

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in a budget workshop at 5:00 PM and then regular session following at 6:00 PM on Monday January 12, 2026. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, and T. Woods. Absent: Gruetzmacher. Also, present at City Hall: Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council discussed potential FY2027 budget numbers with the police, library and fire departments. The council was presented a budget timeline showing meetings and deadlines for this budget season ending April 30, 2026 and were also shown some of the latest revenue and expenditure projections for this upcoming budget year.

Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by R. Woods, second by Erickson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings.

Motion by Erickson, second by Williams to approve the following consent agenda items as presented with an amendment to the time of the next scheduled budget meeting: December 8th Regular Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports for December 2025, Setting the 2nd budget workshop for January 26th at 5:30 PM, Approving Resolution 2026-01 – A Resolution Approving and Adopting the updated Operations and Maintenance Plans and the Operator Qualification Plan for the City of Fairbank Natural Gas System, Approving the Fire Department Officers and Appointments, Approval of EMA and 911 Boards - Chris West, Bremer County and Buchanan County; and Drake Mangrich, Fayette County; Landfill Commission – Mayor Kayser; and the Payment of Bills. The bill listing will be placed at the end of the minutes. Roll call vote- Ayes: Erickson, Williams, R. Woods, and T. Woods. Nays: None.

Treasurers Report for the Month of December 2025: Revenues - General, \$53,283.21; Special Revenue, \$40,843.10; TIF, \$2,897.76; Capital Projects, \$73,830.71; Permanent Funds, \$18.99; Proprietary, \$199,679.70; and Transfers In, \$42,574.13. Disbursements - General, \$33,421.59; Special Revenue, \$6,847.93; Proprietary, \$164,399.39; and Transfers Out, \$42,574.13. Balance on hand at close of business on December 31, 2025 was \$4,709,540.75.

There was no one present for the informal public comment section.

After the last meeting, Amy Rechkemmer with VanDaele Insurance, LLC was asked to see about getting a quote from Health Partners for the city's employee health insurance. She called and stated that Health Partners does not provide health insurance for municipalities. As discussed at the last meeting, United Healthcare was more expensive. Motion by T. Woods, second by Erickson to approve the employee health insurance renewal with Wellmark, the dental plan renewal, and the vision plan renewal. Roll call vote- Ayes: T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

Councilman Woods was able to present the council with a sketch of the possible shelter for Veteran's Park. The council reviewed it and thought that the size was good along with the bathroom placement. Nick asked about adding a urinal. Those changes will be looked into and quotes can be calculated now for review at future meetings.

The council is still reviewing options for the 657A property at 506 Patterson Street.

There was no new discussion on the personnel manual flow chart. Motion by Williams, second by Erickson to table the chart until more information can be reviewed. Motion carried.

Cleaning and televising the sewer main in the Lakeside Drive neighborhood was discussed. Nick would like to get the whole neighborhood jetted and televised in order to see what kind of shape it is in and to get a better idea on where, if any, the issues are. He received two quotes. One from Roto-Rooter for \$695.00 an hour with no minimum and one from CIT Sewer Solutions for \$990.00 an hour with a six-hour minimum. Motion by R. Woods, second by Williams to approve Roto-Rooter and their quote to do the jetting and televising. Roll call vote- Ayes: R. Woods, Williams, T. Woods, and Erickson. Nays: None.

Chris West, Fairbank Fire Chief, attended the meeting to discuss the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). He noted that the council has until the end of February to decide whether to move forward with the program. Karla Gavin, an employee of Knox Financial Services out of Decorah, was present to assist in answering questions. Chief West stated that he has spent time developing a proposed LOSAP structure. The council discussed the possibility of contributing \$50.00 per volunteer, with the contribution being matched or tripled depending on the gross amount of the fire department's annual operating budget, as a potential benefit for members of the volunteer fire department. It was noted that

specific program stipulations still need to be finalized. The proposed program would be set up as a 457(e)(11) plan for volunteers with no earned income. It was also clarified that the fire department cannot contribute funds from the Fireman's Fund due to its 501(c)(3) status. Ron Miller was present and asked the council to consider not jumping on it right away, as it is a new program with lots of changes happening every day. More information will be researched and discussed at future meetings.

Vehicle insurance valuation options for the ICAP renewal were discussed. Although the ICAP representative was not present, the council reviewed two options: maintaining replacement cost valuation, which would result in increased premiums, or switching to an actual cash value basis reflecting the current market value of each vehicle, which would reduce insured values and premiums but would not allow for full vehicle replacement in the event of a loss. It was discussed that if the actual cash value option is pursued, current vehicle values would need to be determined. The council agreed that additional review was necessary and requested that the fire department review their vehicles and all items currently insured before a decision is made.

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on Monday December 8, 2025 for a rezoning request for the property located at 605 West Main Street from Kaleb Bentley. The request was asking to rezone the property from R-1 to R-2. After that meeting, the Council received a written recommendation from the board to consider approving the request and continue the process of amending the zoning ordinance to reflect that change. Kaleb was present and explained the plan to build a two-unit zero entry condo that is planned to be geared towards anyone seeking a retirement home to purchase. Motion by T. Woods, second by R. Woods to approve the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and continue with the process of amending the ordinance for the rezoning request. Roll call vote- Ayes: T. Woods, R. Woods, Williams, and Erickson. Nays: None.

After the council approved the recommendation to allow proceeding with the zoning change from the Planning and Zoning Commission, a public hearing would need to be set to allow for public input. Motion by Erickson, second by T. Woods to approve **Resolution 2026-02 – Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fairbank, Iowa Setting a Public Hearing Regarding the Rezoning of a Property**. Motion carried. The public hearing was set for Monday January 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM at Fairbank City Hall.

The city appointments will be discussed at the next meeting. Mayor Kayser stated that Ron Woods will serve as Mayor Pro-tem again.

An anonymous donation was given to the Fairbank Development Corporation to give to the city to get a new Christmas banner to replace the old over the road Christmas banner. Also, the rest of the donation was requested to use for some garbage cans to be placed along East Main Street. Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to approve the purchase of the Merry Christmas over the road banner and to use the remainder of the money to buy more garbage cans from DHK Welding like the cans that were previously bought. Order as many cans as possible to spend the remainder of the donation and the city would pay the difference. Half of the new cans requested to be WV cans and the other half requested to be City of Fairbank designed cans. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, T. Woods, Erickson, and R. Woods. Nays: None.

There were no comments under the council/mayor comments.

During the department reports, Chris West thanked the council for their continued support. Nick reported that the fire station generator was serviced and should be good to go and that the safety classes through IAMU will be held at City Hall this year for city employees and surrounding city employees to attend. He also stated and wanted to thank the council for the ranger because during the last icy weather conditions, the ranger worked so well to get the salt down.

Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM. Motion carried.

Bills for the Month of January 2026

Access Systems, Copier/Printer Maintenance	\$	213.35
Amazon Capital Services, Supplies	\$	253.56
Arnold Motor Supply, Supplies	\$	184.72
Olivia Becker, Services	\$	60.00
Bodensteiner Implement Co., Supplies	\$	226.62
Bound Tree Medical, LLC., Ambulance Supplies	\$	14.88
Lonnie Brewer, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$	75.00
Butler County Rec, Electric	\$	62,447.43

C and C Welding Inc., Supplies	\$ 288.47
Calysta Dixon, Utility Deposit Refund	\$ 200.00
Casey's General Store, Gas	\$ 669.72
Clayton Energy Corporation, Natural Gas	\$ 4,975.04
Clayton Energy Corporation, Reservation	\$ 13,267.83
Jeremy Crawford, Utility Deposit Refund	\$ 103.39
Davis Lawn Service, Services	\$ 1,576.00
Delta Dental of Iowa, January Premium	\$ 21.96
Don's Truck Sales, Services	\$ 1,608.37
Electrical Engineering & Equip, Supplies	\$ 896.96
Engineered Equipment Solutions, Supplies	\$ 200.03
Fairbank Postmaster, Utility Bills Postage Jan 2026	\$ 195.20
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas	\$ 4,995.04
City of Fairbank, Utility Deposit Applied	\$ 96.61
Fire Service Training Bureau, Training	\$ 50.00
Brittany Fuller, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$ 75.00
Robert Gipper, Membership Reimbursement	\$ 200.00
Gordon Flesch Company Inc, Copier/Printer Maintenance	\$ 114.14
Grainger, Inc., Supplies	\$ 308.00
Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, Training	\$ 474.88
I.S.C.I.A., Training	\$ 175.00
IA Firefighters Association, Annual Dues	\$ 672.00
IAMU, Natural Gas OQ Training	\$ 2,650.00
IAMU, Safety Training	\$ 538.34
Iowa Prison Industries, Supplies	\$ 582.23
Iowa Regional Utilities Assoc., Water	\$ 7,661.17
Ipers, Benefits	\$ 5,474.35
Itron, Inc., Annual Subscription	\$ 3,215.74
John Deere Financial, Supplies	\$ 128.75
Kluesner Sanitation, LLC., January Pick-Up Fees	\$ 7,777.00
Nick Kuker, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$ 75.00
Michelle Laube, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$ 75.00
Little Day Dreaming, Supplies	\$ 42.00
Little Wapsie Communications, Static IP Addresses/SW Phone	\$ 64.06
Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Testing	\$ 572.50
Modern Building Products, Supplies	\$ 212.22
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 12/1/25	\$ 10.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 12/15/25	\$ 8.71
NE Security Bank, Utility ACH Service Charge	\$ 10.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Contributions	\$ 520.00
NSB/HSA- H S A Payroll Deductions	\$ 200.00
Oelwein Publishing, Publishings	\$ 387.65
Treasurer-State of Iowa, State Withholding Tax	\$ 2,304.84
Premier Technology, Services	\$ 187.90
Quick Med Claims, Ambulance Billing	\$ 472.12
Roberts, Stevens, Prendergast, Attorney Fees	\$ 562.50
Roto Rooter Sewer-Drain Service, Services	\$ 2,557.50
Ken Schnor, Cell Phone/Supply Reimbursements	\$ 149.99
Scott Pharmacy, Supplies	\$ 2.50
Payten Seehase, Utility Deposit Refund	\$ 200.00
Stan's Small Engine Repair, Services	\$ 331.32
Sun Life Assurance Comp, Life Policies	\$ 149.08
T & R Service Company, Equipment	\$ 1,328.06
Treasurer-State of Iowa, December 2025 Sales Tax	\$ 2,779.57
Treasurer State of Iowa, December 2025 Water Excise Tax	\$ 1,387.46
U. S. Treasury, 941 Taxes	\$ 9,508.81
U.S. Bank, November 2025 PEFA Commodity	\$ 10,005.11
U.S. Bank, December 2025 PEFA Commodity	\$ 18,368.47
UnityPoint Clinic-Occupational, Drug Testing	\$ 42.00
USA Bluebook, Testing Supplies	\$ 350.23

Utility Equipment Co., Supplies	\$ 910.00
Verizon Wireless, Cell Phones	\$ 170.37
Visa, AVAYA Phone System/Training/Microsoft Email Accounts	\$ 1,012.29
Wellmark, January Premium	\$ 3,025.28
Welter Storage Equip Co. Inc., Safety Equipment	\$ 1,295.00
Windstream Enterprise, Gas Alarm Phone Line	\$ 68.60
Collin Woods, Grave Opening	\$ 1,050.00
The Fairbank Library Board Approved the Following Bills on January 7, 2026:	
Amazon Capital Services, Books & Supplies	\$ 691.14
Angela Berg, Mileage	\$ 37.80
Brock Berg, Services	\$ 160.00
Davis Lawn Service	\$ 61.00
Fairbank Community Club, 2026 Library Dues	\$ 30.00
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas	\$ 172.07
IAMU, Safety Training	\$ 107.66
Kanopy, Inc., Movies	\$ 15.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 12/15/25	\$ 1.29
Overdrive, Inc., EBooks	\$ 500.00
Premier Technology, Services	\$ 149.25
Visa, AVAYA Phone System/Microsoft Email Accounts	\$ 52.73
Visa, Cricut Refund	\$ (95.88)

Jason Kayser, Mayor

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk