

CITY OF WEISER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
55 West Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Monday
JANUARY 12, 2026
7:00 pm

Call to Order 7:00:00 PM

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Sterling Blackwell, Marg Chipman and Katie von Brethorst

ABSENT: Randall Hibberd and Mike Hopkins.

STAFF: Natasha McDaniel, Mike Campbell, Ron McDaniel, Margie Taggart, Bill Taylor, Ryan Vanderwerf, James Henry, Troy Krahm, Delaine Singleton, Wayne Wallace, Lonnie Chambers, Riley Hall, Cody Samson, Josh Pratt, Maddox Stevens, Nick Edwards and Sherri Breaux.

Guests: Thereasa Rasmussen, Dylan Brown, Steve Fenske, Lisa Horzen, John Srholec, Michelle Williams, James Williams, Santiago Cuzzi-Ramos, Linda Fenske, Brianna Clements, Pam Vanderwerf, Clif Vanderwerf, Bonnie Romero, Rachel Codina, Daniel Codina, Erienne Pratt, Ryan Leverenz, Sam Edwards, Celena Edwards, Renee Rocke and Alicia Rynearson.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Ian Ross.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron McDaniel.

Commission/Committee Reports:

7:02:22 PM – Sterling Blackwell, Design Review Committee is continuing to work on sign and lighting regulations.

7:02:59 PM – Marg Chipman, Library Report. The Library is sponsoring a high tea tomorrow at 4:30 PM call for reservations. PBS will be there showing All Things Great and Small.

7:03:14 PM – Marg Chipman, Architectural Preservation Commission Report. The Commission will petition the City to amend their ordinance to provide for a seven-member commission. The Commission voted to apply for a CLG Grant to hire a consultant to do a survey of downtown properties in the commercial district to determine potential for a Historic District. The project will take more than a year to complete. An error was corrected concerning a recent social media story about who initiated the national registry grant application for the WMS gymnasium. The City Historic Preservation Commission obtained permission and support from the School District before applying for this CLG grant.

7:05:55 PM – Larry Hogg, S.R.E.D.A. Report. On January 5th Jeff Carpenter became their new Executive Director.

Department Reports were presented by Clerk McDaniel. 7:07:04 PM

MINUTES 7:11:03 PM

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Sterling Blackwell to approve the minutes of one (1) Regular City Council Meeting on December 8, 2025 with the correction removing Sterling's name from the Adjournment vote as he was not there and one (1) Special City Council Meeting on December 22, 2025 as presented and place them on file.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS 7:12:17 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: Marg Chipman, Herb Haun, Katie von Brethorst, Larry Hogg, and Sterling Blackwell.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 7:13:01 PM

SOLAR STUDY – Action Item. 7:13:12 PM

Herb Haun explained that Mike Campbell is looking at putting together a rate study possibly next month to look at where our commercial and residential rates are at and possibly where they are going.

7:13:46 PM – Mike Campbell, I am working with engineering to put together a scope and budget for an electric rate study separate from the solar study. Discussion followed.

7:14:47 PM – Clerk McDaniel added that the original solar feasibility study had the rate study included, this is just focusing on the rate study only and setting the solar study to the side or doing it at a later time, whatever the Council decides to do. Discussion followed about alternatives to solar.

7:16:40 PM Herb Haun, we have options to continue with the solar study or not or table it. Discussion about the cost of the study followed. Mike Campbell explained that the rate study would be about \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 of the total \$150,000.00 solar feasibility cost. Mike agreed that the cost was a lot but further explained that there is a lot of leg work and personnel hours involved in doing this study.

7:18:57 PM – Sterling Blackwell, is there a financial advantage of doing them together? Mike, a scope and budget is what they give us to tell us how much it is going to cost. More cost related discussion followed.

7:22:30 PM – Katie von Brethorst, again I talked to several people who said it's unreliable, it would take 20 to 30 acres for what we want to do and 7 to 10 years to recoup our money. For that much money I think we should be looking at all the alternatives out there. Mike Campbell, we did take a slight look at hydro and wind, he shared the complexities of hydro. Discussion followed favoring a rate study first with determination on the feasibility study after.

Motioned by Sterling Blackwell and seconded by Marg Chipman to table the Solar Feasibility Study until after we are able to complete a Rate Study. **7:25:34 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.

7:26:10 PM – Marg Chipman, I had a wonderful time serving on the City Council and expressed that she was blown away by the quality of the employees at the City of Weiser and the way things operate.

7:26:52 PM – Sterling Blackwell, I ran on three things, the idea of education, inspiration and service because I think those are vital to a healthy city. I thought those were things I could bring to Weiser, but the truth is Weiser brought those to me. We are incredibly blessed with a city staff that educates when you ask questions, that is there to inspire how we use our budget and how we balance things, how we think forward, and how we are cautious with what we try to do. These workers truly serve our community. Thank you for the opportunity to teach me those things, I really appreciate all the city staff for that. It has been an incredible four years.

7:28:33 PM – City Council President Herb Haun thanked the outgoing members for their dedication and hard work and the things that have been accomplished.

NEW BUSINESS:

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' OATH OF OFFICE – Council President. 7:30:38 PM

City Council President Herb Haun individually administered the City Council Member Oath of Office to (1) John Srholec, (2) Lisa Horzen and (3) Steven Fenske. After being sworn in each member signed their professional services contract and took their place on the Council Bench.

COUNCIL ELECTS COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Action Item. 7:36:14 PM

City Council President Herb Haun opened up the floor for 2026 nominations. Katie von Brethorst nominated Herb Haun and Larry Hogg moved that nominations cease.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by John Srholec to elect Herb Haun as the 2026 Council President.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MAYOR'S CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Action Item.

7:37:12 PM. Herb Haun presented the Mayor's City Council Committee Appointments to the Council for their approval.

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Steven Fenske to approve the Mayor's 2026 City Council Committee Appointments as presented.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE MAYOR'S BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Action Item.

7:38:15 PM. Herb Haun presented the Mayor's Board and Commission Appointments to the Council for their approval.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the Mayor's 2026 Board and Commission Appointments as presented.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATION BY CHIEF KRAHN TO POLICE OFFICERS. 7:38:38 PM

Police Chief Troy Krahn acknowledged that much of the work officers do on a daily basis or "just doing their jobs" involves repeated exposure to trauma situations. Behind that phrase are human beings carrying the weight of loss, responsibility and service day after day. These moments of recognition matter not because officers expect or want praise, but because they acknowledge the unseen toll and the extraordinary commitment behind the badge.

Staff Sgt Delaine Singleton and Officer Ryan Vanderwerf were recognized for their swift, courageous, selfless actions on May 8th, 2025 that helped save an individual in crisis on the Snake River Bridge. Chief Krahn described the situation and how in a joint effort with two county officers they were able to keep the individual from their intent to end their life. Their response exemplifies outstanding professionalism, composure under pressure and a deep dedication to public service and human life. The incident represents the highest ideals of law enforcement and reflects positively on the Weiser Police Department and the law enforcement profession.

Officer Joshua Pratt and Officer James Henry were then recognized. Chief Krahn stated that on December 7th, 2025 Officer Pratt and Officer Henry were called to a residence where an adult female was unresponsive and not breathing. Without hesitation the officers administered CPR until paramedics arrived. Due to their rapid response, composure under pressure and skilled application of CPR Officer Pratt and Officer Henry directly saved a human life and community member. Their actions reflect the highest standard of professionalism, dedication and service to the City of Weiser.

Lt. Riley Hall and Sgt Cody Samson attended to the awards for Staff Sgt Singleton, Officer Vanderwerf and Officer Henry. Officer Pratt got called out earlier and had to leave. Each officer received a life saving award and certificate.

PRESENTATION TO NICK EDWARDS FOR COMPLETING NORTHWEST LINEMAN'S COLLEGE. 7:47:30 PM

Herb Haun, Council President called Nick Edwards forward and presented him with a Certificate in recognition of his completing Northwest Lineman's College. Herb noted that in the past four years Nick had completed 8,000 hours of training. Herb congratulated and thanked Nick for his dedicated service to the City of Weiser.

APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT – Action Item. 7:49:10 PM

Herb Haun, Council President explained that when we used to have a Fire Department we had a mutual aid agreement with the Rural Fire Department. Since we no longer have a City Fire Department I understand that this agreement gives us the opportunity to call in the City and County Police Departments as needed in emergency situations. Clerk McDaniel added that this agreement has been in place for a very long time, I think it just needs updated. Discussion about who all is part of this agreement. Clerk McDaniel explained that Council can table this until further information can be obtained. By not signing this tonight it will not change anything. Discussion continued.

Motioned by Larry Hogg and seconded by Steven Fenske to table action on this item until the February Council Meeting so we can get more information.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER TRANSFER OF AMBULANCE TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT – Action Item. 7:55:38 PM – Herb Haun, Council President noted that this item will be tabled until more information can be gathered.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Larry Hogg to table item 8.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER QUOTE FOR CAMERA TRUCK EQUIPMENT FOR WASTEWATER – Action Item. 7:57:06 PM

Lonnie Chambers, Wastewater Supervisor addressed the Council with a request to purchase additional equipment for the Camera Truck. Lonnie explained the need and advantage for purchasing the equipment. Lonnie noted that even though this equipment was not budgeted for, because of money remaining from the tractor purchase they have the needed funds. Mike Campbell added that extra funds are added to the equipment line each year for small purchases like this. Discussion followed.

Motioned by John Srholec and seconded by Larry Hogg to approve the purchase of the Camera Truck Equipment from CUES in the amount of \$5,493.33 for Wastewater. **8:03:29 PM**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Herb Haun, Katie von Brethorst, Steven Fenske, Larry Hogg, Lisa Horzen and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE LOCAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – Action Item. 8:04:43 PM

Mike Campbell, City Purchasing Agent, this is for Kimley-Horn to oversee the traffic master plan for the LHTAC Grant we agreed to. We have to sign this to receive the grant money to cover the company doing the LIDAR for the whole city of Weiser. Our match is \$11,000.00 or 7.34 % of \$149,000.00. Mike added that the Traffic Master Plan had previously come before Council, this is just part of it, there will be one for Keller later. Discussion followed, Mike explained that we either agree to this or we don't get the grant funding.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by John Srholec to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Local Professional Agreement as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Larry Hogg, Steven Fenske, Lisa Horzen, John Srholec, Herb Haun and Katie von Brethorst.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER IDAHO COIN AND EXCHANGE PAWN LICENSE – Action Item. 8:07:52 PM
Police Chief Troy Krahn, we have no objections.

Motioned by Katie von Brethorst and seconded by Lisa Horzen to approve the 2026 Idaho Coin and Exchange Pawn License.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSIDER HAMMER DOWN ARSENAL PAWN LICENSE – Action Item.

Police Chief Troy Krahn, we have no objections. **8:08:56 PM**

Motioned by Steven Fenske and seconded by John Srholec to approve the 2026 Hammer Down Arsenal Pawn License.

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT – Action Item. 8:09:28 PM

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

AYES: Herb Haun, Larry Hogg, Katie von Brethorst, Lisa Horzen, Steven Fenske and John Srholec.

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED.

THIS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED 8:09:38 PM

Herb Haun, City Council President

Natasha McDaniel, City Clerk