City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
July 13, 2026
5:30 Facility Tour, 7:00 Meeting at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met on July 13, 2026, at 5:30 at City Hall for Council to do a facility tour of the City buildings. No City business was decided. Council convened at 7:00 pm at the Melbourne Library basement for the July meeting. Present were Council persons Beth Smith, Beth Opperman, Josh Fuller, Gary Fricke and Lucas Hauser. Also present were Clerk Mary Pothast and Mayor Mansager. Mansager called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Smith, 2nd by Fuller to approve the consent agenda. Vote was all ayes. Building permit application presented for Levi Randall at 702 Butler for a rear deck. All setbacks were appropriate. Motion by Hauser, 2nd by Fricke. Vote was all ayes. Deputy Thomas arrived and presented the Sheriff's Office report. Resolution 26-07-01 Annual Resolution of Posting Places (July 1 change per amended state code) was presented. The agenda will be posted on the front door of City Hall 24 hours prior to the meeting, as well as at www.melbourneiowa.com. Motion to approve by Opperman, 2nd by Hauser. Vote was all ayes. The contract from New Century FS for summer fill for the rec center was presented. Cost is $1.599 per gallon, with a total charge of 1481.39. Motion to approve made by Fuller, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes.

The City had been presented with an electric line easement agreement with Interstate Power & Light Company (Alliant Energy). There were four locations on city property they wanted access to, to bury cables and remove the poles. After much discussion, motion made by Smith, 2nd by Fuller to approve the easement. Vote was all ayes. Clerk presented the Sewer Maintenance Services agreement with VisuSewer. This agreement locks in the current prices for the next three years for cleaning, lining and maintaining the sewer infrastructure. The City has been working with Visu Sewer for the past fourteen years and are very happy with their services. Motion to approve made by Fricke, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Hauser suggested that public works ask about an alarm system for the lift station on Railroad Street, and see what Visu would recommend. Pumps at both the Railroad Street lift station and the lift station by the Morton Building had been serviced, and a recommendation made to replace them. The rating is 550 megaohms for the pumps, but these ranged from a 5 to 35 rating, due to age. They were installed in 2005, and had been serviced several times. PW had gotten two quotes with different types of pumps. After much discussion, Council decided to award the bid to Allied Systems for Hydromatic pumps. The pumps will cost approximately $91,000. They will take up to 12 weeks for them to arrive. This was a shorter timeframe and less than the different style pump from another company. Motion made to purchase the five pumps for a maximum of $100,000 including installation and miscellaneous parts made by Opperman, 2nd by Fricke. Vote was all ayes. PW will contact the vendor and order the pumps.

The chlorinator at the pool is in need of replacement, as it cannot be repaired again. The cost of a new chlorinator to regulate the chlorine dispersal from the pucks we currently use is approximately $4500. PW has been working with ACCO out of Johnston with pool improvements. They recommended switching to liquid chlorine. The switchover will require a new permit to be submitted for the pool to the state licensing authority. This is included in the contract with ACCO. There are no equipment fees, other than the purchase of a $466.52 Stenner pump, and no need for a chlorinator. Motion to make the switchover to liquid chlorine this fall before the pool is drained and approve the ACCO contract made by Opperman, 2nd by Hauser. Vote was all ayes.

Councilperson Smith had requested that the action taken on stop signs on 3rd and 4th Avenue at the June meeting be revisited. The purpose of the new stop signs is to make unregulated corners safer for cross traffic. After much discussion, a motion to rescind and replace the motion made June 22 with the following: stop signs placed at the north & south corners of 3rd Avenue & 1st Street, 3rd Avenue & 2nd Street and 3rd Avenue and 3rd Street; and a stop sign placed at the east & west corners of 4th Avenue and 3rd Street was made by Fuller, 2nd by Fricke. Vote was 4 ayes and 1 nay from Opperman.

Council is amending a section of Chapter 155.07 Restricted Residential District Permit Required of the Melbourne Code of Ordinances. The following changes were discussed: 1. Current minimum fee of $15, with any building with a value of $25,000 having an added $.10 per $1,000 of valuation; 2. Time for application currently by 4:30 on Friday before the regular meeting of Council; 3. Request for a special meeting $100.

After much discussion, the following changes are presented: 1. Fee of $25, regardless of the cost of the structure; 2. A completed application for a Building/Use Permit shall be submitted to the Clerk by 12:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the regular meeting of the Council; 3. Request for a special meeting be equal to the cost of the attendance of the Mayor, five Council members, City Clerk and one Public Works employee. Currently (7/13/2026) that amount is $325.45. This will be adjusted with any subsequent changes in wages. Failure to obtain a building permit before beginning construction will result in an additional $25 fee. The preceding motion was made by Hauser, with 2nd by Opperman. Vote was all ayes. Clerk will present the changes in ordinance amendment format for the first reading at the August 10th reading, with an option to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings. Motion to table the discussion of fireworks until the August meeting made by Opperman, 2nd by Fricke. Vote was all ayes.

Rhodes PW had proposed a sharing agreement with Melbourne PW to purchase a valve exerciser. Both parties have had a demo and agreed on a particular model from DSG. The cost is $3125. Motion to split the cost and draw up a sharing agreement made by Smith, 2nd by Fricke. Vote was all ayes. Clerk will contact Rhodes and write the agreement. Fricke had contacted a local landowner to discuss the possibility of using a section for a brush dump. They are still in negotiations, but the overriding comment from all parties the City has reached out to, is that they do not want to allow access to the public. At this time it does not look promising to establishing citywide access anywhere without purchasing property. An inquiry had been made about the possibility of selling or renting the wood chipper. Mayor asked to table it upon further information regarding insurance, value, etc. It will be discussed at the August meeting. Motion to contract Schendel for mosquito spraying made by Fuller, 2nd by Opperman. Vote was all ayes. PW will contact them for appointments.

Jeremy Corson has approached the City about purchasing the “alley” behind his property. Clerk stated she is not sure if it is an alley or a utility easement. At this point, further investigation is needed. It will be discussed in August.

Mayor reminded everyone of cleanup day, Saturday July 18 from 8 am to 11:30 am in the old trailer court site by Heartland Co-op. Contact City Hall with questions.

Motion to adjourn by Fuller, 2nd by Smith. Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

EXPENSES: General $33,008.28, Road Use $1655.18. Employee Benefits $3229.39, LOST First Resp $581.54, Water $52,623.13, Sewer $28,420.93, Sanitary Sewer Lagoon $137,447.76.

REVENUES: General $19,574.59, Road Use $10,971.76, Employee Benefits $264.28, LOST Fire $990.31, LOST First Resp $990.31, Pool $990.31LOST Rec Center $990.29, Water $21,264.76, Sewer $158,448.80, Sanitary Sewer Lagoon $4842.24.

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