

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday November 24, 2025. Mayor Pro-tem R. Woods called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present: R. Woods, Erickson, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: Williams and T. Woods. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Nick Kuker, Public Works Director; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

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

There were no public hearings.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Gruetzmacher to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: October 27th Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

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

Craig Codner and Matt Mahoney from Butler County REC were present to provide an annual update and they reported that Basin Electric's wholesale power increases, originally projected at 20% but later reduced, will result in a pass-through rate increase adjustment for all REC customers, including the city. Rising system costs, including major generation and infrastructure projects, and increased winter reserve requirements are contributing to the rate increase. Councilman Williams arrived at 6:03 PM. Butler County REC recommended the city consider an ECA rate increase of \$0.00881 which is a 9.5% increase, with additional increases projected for January 2027. The council discussed placing a resolution on the next meeting agenda to adjust the city's ECA rate with this suggested increase. Attorney Prendergast encouraged everyone to share this information with the public ahead of the December 8th council meeting to help prepare customers for the possible upcoming rate change.

The council discussed the progress on funding for the proposed park shelter at Veterans Park. The City was awarded another grant totaling \$25,000 from the Max & Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation, bringing total funds raised to approximately \$46,000 from the previously secured grants. A final design for the shelter which would include one unisex restroom was requested with updated quotes. Further review and discussion will occur at future meetings.

The council discussed ideas that they have on what to do with the 657A property at 506 Patterson Street. The house was leveled, the process of abandoning Catherine Street and dividing it is moving along, and a utility easement is currently being recorded with the county. Attorney Prendergast advised that the council should start thinking about the next steps for the property, including whether to pursue sealed bids or list the property with a realtor and what deed restrictions if any that the council would want to require. They also discussed whether the lot could qualify as an LMI property. Maybe start by consulting with John Danos from Dorsey and Whitney LLP regarding TIF possibilities, the local INRCOG, or Lisa Kremer with Buchanan County for suggestions. The council members will continue considering options and discussions will take place at future meetings.

Motion by Williams, second by Gruetzmacher to have Attorney Prendergast do some more research on the resolution regarding approving a second amended and restated agreement to establish the Iowa Public Power Agency and to table for the next meeting. Roll call vote- Ayes: Williams, Gruetzmacher, Erickson, and R. Woods. Nays: None.

The Mayor had been getting some complaints and requested the council have conversations regarding growing safety concerns and children riding e-scooters and e-bikes. It has been noticed that they are not following the rules of the road, and it might be necessary to address safe operations and rider expectations with the kids. Thoughts on the possibility of the police department providing training in the spring or getting some educational materials sent out to students were discussed. Also, other cities will be reviewed to see if any ordinances exist for this new situation.

During the council/mayor reports, Councilman Gruetzmacher stated that a 15 ft by 75 ft batting cage slab was completed at the north ball diamond field thanks to donations of time and materials from Jesse Hill with Midwest and Manatt's. The council thanked everyone involved for the donation of this amazing addition to the Fairbank Ball Diamond Park. Attorney Prendergast commented on how nice the Christmas lights looked as she was coming into town and Nick stated that the lights went up smoothly but that they did have to change out some of the GFIS at the top of the poles as they were not working.

During the department reports, Nick explained that they had been working on some tile issues on Buchanan Street and that Rod with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities was in town doing some natural gas checks. The streets were swept during that rainfall that past week and the new railing installed for the Fourth Street Sidewalk Project will be removed and redone before the project is considered complete. It sustained some damage during travel and should be redone. Officer French was present and updated the council on some of the activities the department had been up to.

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

Ron Woods, Mayor

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk