

CITY OF VAN BUREN  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
February 2, 2026  
Van Buren City Hall – 1401 Main Street

The City Council of the City of Van Buren met in special session on Monday February 2, 2026, at the City Hall. Mayor John Bailiff presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Roll call by the City Clerk, with the following members present: Mayor John Bailiff, Aldermen Vince Holt, Heath Grassham, and Jonathan Hughes. Alderman Bobby Barnes not present.

Others present: City Clerk Cori Pogue and City Supervisor Randall Jenkins. Visitors: Amy Baugus, Jason Lott, Ashley Newson and Rebecca Pacheco.

**Introduction**

- Amy Baugus works with the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.
- The meeting is a kickoff to discuss steps and get ideas for the city of Van Buren.

**Project Funding and Partners**

- The project is funded by a Community Development Block grant, so the city doesn't have to pay anything.
- The city signed a memorandum of understanding to work with the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.
- The total budget is \$55,000, with \$20,000 for an engineer for maps and cost estimates.

**Purpose of the Plan**

- The most recent plan is from 2011, so it's time for an update, especially after the 2017 flood.
- The plan brings organization to the future of the town and gives focus to the types of projects and grants that are needed.
- Funding agencies like to see that projects have been planned for a while.
- It gives a platform to give possible community investors.

**Plan Development**

- The plan will be developed by the people of Van Buren and written by the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission.
- There will be a series of meetings to get feedback from a variety of people.
- Avenues to provide feedback include a survey.
- The feedback will be prioritized, and the engineer will provide maps and cost estimates.

**Timeline and Logistics**

- The plan needs to be completed by July 2027, with a goal date of April 30, 2027, for finalization.

- Momentum is important, so meetings should be held at least every other month or once a month.
- Public meetings should be held at different times of the day and week.
- Meetings need to be somewhere within city limits of Van Buren.

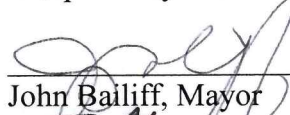
**Committee Meeting Goals and Logistics**


- Goal to have the first committee meeting in March.
- Getting people invited and committed will take a few weeks.
- Getting answers to questions and a commitment time frame would be helpful for planning.
- Once the list is obtained, they can work into meeting frequency or turn it over to a chair.

1. MOTION by Grassham, seconded by Hughes, TO ADJOURN MEETING @ 6:55 P.M

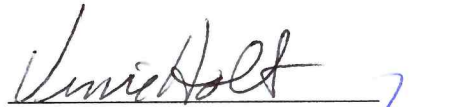
All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

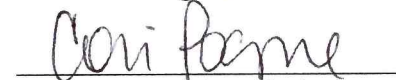
  
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 John Bailiff, Mayor

  
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 Bobby Barnes

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 Heath Grassham

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vince Holt

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jonathan Hughes

  
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 Cori Pogue, City Clerk



CITY OF VAN BUREN  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
February 9, 2026  
Van Buren City Hall – 1401 Main Street

The City Council of the City of Van Buren met in regular session on Monday February 9, 2026, at the City Hall. Mayor John Bailiff presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Roll call by the City Clerk, with the following members present: Mayor John Bailiff, Aldermen Bobby Barnes and Vince Holt, and Jonathan Hughes. Alderman Heath Grassham not present.

Others present: City Clerk Cori Pogue and City Supervisor Randall Jenkins.

**Ordinance 419 Construction**

- Discussion about edits to Ordinance 419.
- Payment method fees: Change the credit card surcharge to the "prevailing rate."
- Decision to postpone approval of Ordinance 419 until the next meeting when Heath can be present.

**Stray Animal Management Committee Proposal**

- Proposal to help with the stray animal situation, as current volunteers are using their own money and time.
- The committee would allow the city to partner with volunteers and pursue funding to help them.
- The committee would operate under the city, similar to the airport committee, and could pursue grant funding.
- Waiting to talk to Police Chief Bradwell for his input on the proposal, as he deals with the animals.

1. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 pending amendments.

All in favor, motion passed.

2. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Barnes, TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 pending amendments.

All in favor, motion passed.

3. MOTION by Hughes, seconded by Barnes TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF February 2,2026 as presented.

All in favor, motion passed.

4. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE BILLS PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS: GENERAL FUND 1-8, POLICE DEPT. 1-8, CAP IMP 1-3, FIRE DEPT. 1-5, WATER METER DEPOSIT 1-6 AND W/S FUND 1-20, AS PRESENTED.

All in favor, motion passed.

5. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE January 2026 MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

All in favor, motion passed.

City Supervisor Randall Jenkins gave his report:

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- An outside person will handle the motor replacement, saving about \$13,000.
- Waiting for parts to arrive before work begins.

**Watercress Restroom Renovation**

- Meeting scheduled with Watercress on Wednesday.
- New lights, hand dryers, door handles, and motion detectors have been ordered for the middle toilet.
- They will also clean up the restroom.

**Water Wells**

- Suggestion to utilize two wells that haven't been used since the other two were installed.
  - Valve system could allow these wells to pump to the Trimble Hill tank for downtown use.
  - The existing well could serve the area from Broadway and the other wells could serve Deer Run.
- The existing electronics worked off both towers, requiring adjustments to operate on line pressure.
- New pumps and flow meters are part of a current project.

**Street Signs**

- Discussing "No Parking" signs on James Street.
- Need to specify "this side of the street" on the signs.
- Discussing the placement of speed limit signs around school zone.

6. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Hughes, TO PUT "NO PARKING THIS SIDE OF STREET" SOUTH SIDE OF JAMES STREET FROM ASH TO MAIN.

All in favor, Motion passed.

**Water and Sewer Rates**

- Discussion about raising water and sewer rates 5%.
  - Water rates 0-1000 gallons (36.03) to 37.83

- All over 1,000 gallons per 1,000 gallons (3.23) to 3.39
- Sewer Rates 0-1,000 gallons (34.14) to 35.85
- All over 1,000 gallons per 1,000 gallons (10.58) to 11.11

**Meter Deposits**

- Residential rate is increasing to \$200.
- Renter rate for apartments is increasing to \$250.
- Commercial rate with apartment per unit is increasing to \$200 when a single meter is used.
- Polycart replacement fee is increasing to \$125, increased to cover administrative costs.

**Sewer Installation Costs**

- Current water and sewer tap service cost is \$1500, with time and material added for difficult installations.
- The cost is being increased to \$1750 to account for potential cost increases.

7. MOTION by Barnes, Seconded by Hughes, TO INCREASE WATER/SEWER RATES BY 5% AND INCREASE DEPOSIT AND INSTALLATION COSTS

All in favor, motion passed

8. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION @7:00 P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

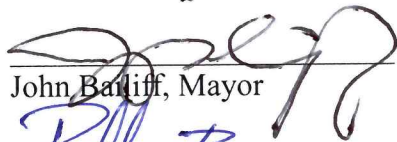
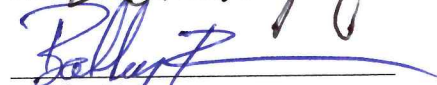
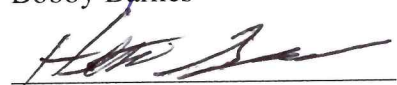
9. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION @ 7:18 PM.


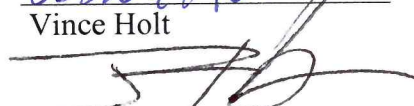
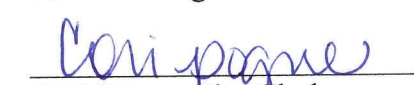
All in favor, motion passed.

10. MOTION by Hughes, seconded by Barnes, TO ADJOURN MEETING @ 7:23 P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Barliff, Mayor  
  
Bobby Barnes  
  
Heath Grassham

  
Vince Holt  
  
Jonathan Hughes  
  
Cori Pogue, City Clerk

