

City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
May 11, 2026
7:00 at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on May 11, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Melbourne Library basement. Present were Council persons Beth Smith, Beth Opperman, Josh Fuller, Lucas Hauser and Gary Fricke. Also present were Clerk Mary Pothast, resident Matt Meling, State Representative Brett Barker and Veenstra & Kimm Engineer Ben Klaus. Mayor Pro Tem Fricke called the meeting to order. Fricke led the Pledge. Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Opperman, second by Fuller. Vote was all ayes. In public comments, Meling stated that they would like to proceed with the car show as last year during Melbourne Mousehole Days. They would like to use the same areas for cars, and have the street closed. They have no plans for a DJ. Since this will need to be approved by Council, Clerk will put it on the agenda for June. Meling was told he does not have to be present. Representative Brett Barker introduced himself and handed out business cards. He thanked the City for sending examples of how the bills actually affect the City, that he could use in his discussions. He urged residents to contact him with concerns. City Hall has information for any one wanting to be in touch with Rep. Barker. The Deputy was not present yet, so Fricke moved on to open the public hearing for lagoon bid acceptance. There was a question regarding who is to be supervising the contractor to ensure work is done properly. Ben Klaus of V&K stated that they are the advocate of the City, and would be doing inspections on a regular basis. There is a warranty period of 2 years from the date of completion. Ben then presented the bid tabulation that awarded the project to Boomerang Corporation of Anamosa, IA for the low bid of \$2,377,000.00. The public hearing was closed at 7:05 pm. Motion to accept the recommendation of V&K to award the project to Boomerang Corp. of Anamosa, IA was made by Opperman, 2nd by Fuller. Roll call vote was all ayes (Fricke, Opperman, Fuller, Hauser, Smith). Motion carried.

In order to fulfill the requirement for the environmental review process by the DNR, and accommodate vacations, Clerk requested the meeting be moved to June 22, 2026 at the regular location and time. There was no disagreement. Mayor Pro Tem Fricke changed the date of the meeting. Fricke set the Public Hearing for the Environmental Review Process for June 22, 2026 at the Melbourne library basement at 7 pm.

Building permit for a gazebo at 2841 Hart Avenue was presented. The gazebo is in the middle of the property, so does not have any issues with lot lines. Motion to approve by Hauser, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes.

Fricke opened the public hearing for budget amendment #3. In discussion, Pothast explained where the funds needed to be expended and the revenues that had come into the budget. It was published according to law and will be posted on the website. Public hearing closed at 7:20 pm. Motion to approve the budget amendment made by Opperman, 2nd by Fuller. Roll call vote was all ayes (Fricke, Opperman, Fuller, Hauser, Smith). Motion carried.

Law enforcement contract with the Marshall County Sheriff's department was presented next. The fees have not changed since the City signed the initial contract. Motion to approve the contract made by Hauser, 2nd by Fuller. Vote was all ayes. The discussion of insurance stipends, which was tabled in April was revisited. Clerk explained this is an increase in benefits, not wages. It is taxed, since we do not have a provision for it to be paid directly to insurance companies, etc. After more discussion, motion to set the stipend to \$4400 annually was made by

Fuller, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes. It will take effect with the 2026-27 July 1 fiscal year beginning. Hauler permit application for Jerry's Sanitation was presented. All documentation was present. Motion to approve by Smith, 2nd by Opperman. Vote was all ayes. Hauser excused himself at 7:30.

Alcohol license was presented for Lucky Wife Wine Slushies for Mousehole Days pending dram insurance approval. Motion to approve the license contingent on dram insurance made by Fuller, 2nd by Opperman. Vote was all ayes. Clerk will track the insurance. Skeeter Tuttle of Rhodes had contacted PW regarding sharing a water main valve exerciser with Melbourne. Fricke spoke with Tuttle as well. Tuttle would like to get a demo of the equipment prior to any purchase. Dakota Supply also has a piece of equipment similar, but at a lower cost. Council seemed positive about the sharing discussion. It will be tabled until June for further information. City cleanup is set for July 18 from 8 am to 11:30 AM. It will be held at the Co-Op owned lot as it was last year. Fees this year will be \$20 per truckload, same as hauling to the landfill. Watch Melbourne Happenings for more information.

At the time of the meeting, the small playground was almost entirely funded, and was being ordered. Installation is approximately 6 weeks out. New location for a brush pile is still being discussed with landowners. Clerk is to put a facility walk-through on the calendar for Monday, July 13 at 5:30 pm, prior to the meeting. Council members are to meet at City Hall. Clerk was given a list of items to follow up on.

Motion to adjourn by Opperman, 2nd by Smith. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

EXPENSES: General \$35,973.17, Road Use \$1900.93, Emp Benefits \$1486.37, LOST 1st Resp \$223.99, Water \$11,773.17, Sewer \$10,466.02, Sanitary Sewer Lagoon \$1004.45. TOTAL \$62,828.10.

REVENUES: GENERAL \$141,169.69, Road Use \$9036.98, Emp Benefits \$11,062.63, LOST Fire \$1243.48, LOST 1st Resp \$1160.48, Pool \$5160.89, Lost Rec Center \$1499.05, Water \$16025.32, Sewer \$25,968.18, Sanitary Sewer Lagoon \$895.65. TOTAL \$213,222.35.

PUBLISHED PRIOR TO APPROVAL.