

CITY OF VAN BUREN  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
April 13, 2026  
Van Buren City Hall – 1401 Main Street

The City Council of the City of Van Buren met in regular session on Monday April 13, 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 Heath Grassham. Alderman Jonathan Hughes not present

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

Visitors present: Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission: Represented by Raamin Burrell, Kristie Keasler, Donald Black, Ricki Maples Shiloh Vantassle, Smith and CO: Represented by Justin Roberts and Kurt DiCiro.

**Oaths**

- Bobby, Vince, and John solemnly swear to possess the qualifications for the office of alderman and mayor prescribed by law.

**Park Board Restroom Revamp**

- Raamin Burrell spoke about a revamp for the Ball Park concession stand and bathrooms.
- Raamin Burrell is seeking approval to submit an application along with the city on behalf of the Park Board.

1. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENT AT THE BALLPARK.

All in favor, motion passed.

**Kristie Keasler- RV Proposal**

Kristie asked about an update since the last meeting. The council explained that they had rewritten some ordinances a few years ago regarding camping trailers and mobile homes in city limits and that they are waiting for clarification from the attorney still and that it will require 2/3 majority vote of the board (3 out of 4 council members)

**Asphalt Pavement Overlay and Sidewalk Mitigation Grants**

- Mr. Roberts came to present and update the board on asphalt pavement overlay and sidewalk mitigation grant projects.\
- Surveyors are mapping the areas for the overlays, with plans to be updated and ready for the project to begin this summer.
- The paving plans are about 60% complete and provide an overlay of where everything is going.
- The CDBG fund will not fund the work within the floodplain or floodway.
- To maintain the alignment, the city would have to fund filling in the gaps at construction time.

- An alternative is to stripe existing pavement to create a walk path, which is a cheaper option.
- Construction on the sidewalks would likely start next summer, summer 2027

**Donald Black and Ricki Maples**

Donald and Ricki gave an update on the upcoming fall festival. The festival will be October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Their goal is to expand tourism and extend the tourist season. They need help with parking and traffic control, suggesting police presence and designated parking with shuttles.

**Shiloh Vantassel**

Shiloh spoke about creek and drainage issues in the Cap Factory neighborhood. She said that construction on Jason avenue, along with the construction of the new justice center has caused the creek to fill with gravel and cannot handle runoff. She would like for the city to keep the ditches and culverts cleared and the council explained that they face challenges in maintaining creeks because they do not own all of the land and would need easements from private land owners. They also explained that, while the city has easements for fixing pipes and water lines, it is up to the landowner to maintain the privately owned property. The council also explained that they have applies for multiple grants over the years to fix crossings and road issues and they have all been denied.

2. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF March 10, 2026 as presented.

All in favor, motion passed.

3. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Grassham, TO APPROVE THE BILLS PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS: GENERAL FUND 1-3, POLICE DEPT. 1-6, CAP IMP 1-3, FIRE DEPT. 1-3, AND W/S FUND 1-24, AS PRESENTED.

All in favor, motion passed.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

5. MOTION by Barnes, Seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 446- REVISING ORDINANCE 419 CONSTRUCTION PERMITS AND FEES.

All in favor, motion passed

6. MOTION by Holt, Seconded by Barnes, TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 446- REVISING ORDINANCE 419 CONSTRUCTION PERMITS AND FEED

All in favor, motion passed

7. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 443- MODEL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

All in favor, motion passed

8. MOTION by Grassham, seconded by Holt, TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 443- MODEL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

All in favor, motion passed

Comprehensive Plan RFQ

- Request for qualifications for the comprehensive plan.
- Three submissions were received, and each needs to be scored.
- CEA: 270, Smith & Co: 442, Great River Engineering: 429.

9. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Holt, TO ACCEPT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR MAPPING AND CONSULTING FROM SMITH & CO

All in favor, motion passed

**City Supervisor Randall Jenkins gave his report:**

- May 1st and 2nd were decided as the dates for spring cleanup.
- There was some concern about residents not having a trash can or sharing someone else's. Clarification that if the resident has an active water meter then they must have a trash can per ordinance.
- Clarification is needed on the city's policy regarding auguring sewer lines, specifically up to the meter. The ordinance states that if the sewer main is open and not running in the street, it may not be the city's responsibility.
- The treatment plant motor replacement is scheduled to begin on Monday.
- The sewer project may take until June to be ready for bid, possibly four weeks from today.

**Police Chief Bradwell's report:**

- The resolution for the Blue Shield designation was approved.

10. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Grassham, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION @7:35 P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

11. MOTION by Barnes, seconded by Grassham, TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION @ 7:58 PM.

All in favor, motion passed.


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

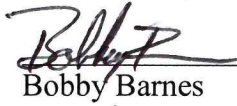
All in favor, motion passed.

13. MOTION by Holt, seconded by Barnes, TO ADJOURN MEETING @ 8:00 P.M

All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

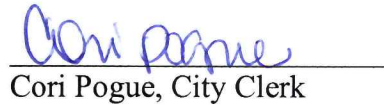
  
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John Bailiff, Mayor

  
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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