

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday April 27, 2026. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Hunter Robinson, Police Chief; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

Motion by Williams, second by Gruetzmacher to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings.

Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by Erickson to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: April 13th Regular Meeting Minutes and the Administration of Oaths of Office. Motion carried. The oath of office was administered to Jordan Michels, Fire Fighter, and Katelyn Christensen, Part-time Police Officer.

During the informal comment section, Ron Miller was present requesting the Council consider starting a curb and gutter program to improve the appearance of the town and property values. He also suggested streets be reviewed before maintenance is done on them. Mary Ann Hess spoke regarding a city-owned walnut tree on South Street, stating it creates a mess and requested the City look into removing it. The Mayor indicated the matter would be reviewed. A gentleman, Joe Schuler of Jesup, attended the meeting to inform the Council of his recent \$25,000 donation to the City of Fairbank following a lottery win. The Council expressed sincere appreciation and thanked him for his contribution.

Police Chief Robinson reported that Officer Franck plans to review e-scooter and e-bike safety at the school on May 15th. He also noted that providing information for parents to review would be beneficial. Councilman Gruetzmacher stated he would like to give local youth the opportunity to continue riding. They all emphasized the importance of involving parents in helping teach proper use and safety.

Steve Osterhaus was present to discuss his request for permission to have quail within city limits. It was noted that Section 55.05 allows livestock with written council consent. He stated that he would remove the quail if approval was ever rescinded by the council. He explained that quail could be released on private property without DNR approval and described the process of using a portable pen to gradually acclimate them. He also noted that quail are small and relatively quiet. The council indicated that written approval from neighboring property owners would be preferred. An amendment to the poultry ordinance to allow quail with council approval and required signatures was discussed. Chief Robinson arrived at 6:17 PM. The council wanted to see what an ordinance amendment would look like and asked that one be prepared for further consideration at the next meeting.

Motion by Williams, second by Gruetzmacher to approve the third reading of Ordinance 380 – Ordinance Amending Official Zoning Map for the rezoning of the 700 block of Fairbank Street from R-1 to R-2. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, Gruetzmacher, T. Woods, and Erickson. Abstain: R. Woods. Nays: None.

Motion by Williams, second by Gruetzmacher to approve the adoption of Ordinance 380. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, Gruetzmacher, Erickson, and T. Woods. Abstain: R. Woods. Nays: None.

Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by Erickson to approve the third reading of Ordinance 381 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Rates for Collection of Solid Waste. Roll call vote- Ayes: Gruetzmacher, Erickson, Williams, T. Woods, and R. Woods. Nays: None.

Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by Erickson to approve the adoption of Ordinance 381. Roll call vote- Ayes: Gruetzmacher, Erickson, R. Woods, Williams, and T. Woods. Nays: None.

The sealed bids were opened for the property located at 506 Patterson Street. One bid was received and it was from Adam and Samantha Jans in the amount of \$15,500.00. Adam Jans was present. The bid approval will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. All plans will need to be submitted to the Clerk before then in order for the council to review the bid fully.

Motion by T. Woods, second by Gruetzmacher to approve change order #3 for the Fourth Street Sidewalk Project. Roll call vote- Ayes: T. Woods, Gruetzmacher, R. Woods, Williams, and Erickson. Nays: None.

Motion by Erickson, second by T. Woods to approve the final pay estimate #4 for the Fourth Street Sidewalk Project. Roll call vote- Ayes: Erickson, T. Woods, Williams, Gruetzmacher, and R. Woods. Nays: None.

Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by T. Woods to approve **Resolution 2026-14 – Resolution Accepting the Completed Fourth Street Sidewalk Project and Approving of the Letter of Acceptance from Fehr Graham**. Roll call vote- Ayes: Gruetzmacher, T. Woods, Williams, R. Woods, and Erickson. Nays: None.

Discussion was held regarding transformer quotes that were acquired for the West Main Street electric project. T & R for \$9,361.00 and Wesco for \$8,328.09 were the submitted quotes. Motion by Williams, second by Gruetzmacher to approve the quote from Wesco. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, Gruetzmacher, R. Woods, Erickson, and T. Woods. Nays: None.

Mayor Kayser added the 400 Block of East Main Street road conditions to the agenda due to the deterioration of that section of road. Discussion was held regarding repair options and future improvements. Additional information will be obtained for both concrete and asphalt options.

During the council/mayor comments, Councilwoman Erickson discussed the need to review wages before July 1st. Councilman T. Woods stated he would be available to review wages with the administration committee that next week. A community homecoming event was noted for five service members who have all returned home but no date had been set yet. Councilman Gruetzmacher inquired about the removal of a tree located at the Fairbank ball diamond near the south diamond area by the bleachers and batting cages. Mayor Kayser reported driving around with the Police Chief and Fire Chief to identify dangerous buildings and nuisance properties. He also stated that he and Nick drove around and reviewed a list of streets identified as needing repair by Prairie Road Builders. The council was provided with the list of suggested streets and was asked to review and bring any questions to the next meeting.

During the department reports, Nick stated that they finished up an electric project on Front Street and that they were able to get all 98 hydrants oiled and flushed. He reported that Ken made a detailed spreadsheet about each one. Chief Robinson updated the council on the police activity for the month of March.

Motion by Williams, second by Gruetzmacher to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk