

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers located at 115 N Locust Street with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: Brandy Smith, Jennifer Lemke, Matt Hernandez, Scott Jennings, and David Pieart. Others present: Angie Oepping, JR Herrick, Scott Roen, Lisa Rees, Darven Kendall, Chris Ball, Alexa Kongable, Patty Gerling, David Smith, and Elizabeth Hernandez.

Approval of Agenda-Council approved the agenda by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Bills and Minutes from December 10, 2025 council meeting-Consent agenda approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Departmental Reports-Departments provided the council with electronic reports. In addition, J. Herrick stated that Bill Lindley with Clayton Energy is assisting the city with getting accurate numbers for unaccounted for gas due to an issue with ANR's meter at the border station. S. Roen stated that the camera is in operation at the fire station and that he has been researching speed trailers (~\$11,000) and solar speed signs (~\$3,300). He is still planning to look into the GTSB grant for financial assistance.

Public Forum- Resident David Smith addressed his concern for not being awarded the rebate for sidewalk that was removed and replaced on his property. He stated that the application should state that you have to replace all the sidewalk that is removed. It was stated to the council that he applied for the permit after the sidewalk was complete.

Update Des Moines County Regional Solid Waste – Darven Kendall-Darven presented to the council recycling numbers for the past 6 months and stated that the numbers have been declining over the past couple of years. He is asking that the city help promote recycling more and raise awareness to the city's residents. Chris Ball with DMCSW was also in attendance and reiterated that the less that goes to the landfill will benefit the city financially and will extend the life of the cells at the landfill.

Library Renovations-Alexa Kongable provided the council with a handout stating the proposed construction plans which included two different options on expanding the main space area. Mayor Bender thanked Mrs. Kongable for all her work and dedication to the project and voiced his concern on behalf of the council that all the construction and timing is done in the right order. Mayor Bender also suggested that there be a main point of contact for the project. Library board has approached Josh Sparrow and he is willing to be that point of contact and was asked to keep JR Herrick informed of the project phases. The library board will be receiving a new electrical quote from Hoekstra Electric that will be presented at the February meeting along with decisions on window replacement and ADA compliant doors. In regarding the funding of the renovation project, the \$60,000+ CD will be cashed in upon maturity in March. A. Oepping will create a separate line item for expenses on the renovation project separating it from the current Building and Maintenance line item. An itemized report showing expenses will be included with the library board's monthly packets.

2026 Sealcoat Proposal – L.L. Pelling-Proposal approved by a motion of B. Smith, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Access Systems Quote – Workstations-Quote for a 4 new computer lease which includes a decrease in IT service fees and keeping the monthly invoice at almost the same amount was approved by a motion of B. Smith, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 16-2026 – Resolution Transferring Funds for FYE-2026 (Tractor Interest Payment)-Resolution approved by a motion of D. Pieart, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 17-2026 – Setting Employee Salaries for Part-Time Public Works Employees-Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Committee Appointments – City Clerk, City Attorney, City Treasurer, Landfill Reps, Sub Committees-Appointments approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

WARC Liquor License Renewal with Sunday Privileges and Outdoor Service - 19th Hole-License renewal was approved by a motion of B. Smith, J. Lemke 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Sewer Jetting – 200 block N. Locust and 100 block W. Ash-JR Herrick provided the council with video footage of the sewer lines showing grease in the lines causing blockage. Additional conversations will be had to try to get full or partial reimbursement for the cost of jetting the sewer lines.

Updates to the IAMU Operator Qualification Plan-Council approved the updates by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Deputy Clerk Position-Mayor Bender stated that Lisa Rees has resigned her position of deputy clerk. After discussion with city clerk, Angie Oepping, and due to the timing of the resignation (budget season), A. Oepping will complete tasks for city clerk and deputy clerk. A. Oepping will present to the council at the March 2026 city council meeting her feedback in regards to either hiring a full-time or part-time individual or if it is possible to not fill the position.

Set Budget Workshop – FYE 2027-Budget workshop is set for Wednesday, February 4th at 5:15pm.

Trailer Park Hearing-The municipal infraction hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20th. City attorney, Brent Ruther, suggested to allow a one-month continuance and let the property owner know there is a deadline for the removal of the two remaining unoccupied trailers. Council agreed with the continuance and asked that the property owner provide an update on ownership of the two trailers and a formal written plan stating a timeline of the removal of the two trailers.

Old Business-In regards to the sidewalk replacement at 205 E Ash, the council felt that the rebate will not be given due to not filling out the permit prior to installation of new sidewalk and not replacing all the sidewalk that was removed. Council also felt that an update to the ordinance should be looked into. In regards to the sidewalks along the business district, according to the City Ordinance Chapter 136, sidewalks are the responsibility of abutting property owners. The certified letter to resident on E. Center in regards to the unmetered water service to the garage will be mailed to property owner providing a deadline to complete disconnection with Public Works approval.

Mayors Comments-Mayor Bender thanked Deputy Clerk, Lisa Rees, for her years of service with the city and officially welcomed Scott Jennings to the council. He also informed the council that he had been approached about a community group inquiring about turning the old Grasshorse building into a wellness center, sports clinic, and meeting space.

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm by a motion of M. Hernandez, S. Jennings 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried. The next regular session city council meeting is Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:00pm.

Angie Oepping, City Clerk

Willie Bender, Mayor