

June 3, 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 Craig Jones (Via Phone), Louise Hall, and Stephanie Vislisel. Council member Benjamin Boelter was absent.

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

Public comment on agenda items: None.

Vislisel made motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved: Jones, Hall, Vislisel. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

- Sheriff's Report: Was not received prior to meeting.
- Prior Meeting Minutes from 5/6/2026
- June bills (details below consent agenda items).
Unpaid Bills.....\$2,821.04
Payroll.....\$3,519.27
Payroll Claims.....\$226.20
Total.....\$6,566.51
- Treasurer's Report for month ended 5/31/26.
Total Cash.....\$1,029,838.28
Total Investments.....\$312,674.62
Total Receivables.....\$533.70
Total Assets.....\$1,343,046.60
Total Liabilities.....\$873.39
Total Equity.....\$1,342,173.21 (details below)
Total Liabilities & Equity.....\$1,343,046.60
- Update on Nuisance Properties: Still on hold.

June Bills:

Payee – Unpaid Bills	Purpose	Amount
Alliant Energy/IPL	High Point	21.17
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Well	127.07
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Hall Electricity	44.91
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Park Electricity	21.63
Alliant Energy/IPL	Street Lights Electricity	481.65
Casey's Mastercard	Service Charge	1.49
Jared Vogeler	WATER: Operations	400.00
Microbac	Water Testing	97.50
Orkin	Pest Control	68.13
Roto-Rooter	Park: Restroom pumping	690.00
SolutionWorks Inc	Cloud Server Charges	200.00
Student Publications Inc	Publication Fees	206.60
Tony Vislisel	Exp Reimbursement	110.33
Verizon Wireless	Est. Phone/Internet	93.00
VISA (Morahan)	Monthly Payroll Services	119.84
VISA (Public Works)	Fuel for Mowers	137.72
	Total Unpaid Bills	2,821.04

Payroll	Amount
Lisa Berry	657.73
Benjamin Boelter	323.22
Kirsten Goslin	251.09
Louise Hall	323.22
Craig Jones	230.87
Laura Merchan	738.80
James Santee II	272.53
Anthony Vislisel	352.41
Stephanie Vislisel	369.40
	Total Payroll
	3,519.27

Payee – Payroll Claims	Purpose	Amount
IPERS	Retirement benefits	226.20
	Total Payroll Claims	226.20

Treasurer's Report 5/31	Beg Fund Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	End Fund Balance
General	711,279.30	3,927.13	20,628.66	694,577.77
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	198,277.05	3,582.73	106.56	201,753.22
LOST	346,616.36	5,164.50	0.00	351,780.86
ARPA Fund	43,361.66	0.00	0.00	43,361.66
Water	28,038.50	5.81	656.83	27,387.48
Total	1,350,885.09	12,680.17	21,392.05	1,342,173.21

Vislisel has a candidate to fill the open City Council position: Gabrielle Bruns, who goes by Gabby. Hall has a candidate she proposed, Bill Mulholland. He was previous mayor and on council. Rustic Ridge has expressed to Vislisel they would like to have newer individuals on council. Vislisel stated it that it's about getting new ideas, that Mulholland offers insight and experience but that it would be valuable to have new input as well. Jones made a motion to approve Bruns to council. MBS Vislisel. Approved: Jones, Vislisel, Hall. Opposed: None. No Vote: Boelter. Motion approved. Bruns was sworn in by Mayor Merchan.

Mayor Merchan would like to appoint Boelter as Mayor Pro Tem. Hall made motion to approve appointing Boelter Mayor Pro Tem, MSB Vislisel. Approved: Vislisel, Hall, Jones, Bruns. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Jared Vogeler, who is our current water operator, was present to give an update on the water. There have been a couple total coliform bacteria tests that have come back positive. DNR does not classify total coliforms as harmful bacteria. Retesting had to be done and a couple of those were positive. DNR and EPA is not requiring anything additional be done. Vogeler is doing some colony counts for the total coliform, when those tests come back he will contact council to come up with a plan of action and we will probably need to chlorinate the well and chlorinate the tank. With only one well and one tank, it might require the water to be turned off for a few hours. Vislisel asked about nitrates, Vogeler stated it is something that is tested annually and will also be put in with the bills this month.

Joe Horaney with Linn County Solid Waste Agency was present and gave an annual update on the solid waste agency. On July 1, 2026 there will be an increase in the fees. Provided information regarding projected date for Linn County Landfill to be full by 2037 – 2039. Possibility that it will become a transfer station, causing rates to go up to \$100/ton, which is why they are starting to increase prices gradually now.

A speed sign had been hit, when public works staff went into the garage it was over 100 degrees. Hanging furnace was running and not turning off. At the end of February 2026 LP tank was full, at the end of May it went down to 15% due to the furnace malfunction. Linn County Cp-Op will come out. Current credit on the account of \$247.30. Last year contract was for \$1.56/gallon, current fill special is \$1.46/gallon. Tony Vislisel stated gas valve is off and breaker is also turned off for the furnace unit. The unit is from 1997, it's 200,000btu and we can probably go half of that. S. Vislisel stated option is to buy one from Menards and install it or she can call Bunches in Mount Vernon who has previously worked on the furnace to see what size they think. Is also open to other ideas to get quotes from. Resident mentioned Modern Piping as an option to get quote from. Penny K said she could get back to Vislisel with contact information for a Doug who does work at her church. Vislisel will work on obtaining bids and contacting Linn County Co-Op to fill the tank.

Ryan with Fehr Graham was in attendance. He stated it would be about \$900/hr for the culverts and they dig it out and haul dirt away. He stated the most cost effective way to do the roads is to have a 2-3 year plan rather than just doing it one each time. Stated there is a guideline that rates the road and will show which roads are worse than others. They could rate all of the roads or we can pick out 5-10 to have rated to make it a lower cost. This will take the guesswork and emotion out of trying to figure out what needs to be done first.

Hall received bids from D&D for \$1650, they can't remove the stump, That Tree Girl Service estimate is \$1490 and includes stump grind. Vislisel questioned if grinding the stump was necessary due to its location. Hall stated the insurance company considered stumps in the ROW to be hazardous and a liability and requires that they grind them down. Mayor Merchan indicated that there was a tree on Skylark in her ROW after derecho that was marked and taken down but the stump wasn't ground down. Hall indicated that it should be ground then and requested photos, Mayor Merchan declined and stated she just wanted her aware that they have not always ground down the stumps just because they are in the ROW. Hall made motion to approve That Tree Girl estimate. MSB Vislisel. Approved: Bruns, Hall, Jones, Vislisel. Opposed: None No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

RPV valve was replaced in park water fountain, and it is still leaking. Water has been turned off. Additional work will need to be done but Browns isn't able to. Bill Mullholland stated Angie Wolf deals with park equipment, and she might be able to help. He will supply Hall with her number.

James Santee is a new mower with Public Works. There have also been two others interested in being hired to help mow. Kevin from Rustic Ridge and Dan Ties who also has a CDL which would help with the plowing as well. They will both fill out applications and submit them.

Hall inquired about dates for the workshop to work on codification. Vislisel requested if it's a week night that it be at 7pm. Bruns expressed similar interest in time. With July 1st being the regular meeting, council agreed to move the regular meeting to July 8th at 7pm and the codification workshop will be July 1st at 7pm.

Representative Cindy Golding was present. She stated she hosts 2 meetings a year for the small communities she represents. She encouraged council to reach out to her if they have concerns about proposed bills so she can be the voice for small communities.

Correspondence:

Vislisel: City of Marion has not billed anyone who they delivered salt to. So we should be receiving one shortly. Do have a 28E with them and we can order through them if they can get some city items cheaper.

Open to Floor:

Several members of the disc golf community were present. Aaron Swader is the president of the Cedar Rapids Metro Disc Golf Club who wanted to express what an asset to the community the Bertram disc golf course is. It is the only 9-hole course and the average time to complete the course is shorter than any other in the metro area. He wanted to provide a few potential solutions to lower costs for the park including reducing mowing frequency or designating "no mow areas" in the park rather than mowing the whole thing. Also suggested doing fundraising through T-signs which is what a lot of Cedar Rapids parks do. Metro helps take care of Shaver Park and is willing to help with Bertram in clean up or fundraising for new baskets. Brian Ashen started Vet Disc Golf Club in Cedar Rapids area and stated they wanted to help as well. Vislisel is going to get contact information from the groups so there can be open communication.

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

Kirsten Goslin
City Clerk

Laura Merchan
Mayor