

July 8, 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, Louise Hall, and Stephanie Vislisel. Council member Benjamin Boelter was absent.

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

Public comment on agenda items: None.

Vislisel made motion to approve the Consent Agenda. MSB Jones. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

- Sheriff's Report: 3 calls for service, 1 accident, 1 traffic stop.
- Prior Meeting Minutes from 7/1/2026
- June bills (details below consent agenda items).
Unpaid Bills.....\$7293.45
Payroll.....\$3483.68
Payroll Claims.....\$1418.05
Total.....\$6,566.51
- Treasurer's Report for month ended 6/30/26.
Total Cash.....\$1,036,398.95
Total Investments.....\$314,810.67
Total Receivables.....\$1,384.16
Total Assets.....\$1,352,593.78
Total Liabilities.....\$1,789.56
Total Equity.....\$1,350,804.22 (details below)
Total Liabilities & Equity.....\$1,352,593.78
- Update on Nuisance Properties: Still on hold.

June Bills:

Payee – Unpaid Bills	Purpose	Amount
Alliant Energy/IPL	High Point	24.95
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Well	156.69
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Hall Electricity	66.18
Alliant Energy/IPL	Street Lights Electricity	489.69
Casey's Mastercard	Service Charge	1.49
City of Marion	Untreated Salt	1262.46
Iowa DNR	Annual Water Supply Fee	25.00
Jared Vogeler	WATER: Operations	705.00
Linn Co-Op Oil Company	LP City Hall/Shop	214.50
LL Pelling Co	Street Sweeping	1800.00
Microbac	Water Testing	134.00
Next Gen Equipment	Tractor Mower Repair	1984.77
Orkin	Pest Control	68.13
SolutionWorks Inc	Cloud Server Charges	200.00
Student Publications Inc	Publication Fees	135.60
Verizon Wireless	City Hall Phone & Internet	92.48
VISA (Kuel)	Intuit Payroll	-97.45
VISA (Morahan)	Monthly Payroll Services	29.96
Total Unpaid Bills		7,293.45

Payroll	Amount
Lisa Berry	1251.03
Kirsten Goslin	1222.92
James Santee II	695.02
Anthony Vislisel	314.71
Total Payroll	3483.68

Payee – Payroll Claims	Purpose	Amount
IPERS	Retirement benefits	287.65
United States Treasury	Federal Taxes	1090.40
IA Dept of Revenue	State Taxes	40.00
Total Payroll Claims		1418.05

Treasurer's Report 6/30	Beg Fund Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	End Fund Balance
General	694,577.77	3,907.86	6,651.86	691,833.77
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	201,753.22	3,754.97	0.00	205,508.19
LOST	351,780.86	4,798.30	0.00	356,579.16
ARPA Fund	43,361.66	0.00	0.00	43,361.66
Water	27,387.48	4146.31	624.57	30,209.22
Total	1,342,173.21	16,607.44	7,276.43	1,350,804.22

Vislisl made motion to approve bills. MSB Jones. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Council reviewed list of city appointments. Finance Chair, per the auditor, we need at least one finance chair. Vislisl offered to be finance chair, Gabby will be second chair. Public Works Director will be Mayor Laura Merchan. Zoning Commissioner, Louise would like Mayor to be Zoning Commissioner. Mayor will be first point and contact and will give any requests to the Zoning Commissioner or the Planning and Zoning Commission. They will then give it back to Mayor to submit to Linn County. Zoning Commissioner will be Benjamin Boelter. Planning and Zoning Commission include Dave Hunt, Bill Mefferd, Jon Kaut, and Ellen Hillebrand. They have a 4-year term that auto renews. EMA Representative will be Mayor Laura Merchan. Park Commissioner, Hall would like to step down as Park Commissioner. Vislisl has been working with disc golf group already. Vislisl would like to Park Commissioner. Gabby will co-chair it. Jones made a motion to approve appointments. MSB Brun. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Wage Resolution was reviewed. Sheila King needs to be added at \$25/hr. Remove Cal Vaughn and Zach Zurich. Hall made motion to approve adopt pay rate. MSB Vislisl. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Treasurer recommended that when going through the codification process, Council add in fees at that time rather than as a resolution at this time. All agreed with that proposal and fee resolution was tabled.

Resolution to add Mayor and City Clerk to bank account. Vislisl made a motion to approve resolution. MSB Hall. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Heater estimates for the shop were received. Affordable was recommended to us. They sell Lenox. They also supplied a quote for a furnace in the hall and an AC unit. The furnace in the hall is a 1997, and the AC unit is on borrowed time. When the AC unit goes out, due to its age, we will need to replace it, not fix it. The quote from Affordable Heating and Cooling for the hall furnace and AC was \$6288.59, and the quote for the shop heater was \$3115.96. The second company to give an estimate was PipePro. They sell Reznor, which is the same unit that we currently have that has lasted 30 years. The main difference between the companies is that PipePro is union, so their prices are higher. Their estimate was \$4946.75. The third estimate was from Modern at \$5989. All of the bids are for the same size, 100k BTU which is half of what we have right now and will be much more efficient. All the bids include the pipes and fittings that we need, the disposal of equipment, and a one-year warranty. We did not get quotes from PipePro and Modern for the hall furnace and AC unit. It was decided to hold off on getting quotes for the hall furnace and AC unit at this time since both are still working just fine and they aren't needed. If we were to replace them that would take up 1/3 of the total budget for city hall and it's the beginning of the fiscal year. Hall made a motion to approve Affordable Heating and Cooling. MSB Vislisl. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Linn Co Co-Op sent a new contract. \$1.55 per gallon, scheduled route. Hall made motion to approve the contract. MSB Vislisl. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Mayor Merchan had a resident contact her regarding three dead trees in Rustic Ridge. Two are on Blackberry Lane. Hall stated those two are not in the right of way. Where it turns into Woodland Court, that might be in the right of way because it's 60 feet. Hall has a map of right of ways for Rustic Ridge she will provide to Mayor Merchan.

Alliant Energy contacted Mayor Merchan that the city needs to locate water lines for putting electric wiring underground. They will be in town next week. Either a public works employee needs to go and try to locate them and mark them, or we need to hire it out. Jared Vogeler might be able to do that. There is a wire in the plumbing so that it can be marked. Hall made a motion to approve Jared Vogeler marking water lines at \$75 per hour, not to exceed \$2000. MSB Vislisl. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Motion approved.

Attorney Shea requested the next agenda item regarding open meeting, violation of Iowa Code section 21.8 and 21.3 in the selection of replacement council members be tabled until all council members are present.

Hall contacted the park equipment manufacturer and was informed the Tony had purchased the dome. Tony acknowledged while mowing he saw a sticker on the park equipment that contained contact information and contact them, as Hall had stated on numerous occasions, she was unable to find the replacement dome and had been broken for almost four years. It was \$484.03 to replace and beyond the replacement warranty. It arrived today and will be installed by the weekend.

The fence around the pump house needs to be cleared for insurance purposes. When meeting with public works employees on Saturday, Mayor Merchan will talk about what needs to be addressed.

There is a dead tree in the right of way on Bertram St and Angle St. Homeowner does not like people working on their property. Mayor Merchan will reach out to the homeowner to see if they would like to remove the tree or have the city remove the tree.

At the disc golf course, where the previous fence had been, is a lot of overgrowth. Hall stated if we get the tree stumps down as low to the ground as possible then previously Chad Dummermuth had said he would grind them down for free. The tree removal and addressing the fence line in something previous Council had tabled due to mixed reviews from the public on wanting it cleared. Vislisl has been working with the disc golf community and having a barrier between the course and the road might be beneficial, so discs aren't going into traffic. Mayor Merchan will discuss options for maintaining the overgrowth so that it provides a barrier while not appearing disorderly when meeting with public works employees this weekend.

There is overgrowth of trees next to Ely St bridge. Tony used the tractor to lower some of it but because of the embankment it makes maintaining that area difficult. He suggested talking to Linn County about vegetation control like they did for the other bridge.

Hall noted the sidewalk on Angle St and Bertram St in the right of way is eroding and there is now a hole there, and that sidewalks are supposed to be taken out by city employees and filled in. Mayor Merchan wanted to know when that was determined. Hall stated it was from 24/25 and that letters were sent out to residents stating employees would be removing the sidewalks. Treasurer stated that it was part of an ADA compliance but that it would have been in 2022. Mayor Merchan acknowledged that there were a lot of things that previous council, which Hall was a member of, had not addressed or followed through with, and while she appreciated that Hall had brought the previous list of items to her attention, that there are going to be things that will not be able to be addressed by next council meeting or even by end of summer.

Hall wanted a record that her mother and her were providing Attorney Shea with a letter that he had wanted regarding West 1st St.

Hall made motion to adjourn. MSB Bruns. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None. No vote: Boelter. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Kirsten Gostlin
City Clerk

Laura Merchan
Mayor