$600. Cyber insurance is quoted automatically, but agent said it could be denied when documents are signed if they felt it was not necessary. Clerk will complete the packet and turn it in to the insurance agent this week.

In old business, a demo locate was called in for the property at 307 2nd Street by Needham Excavating. A locate has been called in to repair some tile off Main Street on the west side near Owen Street. The removal of a tree was discussed but was tabled until February. Motion to adjourn made by Hauser, with 2nd by Smith. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$22,329.14, ROAD USE \$5,377.63, EMP BENEFITS \$2974.54, WATER \$17,017.90, SEWER \$9747.90, SANITARY SEWER LAGOON \$84,755.30. TOTAL EXPENSES BY FUND: \$142,202.41.

REVENUES: GENERAL \$39,177.33, ROAD USE \$8722.04, EMP BENEFITS \$625.21, LOST FIRE \$1414.49, LOST 1ST RESP \$1175.54, POOL \$2677.11, LOST REC CENTER \$1461.06, WATER \$18,205.62, SEWER \$20,883.80. TOTAL REVENUE BY FUND: \$94,342.20.

PUBLISHED PRIOR TO APPROVAL.