

CITY OF VAN BUREN  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 10, 2026  
Van Buren City Hall – 1401 Main Street

The City Council of the City of Van Buren met in regular session on Tuesday March 10, 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, Jonathan Hughes and Heath Grassham.

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

Visitors present: Deer Run Association, Represented by Larry Sloan and Tom Cox. Kristie Keasler.

**Deer Run Associated spoke first. Mr. Sloan and Mr. Cox.**

- The meeting is about getting funding for the INI project, but also to address the issue of owing the city of Van Buren for unpaid balance on sewer.
- A letter from their attorney Mr. Scott Robbins to Mr. Prevett and contract pages from 1982 involving billing were provided.
- Deer Run wants to resolve the billing issue to avoid further legal expenses.
- Deer Run claims that they were not notified of the last rate increase and the city provided a copy that shows it was printed on their bill and sent out 30 days before the increase.
- The city's attorney calculated what the bill should be each month, based on the contract.
- Mr. Prevett says the ball is in Mr. Robbins court, as he has provided the exact rate calculations based on the changes.
  - Mr. Prevett claims Mr. Robbins' calculations are incorrect and that he has not been able to get a hold of Mr. Robbins since November 6th.
- The City explained that customers are responsible for paying for leaks.
- The distribution system and well are paid for by the customers through their monthly bills. It was suggested that higher bills might encourage customers to fix leaks.
- Mr. Sloan and Mr. Cox want to work out the agreements and move forward to fix their system. City Attorney Mr. Privette states that everything has been sent to Deer Run's attorney and we are just waiting for him to respond.

**Kristie Keasler spoke next about RV Hookup Proposal:**

- A proposal for six RV hookups at the old Mark plan location was presented.
- The plan involves backing the RVs up towards property between the motel driveway and Cottage Drive.
- There is currently no water or sewer to the property, and a meter would need to be installed.
- There are concerns about the depth of the water lines and the need for specialized equipment to fix the fire hydrant.

The council said they would discuss and look into this and get back with Mrs. Keasler at the next meeting.

### **Ordinance 446: Construction Permits**

The council reviewed the updated construction and building permit fees and discussed the following:

- Mr. Privette edited Ordinance 446.
- Under specialty permits, there are additional fees (e.g., +\$2) that should be removed.
- The current fee structure is a drastic increase from what it was.
  - Example: A project that would have cost \$300 is now \$25,000-\$28,000.
- Certificate of occupancy:
  - It certifies that a building meets the standards set out in the ordinances and is safe to occupy.
- Need to look at other cities nearby (equal size) to compare fees.
  - Cori is going to call the clerk of those cities to get their permit schedules, gather more data and revisit this at the next meeting.

### **Police Chief Bradwell's Report:**

#### **\*Police Officer Raises**

- The police chief is requesting \$2 raises for the officers due to surrounding areas paying more.
- The chief has excluded himself and the reserve officers from this proposal.
- There are currently five full-time positions, but only three are filled. The proposal is to eliminate one full-time position to free up salary money for the raises.
- The starting pay is currently \$17/hour. The proposal is to raise it to \$19/hour.
- The council proposes not hiring a new officer until closer to summer to improve the budget.
- Officer Bradwell also presented a resolution for the Blue Shield designation is needed to apply for the Blue Shield grant, which is worth \$50,000.

### **City Supervisor Report:**

- The sewer line on Jason Avenue is no longer visible due to construction.
- Manholes are covered up, and there was no communication with the city about this.
- An 8-inch SE line was easily accessible but is now being covered up. At least three manholes are completely covered.
- Water meters at Walnut Terrace are placed in a way that is not standard, not at the property line.
- There is a need for a contract stating who is responsible for the water meter inside the pipe container and that the city is responsible to the property line.
- The city will only be responsible for the meter and the input.
- The bridge next to City Hall is planned to be finished on Friday, with a minimum of seven days of no traffic. The timeline is set for the 23rd.
- Trash trucks should not cross the bridge until at least April 1st.
- Kajacs has almost everything has been hooked up other than Sycamore Street, which is waiting for a connection to the 8-inch line.
- Still waiting on MODOT surveys/EAs to put the line up through there.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

4. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Hughes, TO APPROVE THE BILLS PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS: GENERAL FUND 1-6, POLICE DEPT. 1-7, CAP IMP 1-3, FIRE DEPT. 1-6, AND W/S FUND 1-18, AS PRESENTED.

All in favor, motion passed.

5. MOTION by Hughes, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE THE March 2026 MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

All in favor, motion passed.

City Supervisor Randall Jenkins gave his report:

6. MOTION by Holt, Seconded by Grassham, TO ACCEPT POLICE CHIEFS PROPOSAL FOR PAY RAISE OF \$2 FOR OFFICERS.

All in favor, motion passed

7. MOTION by Hughes, Seconded by Barnes, TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 444- CHANGING WATER RATES

All in favor, motion passed

8. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 444- CHANGING WATER RATES

All in favor, motion passed

9. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 445- CHANGING SEWER RATES

All in favor, motion passed

10. MOTION by Hughes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 445- CHANGING SEWER RATES

All in favor, motion passed

11. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 03-2026  
PUBLIC SAFETY BLUE SHIELD

All in favor, motion passed

12. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Hughes, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION @7:57  
P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

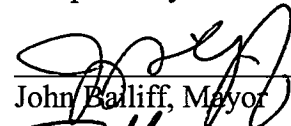
13. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION @  
8:05 PM.

All in favor, motion passed.

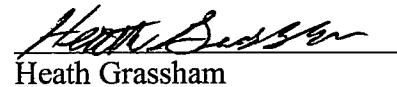
14. MOTION by Hughes, seconded by Barnes, TO ADJOURN MEETING @ 8:15 P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

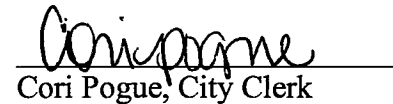
  
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John Bailiff, Mayor

  
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Bobby Barnes

  
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Heath Grassham

  
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Vince Holt

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Jonathan Hughes

  
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Cori Pogue, City Clerk

