October 7, 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, Craig Jones, Gabby Bruns, Louise Hall, and Stephanie Vislisel.

Call to Order. At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Laura Merchan called the meeting to order.

Agenda Approval. Motion made by Boelter, seconded by Bruns to approve the Agenda. Motion carries.

Consent Agenda. Motion made by Boelter, seconded by Bruns to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carries.

Motions for Approval. Unpaid Bills - Motion to Approve. Motion made by Vislisel, seconded by Jones. Motion carries.

- Sheriff's Report: 5 calls for service, hours met
- Prior Meeting Minutes from 8/31/26 and 9/2/2026
- September bills (details below consent agenda items).
  - Unpaid Bills…..$3986.41
  - Payroll…..$2532.52
  - Payroll Claims…..$2,425.61
  - Total…..$8944.54
- Treasurer's Report for month ended 9/30/26.
  - Total Cash…..$975,613.09
  - Total Investments…..$314,810.67
  - Total Receivables…..$4,112.37
  - Total Assets…..$1,294,536.13
  - Total Liabilities…..$3,519.01
  - Total Equity…..$1,291,017.12
  - Total Liabilities & Equity…..$1,294,536.13
- Update on Nuisance Properties: Still on hold.

October Bills:

Payee - Unpaid Bills	Purpose	Amount
Alliant Energy/IPL	High Point Electricity	$22.69
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Well Electricity	$142.29
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Hall Electricity	$68.47
Alliant Energy/IPL	City Park Electricity	$22.87
Alliant Energy/IPL	Street Lights Electricity	$512.58
D&D Tree Service	Tree Removal & grinding x3 stumps	$1,050.00
EMC Insurance	Auto Premium	$1,080.00
Jared Vogeler	Water Operations and Meter Reading	$480.00
Kevin Lurth Reimbursement	Autozone - Oil for Mower	$9.62
Microbac	Monthly Water Testing	$19.50
SolutionWorks	Cloud Server and Remote Backup	$240.00
Verizon Wireless	City Hall Internet and Phone	$92.54
VISA (Kuehl)	Intuit Payroll	-$97.45

Payee - Unpaid Bills	Purpose	Amount
VISA (Morahan)	Monthly Payroll Services	$52.43
VISA (Public Works)	Credit Card Expenses	$290.87
	Total Unpaid Bills	**$3,986.41**

Payroll		Amount
Lisa Berry		$238.96
Kirsten Goslin		$477.92
Kevin Lurth		$1183.09
James Santee II		$64.43
Danny Ties		$568.12
	Total Payroll	**$2,532.52**

Payee - Payroll Claims	Purpose	Amount
IPERS	Retirement benefits	$448.78
IA Dept of Revenue	Quarterly	$68.57
US Treasury	941	$1,908.26
	Total Payroll Claims	**$2,425.61**

Discussion and Consideration of Rezoning Platt of Survey #1818 and 1165 Blaines Crossing Rd. Applications submitted to Planning and Zoning to rezone from Ag to R1. Planning and Zoning voted to recommend the rezoning. They will provide a report that the state statute requires. Public hearing required to be set by council for rezoning. Public Hearing will be October 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion and Consideration of Disc Golf Course Expansion. High Point has 9 holes and previous council approved disc golf groups to utilize space on the park side. They are requesting permission to pour cement and create permanent baskets. Cost will be covered by disc golf clubs and maintenance will also be taken care of by them. No additional cost to the city for permanent baskets. Club has insurance and its members will sign waivers and releases with the city prior to the start of the project. Motion made by Jones, seconded by Hall to approve permanent baskets on park side.

Discussion and Consideration of Tree Removal on Angle St. Tree in ROW at 210 Angle St has multiple dead limbs and is partially dead. BJ Anderson Estimate 1. Cut down tree, take away wood, and grind stump: $1,100. Estimate 2. Cut tree down and leave for city/residents to cut and clean up: $700. D&D Tree Service Estimate 1. Cut tree down, take away, and grind stump: $1280. Estimate 2. Drop tree and leave $730. James Santee Estimate. Drop tree, cut and pile, blowing/raking debris $600. Stump grinding by Aabel for $150. Motion made by Jones, seconded by Boelter to approve James Santee bid. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None.

Discussion and Consideration of Bridge Tree Debris Removal. Linn County has their own team who does tree removal. Between DNR and other groups estimates ranged up to $10,000 if a new road is required to reach debris under the bridge. Linn County estimated it would take ½ a day to a full day and would be $2000 - $3500. They have the equipment to reach the debris from the bridge. Motion made by Boelter, seconded by Vislisel to approve pricing by Linn County. Approved: All in favor. Opposed: None.

Discussion and Consideration of Road Salt/Sand. 28E agreement with the City of Marion for salt. The current shed has 2-3 loads left from the previous year. Vislisel will contact the City of Marion to order additional salt. Boelter will design a plan for when public works will utilize salt versus sand.

Discussion and Consideration of FY 2026 Annual Financial Report. The treasurer completed the year end close and compared to the balance sheet. Motion made to Vislisel, seconded by Jones to approve 2026 Annual Financial Report Resolution number R08. Vislisel yes, Bruns yes, Boelter yes, Jones yes, Hall aye.

Discussion and Consideration of Open Meeting Violation Update. Attorney Shea spoke with JT Harris, staff council with Iowa Public Information Board, who recommended council member retake Open Meeting class and that the City of Bertram create a policy regarding hybrid meetings. Attorney Shea will draft policy that can be included with our ordinances.

Correspondence:
Mechanicsville Fiber will be connecting the City Hall on October 15, 2026. City Hall will no longer have a land line after that date.
Jared Vogeler will check for water shut off valve for the water hydrant and fountain at the park. Boelter will look for attachment to water hydrant that allows garden hose to be attached.
Dan with Public Works notified Council that there are a lot of divots around City Hall and on the property with the burn pile. Hall offered to donate the dirt to fill the divots.

Vislisel made a motion to adjourn. MSB Jones. Approved: all in favor. Opposed: None. The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Kirsten Goslin
City Clerk

Laura Merchan
Mayor