

CITY OF WEISER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
55 West Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Monday
DECEMBER 8, 2025
7:00 pm

Call to Order 7:01:03 PM

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

ABSENT: Sterling Blackwell.

STAFF: Randall Hibberd, Natasha McDaniel, Mike Campbell, Ron McDaniel, Troy Krahn, Riley Hall, Bill Taylor, Delaine Singleton and Sherri Breaux.

Guests: Thereasa Rasmussen, Dylan Brown and Wes Higgins.

7:01:28 PM – City Clerk Natasha McDaniel, there is one amendment to tonight’s agenda. Action item was added to the Institute Canal Pump Rebate item under Unfinished Business.

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Herb Haun to make the Institute Canal Pump Rebate Item under Unfinished Business an Action Item. **7:01:55 PM**

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Wes Higgins.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Taylor.

Commission/Committee Reports:

7:03:27 PM – Marg Chipman, Library stats report. The Library will sponsor a High Tea on January 13th representatives from PBS will be there to present a preview of “All Creatures Great and Small.”

7:03:52 PM – Marg Chipman, Architectural Preservation Commission Report. They are working on a grant to remove the metal slip covering on the People’s Furniture Building to see the condition of the building and get an estimate of what it would take to restore the original facade. They are also working on the downtown historic district, hoping to get the whole downtown and an adjoining neighborhood listed on the National Historic Registry. The Weiser Middle School Gymnasium has been nominated to be on the National Register of Historic Places. Channel 7 will be at the Gym on Wednesday to cover that story. They are also working to get the Jeffries School House on the National Registry.

7:05:38 PM – Larry Hogg, S.R.E.D.A. is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director.

7:06:43 PM – Herb Haun, Public Safety Committee – Herb reviewed the Weiser Fire Department report for November.

Department Reports were presented by Clerk McDaniel. 7:07:45 PM

MINUTES 7:11:13 PM

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Katie von Brethorst to approve the minutes of one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on November 10, 2025, as presented and place them on file.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS 7:11:52 PM

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the bills as reviewed by the Finance Committee and present them to the Treasurer to have warrants drawn for payment.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Mike Hopkins, Herb Haun and Marg Chipman.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

INSTITUTE CANAL PUMP REBATE – Action Item. 7:12:25 PM

Mike Campbell, Public Works Director explained where the pump was located and the general area it services. Mike then gave a brief explanation about the special Bonneville Power rebate program limited to pumps and how it is administered including the incentive program that the city receives. This particular process would require Council approval to front the guaranteed rebate money of \$11,750.00 or up to \$12,000.00. Discussion followed, Mike fielded questions, concerns and comments from Council Members. Mike further explained that it is the timing of when we receive reimbursement more than the amount of the rebate. Discussion continued.

Motioned by Herb Haun and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve the Institute Canal Pump Rebate up to \$12,000.00. **7:26:26 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Marg Chipman, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Herb Haun and Mike Hopkins.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE NOVEMBER 4TH OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS – Action Item. 7:27:55

PM. City Clerk Natasha McDaniel read the certified November 4, 2025, election results into record. The top three vote getters for Weiser City Council were Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

Motioned by Marg Chipman and seconded by Katie von Brethorst to approve the official election results from the November 4, 2025 election.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE 2026 LIQUOR, BEER, AND WINE LICENSES – Action Item 7:28:50 PM

City Clerk Natasha McDaniel noted two changes to the Liquor, Wine and Beer License list Council had received. 1) Legends on Main was removed, and 2) Los Chipenos was changed to Las Esmeraldas. Clerk McDaniel noted there are no new names from the approved 2025 list.

7:29:58 PM – Police Chief Krahn and Lt Hall, they have no objections to any of the listed licenses.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Mike Hopkins to approve the 2026 Liquor, Wine and Beer Licenses as presented.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER SOLAR FARM FEASIBILITY STUDY – Action Item. 7:31:42 PM

Mike Campbell, this is the scope and budget for the cost of doing a feasibility study for a 5-Megawatt (MW) Solar Farm probably split over two sites, one on each feeder. Mike then reviewed what would be included in the study adding that we budgeted \$150,000.00 to do this study. Discussion about costs followed, including size of property needed, personnel and training it would require to maintain the system. ROI and the reliability issue of solar power were discussed, advantages and concerns were noted. The next discussion was about where we sit right now with our Bonneville contract allotment. Mike broke down our yearly average and how our high usage months affect not only our cost, but how our high use months can also affect the substation. Mike explained that any time we go over 7 MW's we pay market value and currently it is still less expensive to stay at Tier-1 and pay market value when we exceed 7 MW's than to go Tier-2 year-round. Mike added that tariffs just went up so our transmission cost just went up. We will see about a 7% cost increase across the board and maybe more at market. Transmission and infrastructure costs have had big increases, in the past four years Bonneville has raised our rates 25 – 30% but we have not increased our rates. Making power in-house would take away from the upper end power we purchase. Wind and hydropower options were discussed. Market value power cost was discussed. The question of turning our elect power system over to Idaho Power was presented. Mayor Hibberd, with our current Electric Department's reserves, I think the feasibility study cost is worth checking this out. After more discussion there were still concerns about moving forward with the solar farm feasibility study. Discussion about what makes solar unreliable followed. Discussion about rate studies followed. This study will show us what rates should be with and without the solar. Mike stated that if we want to look at generation at all, this study has to be done. The study would show how much power we should make in a year weather added. Break down maintenance is hard to predict after a few years. Mike explained what 5 MWs could operate. Mike added that if Council has more questions they could e-mail them to him and he would forward them to the engineer and have the answers at the next meeting.

Motioned by Marg Chipman and seconded by Herb Haun to table the discussion on the solar farm feasibility study until the next meeting. **8:05:58 PM**

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #705 SMALL URBAN GRANT TO FINISH EAST COMMERCIAL FROM EAST 3RD TO EAST 6TH – Action Item. 8:06:25 PM

Mike Campbell, the grant we used to do the first half of East Commercial has expired. The next path forward is through small urban grants which while they have a much higher cap, they also require match money. If we do this grant it has to be in by January 1st. If we get the grant that gets our name on a list, and you move up the list year to year, so it would be three to five years before build. This would give us time to save \$220,000.00 in match money and give us time to work on design. Mike noted that it has already been concept engineered. Discussion followed concerning the match money, engineering costs and replacing the Monroe Creek culvert. Clerk McDaniel added that this resolution is of the City of Weiser, Idaho supporting the project identification submittal for the construction of Commercial Street Reconstruction Phase 2.

Motioned by Herb Haun and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve Resolution #705 Small Urban Grant to finish East Commercial Street from East 3rd to East 6th at an estimated cost of \$3,220,000.00 with a match of \$220,000.00.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #706 TAP GRANT FOR SIDEWALK ON INDIANHEAD AND WEST 7TH – Action Item. 8:10:54 PM

Mike Campbell, the sidewalk that currently dead ends at Indianhead and West 7th will be extended west to West 9th on the north side of the road and north on West 7th on the east side of the road past the softball field. Clerk McDaniel, Resolution #706 of the City of Weiser, Idaho supporting the project identification submittal for the construction of sidewalk along Indianhead and West 7th Street. The total estimated cost is \$536,700.00 with a required match of \$36,700.00.

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Marg Chipman to approve Resolution #706 Tap Grant for sidewalk on Indianhead and West 7th at an estimated cost of \$536,700.00 and a match of \$36,700.00.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT – Action Item. 8:13:09 PM

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Katie von Brethorst to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Mike Hopkins, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:13:18 PM

Randall E Hibberd, Mayor

Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk