

August 31, 2026

The special 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, Craig Jones, Gabby Bruns, and Stephanie Vislisl. Louise Hall was present as the requestor of the vacation of West 1st St.

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

Kevin Shea, city attorney, was present. He presented an overhead view of West 1st St. and indicated that the ROW included part of the salt/sand shed and the City Hall parking lot. Also advised that the City of Bertram has granted easements for a garage and two septic fields.

Hall indicated that if/when she builds a house on her property, it would be accessed from Greene St and through Hall Lane.

Shea indicated that previously it had been discussed that Greene St needs to be wide enough to allow emergency vehicles to turn around.

Megan indicated that she has the records for her easements, 1983 for original septic, 1997 for garage, and 2019 for new septic. Adam has a hand drawn septic map from an unknown year, the drainfield is in the middle of the street but the actual septic is in his yard.

Mayor Merchan inquired if we vacate the land, what happens. Shea did research, prior case law indicated that any vacation would be subject to the easements in most cases but the wording of the easements would need to be reviewed to see if it's by owner, or project. Some of the easements were lender requirements.

Adam wanted to know how wide the road is. Shea believes it is 60 ft. Hall believes when Fahr Graham did it, the road was 80 ft. Mayor Merchan indicated she would check with Fahr Graham to confirm which it is. Adam asked if the road was vacated, how it is divided, if the road is cut in half and each land owner gets part, and if that is the case, would that eliminate the need for most of the easements? Shea confirmed that yes the road would be split in half and each land owner would get the ROW and half street.

Angie questioned if the road needed to be vacated to be able to access the lot behind or if there could be an easement or Greene St could be expanded. She didn't think that it would benefit the city to vacate it. Shea acknowledged it would not need to be vacated to access the lot.

Mayor Merchan stated that Ryan with Fehr Graham had responded to her about the street width, and he believes it is 63ft wide but he is going to confirm that. Upon review of the maps, the road width is 80 ft.

Adam stated he doesn't see why it shouldn't be vacated.

Carter and Megan voiced that they do not want the street vacated. It has been like that for a long time. They maintain the "street", mowing it and taking care of it. Before Carter taking over his grandparents maintained and took care of it too.

Mayor Merchan questioned if making a decision on vacating the road would need to be its own meeting. Shea stated it can be done during regular council meeting. Vislisl made a motion to adjourn. MSB Gabby. Approved: all in favor. Opposed: None. No Vote: Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Kirsten Goslin
City Clerk

Laura Merchan
Mayor