

**May 6, 2026**

The regular meeting of the City of Bertram was held on the above date at 7:00pm at City Hall. Mayor Laura Merchan presided over the meeting. Council members present were Benjamin Boelter, Louise Hall, and Stephanie Vislisel. Council member Craig Jones was absent. City attorney Kevin Shea was also present.

Mayor Merchan called the meeting to order. Hall made motion to approve the agenda. MSB Boelter. Approved: Boelter, Hall, Vislisel. Opposed: None. No vote: Jones. Agenda approved.

Public comment on agenda items: None.

Hall made motion to approve the Consent Agenda after explaining each of the bills for public knowledge. MSB Vislisel. Approved: Boelter, Hall, Vislisel. Opposed: None. No vote: Jones. Motion approved.

- Sheriff's Report: 8 calls for service, required hours met.
- Minutes from 4/6, 4/8, 4/20 and 4/27 meetings, with one correction: Percentage rate of property tax noted in the minutes of the 4/8 meeting was reported in two locations differently as 8.1% and 8%. It should have been noted as 8.1% in both places in the minutes to match what was published in the public hearing notice for the Proposed Property Tax Levy.
- May bills (details below consent agenda items).  
 Unpaid Bills.....\$8,365.60  
 Payroll.....\$1,217.55  
 Payroll Claims.....\$227.85  
 Total.....\$9,811.00
- Treasurer's Report for month ended 4/30/26.  
 Total Cash.....\$1,038,311.81  
 Total Investments.....\$312,674.62  
 Total Receivables.....\$533.70  
**Total Assets.....\$1,351,520.13**  
 Total Liabilities.....\$635.04  
 Total Equity.....\$1,350,885.09 (details below)  
**Total Liabilities & Equity.....\$1,351,520.13**  
 Current Revenues are at 78.2% of Budget  
 Current Expenditures are at 37.9% of Budget
- Update on Nuisance Properties: Still on hold.  
 May Bills:

<b>Payee – Unpaid Bills</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ABC Disposal Systems	Garbage pickup	83.25
Alliant Energy/IPL	High Point Electricity	22.69
Alliant Energy/IPL	WATER: Pumphouse Electricity	254.83
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Hall Electricity	49.82
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Park Electricity	22.85
Alliant Energy/IPL	Streetlights	490.72
Jared Vogeler	WATER: Operations	400.00
Linn County Sheriff	Police Protection	5,850.00
Microbac Laboratories, Inc	WATER: Water Testing	2.00
Orkin	Pest Control	68.13
SolutionWorks Inc	Cloud Server Charges	200.00
Student Publications Inc	Publication Fees	504.82
Tony Vislisel	Exp Reimbursement: Oil/filters for mower	129.44
Verizon Wireless	Phone/Internet	92.44
VISA (Morahan)	Payroll Services; office supplies	194.61
	<b>Total Unpaid Bills</b>	<b>8,365.60</b>

<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Public Works	241.40
Clerk/Treasurer	976.15
	<b>Total Payroll</b>
	<b>1,217.55</b>

<b>Payee – Payroll Claims</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
IPERS	Retirement benefits	227.85
	<b>Total Payroll Claims</b>	<b>227.85</b>

<b>Treasurer's Report 4/30</b>	<b>Beg Fund Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>End Fund Balance</b>
General	662,702.85	53,889.06	5,312.61	711,279.30
Building Fund	17,812.22	0.00	0.00	17,812.22
Park Renovation	5,500.00	0.00	0.00	5,500.00
Road Use Tax	195,678.07	3,092.81	493.83	198,277.05
LOST	340,926.42	5,689.94	0.00	346,616.36
ARPA Fund	43,361.66	0.00	0.00	43,361.66
Water	28,870.02	5.27	836.79	28,038.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,294,851.24</b>	<b>62,677.08</b>	<b>6,643.23</b>	<b>1,350,885.09</b>

Mayor Merchan has a candidate to fill the City Clerk position: Kirsten Goslin. Hall made motion to approve the appointment. MSB Vislisel. Approved: Boelter, Hall, Vislisel. Opposed: None. No vote: Jones. Motion approved.

Brush mower was taken to Kubota dealer. It is estimated to take two weeks to repair it. City employees will need to figure out how to get it off trailer when delivered.

Hall received an estimate from Roto Rooter for \$690 to pump the restroom at City Park. Vislisel made motion to approve the estimate. MSB Boelter. Approved: Boelter, Hall, Vislisel. Opposed: None. No vote: Jones. Motion approved.

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management submitted an invoice for \$11,342.70 for a federal share overpayment on the derecho project DR4557 due to lack of sufficient documentation. Berry investigated expenditures and reimbursements from the derecho project and was unable to determine which expenses made up the total requested. IHSEM has closed the project and will not reopen, so City will need to pay. Boelter made motion to approve IHSEM invoice 305202 for \$11,342.70. MSB Vislisel. Approved: Boelter, Hall, Vislisel. Opposed: None. No vote: Jones. Motion approved.

Hall contacted Justin and Simmering-Cory regarding our codification project. They would like to get the project completed. They need the council to re-review the codes to ensure there are no further updates or corrections within the next six months. Simmering-Cory will then move forward with their verifications. It is recommended the council set up workshops to complete the reviews. Attorney Shea will help us determine what codes to focus attention on. Topic will be added to the June agenda.

There is a dead tree hanging into right of way on S. Ely St. Per Vislisel, we do not have a working truck for Public Works to clean up, so we will need to get bids for removal. There may be additional trees in Rustic Ridge to address. Hall to solicit quotes.

Hall received complaints about water in several basements at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Green Street, near where natural springs exist and water in basements has been a common occurrence. Logan Loeb indicated the ditch in front of his house did not appear to be graded correctly, especially around an electrical box. There are several culverts on that corner that appear to be nearly or fully plugged – they will need to be dug out then flushed. Mayor Merchan will contact Corum Construction, the contractor hired last year to complete the grading work in this area, to investigate how to correct the situation. Also, there is a temporary driveway remaining at 1227 2<sup>nd</sup> Street that is impeding water flow – it will need to be removed by homeowner. Boelter will investigate these issues with Public Works and City Attorney.

High Point Disc Golf course discussion. The course brings in many people from outside the city limits. Jim Womack suggested that the city investigate methods of collecting a fee for use of the course to help offset some of the maintenance costs, consider mowing just the play lanes and greens leaving the rest natural, and remove trash bins leaving players responsible for removing their own trash. There have been comments that we have an easy course that can be played quickly and works well for children learning the sport. The disc golf clubs helped establish the maps for the course and helped install tee boxes and baskets. Discussion then moved to City Park and broken equipment on the playground. Hall has been trying to get this replaced. Penny Kula mentioned that she has traveled to parks in other communities and not had to pay to use them. She also reminded the council that a fee used to be charged to reserve the pavilion. Perhaps the City should consider reinstating this fee (would require establishing a fee resolution).

#### Correspondence:

Hall: Park pavilion is reserved on 5/16. We will need assistance from Public Works to put toilet paper in the restrooms.

Hall: Valve is fixed on the fountain at City Park. Invoice is \$1800 from Brown Well Pump, which city has not yet received (Berry to check emails again). This type of valve is prone to freezing if not properly winterized. Boelter talked to a couple of people about this process and will solicit quotes before fall.

Hall: The new address related to rezoning request on Knapp Road was rejected by the county. It has since been changed from 1232 to 1198 Knapp Road. Berry will be out of town for her full-time job the week of 5/11. She will have limited ability to check emails, especially during the day.

Hall requested an update from City Attorney regarding vacation of West 1<sup>st</sup> Street. He is working through the request and should have the information put together soon.

#### Open to Floor:

Bill Elsbury asked for some information regarding Rustic Ridge. He is interested in a lot in the development but is having difficulty finding much information about it. City Attorney can provide city zoning information, but specific requirements for that development are in the covenants of the Rustic Ridge Association. City does maintain roads, but the well system is privately owned.

Penny Kula requested that a picnic table be moved back to the upper park near the grill. The slab is still there.

Boelter made motion to adjourn. MSB Vislisel. Approved: Boelter, Hall, Vislisel. Opposed: None. No vote: Jones. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

*Lisa Berry, Treasurer and Acting Clerk*