

CITY OF VAN BUREN
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 12, 2026

Van Buren City Hall – 1401 Main Street

The City Council of the City of Van Buren met in regular session on Tuesday May 12, 2026, at the City Hall. Mayor John Bailiff presided and called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

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

Others present: City Clerk Cori Pogue, City Supervisor Randall Jenkins, City attorney Zane Privette and Police Chief Bradwell.

Visitors present: Zach Austin, Joey Crafton, Great River Engineering: Jeremy Manning, Diane Carter, Kristie Keasler, and Shiloh VanTassel.

Zach Austin

- Zach spoke first regarding creek and drainage issues. He bought property in Cap Factory about a year ago and the creek is becoming more of an issue. He said he is willing to help out any way that he could but wanted the council to know that there is an issue.

Joey Crafton

- Three houses are being built on Jason Ave. water and will be serviced with a six-inch water line.
- Joey will pay for all costs and construction, needing taps and a manhole.
- A 27-foot manhole is already in place.
- Meters will be installed on each property.
- The contractor will handle the sets and other related tasks.
- Randall will review the project and provide feedback by the end of the week.
- If approved, Mr. Privette will draw up the plans for everyone to sign off on.
- The project involves reshaping smaller lots and dedicating Jason Avenue as a street.

Great River Engineering: Mr. Manning

- Mr. Manning told the council about a grant opportunity, Section 604(b) that could help with implementing stormwater management programs.
- A grant for stormwater study is available at no cost to the city.
- The application period is technically closed, but there's a possibility of securing one of six available spots through connections.
- The grant ranges from \$20,000 to \$50,000 and would fund a study to identify problems, which is a prerequisite for applying for larger grants for actual solutions.
- Ozark Foothills could apply on behalf of the city.

1. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE APPLYING FOR THE 604(B) GRANT.

All in favor, Motion passed

Diane Carter

- Diane expressed concerns about rising water and sewer rates, leading to increased homelessness, particularly among older people on fixed incomes.
- She mentioned the lack of HUD housing and assistance with water bills, forcing difficult choices between paying for water and food.
- Diane suggested exploring available grants and encouraged local landlords to consider accepting HUD housing vouchers.

Kristie Keasler

- Kristie came for an update on her RV proposal.
- Mr. Privette stated that is non-conforming use and can be denied at any point.
- The multi-family housing and RV parks require 2/3 majority vote.
- Campground is being proposed for a commercially zoned property.
- Engineered plans must be submitted to show code compliance (electric, utilities, etc.).
 - The council, acting as the zoning board, has a say in whether the plans meet code requirements.
- The council needs to determine water service for the campground.
 - There is concern that existing properties may not be hooked up to the new water line.
- The project requires engineered plans for electric utilities, including meter placement.

2. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF April 13,2026 as presented.

All in favor, motion passed.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

Council decided that for the remainder of the year, paying the Cemetery mowing/upkeep will come out of General Revenue. They will talk about setting an amount each month to be transferred from General to the Cemetery at a later date.

4. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Barnes, TO APPROVE THE April 2026 MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

All in favor, motion passed.

5. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE AND ADOPT MULTIHOUSING SECTION 3 PLAN.

All in favor, motion passed.

Police Chief Bradwell's report:

- Hometown Publishing is creating a calendar with business sponsorships.
- The police department will receive 20% of calendar sales profits and received a \$1000 donation.
- They are working on getting cameras up and running again. The electric has been restored to them and are working on getting internet back now.

City Supervisor Randall Jenkins's Report:

- Smith and Company will be in town tomorrow to work on the paving grant.
- They will be flying a drone over all streets, starting from the airport.
- The police, school, sheriff's department, and city council are aware of the drone.
- The restrooms in the middle of Watercress are back in working order with new lights and almost new everything except the sinks.
- Sidewalk will be poured this week.

Fireworks display will be Sunday July,5 2026. The clerk will get in contact with the company that the city has been using and get a contract.

5. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION @6:40 P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

6. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Grassham, TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION @ 7:31 PM.

All in favor, motion passed.

7. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Grassham, TO ELECT BOBBY BARNES AS MAYOR-PRO TEM

All in favor, motion passed.

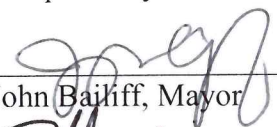
8. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE PAY RAISE FROM \$2000 A MONTH TO \$3000 A MONTH STARTING IN JUNE 2026 WITH A RAISE EVERY YEAR STARTING JUNE 1, 2027 OF \$250 UP TO \$4000 A MONTH IN 2030.

All in favor, motion passed.

9. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO ADJOURN MEETING @ 7:54 P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

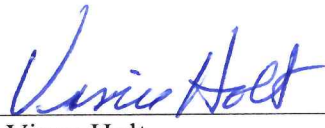


John Bailiff, Mayor




Bobby Barnes

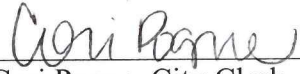
Heath Grassham



Vince Holt



Jonathan Hughes



Cori Pogue, City Clerk

