

City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
September 14, 2026
7:00 Meeting at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met on September 14, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Melbourne Library basement for the September meeting. Present were Council persons Beth Smith, Beth Opperman, Josh Fuller, Gary Fricke and Lucas Hauser. Also present were Mayor Mansager, Clerk Mary Pothast, David Gibbs, Eric Thoms, Merrilee Harris, Summer and Henry Lai, Dawn Lenox, Steve Hosper and Lonny Bryant . Mansager called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Fuller, 2nd by Opperman to approve the consent agenda. Vote was all ayes. Building permit application presented for Summer and Henry Lai for a new house build at 9 2nd Street. Motion to approve made by Fricke, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Steve Hosper's application for a garage on an existing slab on the parcel he purchased behind 113 2nd Ave was next. There is a 6' distance on the east side, but since it is built to the exact size the previous one was, Council did not require a variance. Motion to approve made by Opperman, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Clerk will obtain an address for the property and discuss with public works the proximity for water and sewer. This information will then be relayed to the owner.

Deputy Thomas arrived at 7:10 for the Sheriff's office report. There were no questions. In new business, Lonny Bryant had a complaint about the trees in town being lower than the 15' allowed by ordinance over the streets. In the past, Gary trimmed trees along the street, even though it is the responsibility of each homeowner. Bryant questioned why it isn't continued. After much discussion, Mansager stated at this time, public works (PW) would not be trimming them. Her concerns focused on insurance liability and work compensation injuries. Deputy Clerk Harris has already sent out 36 letters to residents requesting them to comply with the ordinance. Bryant will let the City know exactly which trees affect his route out of town with his motor home and will proceed from there. The ordinance follows state code and would have to be amended by Council.

Fire Chief Gibbs spoke next regarding a used fire truck they have found in Nevada. Their aging fleet of trucks ranges from 22 to 50 years old. New trucks range from \$300,000 to over a million dollars and will never be an option for Melbourne. If the offer they made is accepted, they asked if funds held by the City in savings or CD for fire department purchases could be used. He has contacted the townships, and they approved. The Association will also put a portion toward the purchase. The division will be per the 28E agreement, with Melbourne and Logan Township paying 38% and Washington 24%. Motion to approve paying the City's share made by Hauser, 2nd by Opperman. Vote was all ayes. The LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program) for fire and first responder volunteers is entering its second year and information is due September 30. Pothast explained that the State paid \$500 per person, and the City paid \$167. It is a retirement

fund. Specific questions must be directed to Lincoln Financial, who is the investment company the City is working with.

Next, the Clerk presented an Amendment to Fireworks Section of Nuisances Chapter 45.23, Melbourne Code of Ordinances. The Amendment provides that the City will follow the State Code for the sale and use of fireworks. Motion to approve the first reading of the Amendment and waive the second and third reading of the Amendment made by Hauser, with 2nd by Josh. Roll call vote was all ayes (Hauser, Fuller, Fricke, Smith, Opperman) and no nays. The Ordinance Amendment was passed and Clerk directed to publish in the Mid Iowa Enterprise.

Resolution 26-09-01 “Resolution to fix a date for a public hearing on proposal to enter into a Sewer Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement and to borrow money thereunder was presented. The public hearing will be held October 12, 2026 at the Melbourne Public Library basement at 7:00 pm. Notice will be printed in the Mid Iowa Enterprise between 4 and 20 days prior to the hearing. Motion to approve the Resolution made by Opperman, 2nd by Fricke. Roll call vote was all ayes (Hauser, Fuller, Fricke, Smith, Opperman) and no nays.

Resolution 26-09-02 “Resolution finally approving and confirming of plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate cost for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project” was presented. The Resolution finally approved all prior action taken by Council at the May 11, 2026 meeting, as provided for in the contract documents. Motion to approve the Resolution by Fuller, with 2nd by Opperman. Roll call vote was all ayes (Hauser, Fuller, Fricke, Smith, Opperman) and no nays.

Resolution 26-09-03 “Resolution ratifying action on contract for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project” was presented. Motion to approve made by Smith, 2nd by Fuller. Roll call vote was all ayes (Hauser, Fuller, Fricke, Smith, Opperman) and no nays.

Trick or treat night will be October 31 from 5 to 7 pm. Mansager presented a social media policy adapted from Council Bluffs for Melbourne’s elected officials and employees to review, and once approved, to adhere to. It will be on the agenda at the October meeting.

The American Discovery 250 Relay will be heading through Melbourne on September 30, 2026 around 1:30-2:30. This is a relay that started in California on July 4, and is making its way across the US to end up in Washington DC. A group will be on hand to greet the participants with cake and punch and Melbourne hospitality. Anyone interested is encouraged to join the reception or go to discoverytrail.org for more information.

A photo will be taken at the lagoon site on September 30 to commemorate the new project. Council, PW and City Hall employees will be serving the Free Community Meal on January 4 at the New Horizons church. Council followed up on a list of nuisance letters that had been sent and the next steps for each that had not been abated, as well as two more additions to the list.

There hadn't been an update on the water main project for 4th Street from the engineer, as of the afternoon. Clerk will keep everyone updated as to any progress. It will have to wait until after harvest at this point due to the heavy Co-op traffic on that road. Stop signs have been secured and the locations given to PW for installation.

Motion to adjourn by Hauser, 2nd by Fuller. Vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

EXPENSES: General \$36,723.27, Road Use \$2799.45, Emp Benefits \$3422.64, LOST Fire\$680.00, LOST 1ST Resp \$764.14, Water \$16,558.19, Sewer \$9417.15. TOTAL EXPENSES \$70,364.84.

REVENUES: General \$18,899.42, Road Use \$11,532.09, LOST Fire \$1169.20, LOST 1st Resp \$1446.31, Pool \$1170.20, Lost Rec Center \$1438.98, Water \$24,577.92, Sewer \$28,100.05. TOTAL REVENUES \$88,334.17.

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