

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. at Sabula City Hall, 411 Broad Street, Sabula, Iowa.

The meeting was open to the public in City Hall.

Present: Mayor Johnson, Mike O'Hara via telephone, Jeremy Diercks, Scott Hibbard, and Erica Shoemaker. Absent: Dave Ward

Others Present: Lynn Parker, Evan Nixon, Travis Woodhurst, Dave & Judy Rittmer, Sandra Kempter, Kristi Johnson, Steve Gendreau, Tea' Woodhurst, Theresa Johnson, Keisha Lott, Audrey & Deb Thayer, Lindsey Rittmer, Lisa & Erica Hartman, Kim Sandholdt, Candi Diercks, Henry Kramer, Rick Zaruba, Phil Shoemaker, Rod Struve, Lanny Smith, Michelle Whitmore, Barry Huebner, James Wall, Christopher & Becky Diercks, George Allinger, Curt Marzofka, Teena & Doug Franzen, John & Sharon Mangler, Ryan Johnson, and Dan Pfieffer.

Welcome Message from Mayor

Mayor Johnson shared a welcome message, excitement for the city, and highlighted priorities. He expressed his gratitude that everyone was present for the meeting and hoped they would continue to come.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

E. Shoemaker made a motion to open the regular council meeting; seconded by J. Diercks. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deletions - None

Citizen Concerns – Residents were present to discuss the post office agenda item and they were asked by the Mayor to wait to address it when that agenda item came up. No other concerns were presented to city hall.

Consent Agenda

E. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by J. Diercks. All ayes, motion carried. Items on the Consent Agenda were: Minutes from 12/23/25, 1/13/26, and 1/20/26. January claims and payroll, Resolution #1367, Setting 2026 IRS Mileage Rate, Resolution #1377, Gas O&M 2026, Approve the 5 YR IDOT City Maintenance Agreement, Approve the Firefighters Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Agreement, and Approve the intent to update city hall including paint and projector.

Agenda

Resolution #1378, Mayor Pro Tem

J. Diercks made a motion to approve Resolution #1378, Appoint Mayor Pro Tem; seconded by M. O'Hara. All ayes, motion carried. Erica Shoemaker was appointed.

Sewer on 200-300 Block of Elk

Council discussed the issue of a blockage in the area of 200-300 block of Elk. Travis, Public Works Supervisor, informed Council/Mayor that this is the second time that this has happened. The sewer has backed up into the home at 210 Elk Street. Travis requested the approval of televising the sewer main. The mayor conveyed the need to ensure this blockage does not occur again and televising is necessary to understand cause. E. Shoemaker made a motion to get 3 bids; seconded by J. Diercks. All ayes. Motion carried.

Charges for Electrical Repair

Travis, Public Works Supervisor, informed council/mayor that on December 23rd, the city had responded to 312 Broad Street to perform an electric meter change-out. When attempting to restore power, the breaker failed and would not turn on. Breaker failed as a result of the changeout. Gruhn Electric was called in to address the issue, and a bill was received for the work performed. Travis asked council advise on how to proceed with the bill. J. Diercks made a motion to have the city pay the bill; seconded by S. Hibbard. Ayes: J. Diercks, S. Hibbard, and J. Diercks. E. Shoemaker Nay: M. O'Hara.

Storm Drain Repair

Travis, Public Works Supervisor, informed Council/Mayor that the city is experiencing ongoing storm water overflow issues on Broad Street. The mayor expressed that we had exhausted all city evaluation abilities and need to take the next step. The City Engineer recommends the next step be a televising of the storm water line to better understand failure, cause, and potential action/ resolution options. E. Shoemaker made a motion to get a bid; seconded by S. Hibbard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Basic Water Treatment Class

Council/Mayor had been asked to approve the basic water treatment class for Matt, Public Works. The mayor expressed the current cost impact of 3rd party testing requirements and the need for certification. M. O'Hara made a motion to table this item for further discussion in work section; seconded by E. Shoemaker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Perpetual Care CD

J. Diercks made a motion to approve the renewal of a Perpetual Care CD at Clinton National Bank for an 8-month term at the rate of 2.99%; seconded by S. Hibbard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Setting a Public Hearing

Lynn, City Clerk, informed Council/Mayor that a budget amendment was needed for FY25/26 due to the SRF loan, a donation for the ambulance, building maintenance, the RCTP Grant which had been extended, council wages, and various other small items. E. Shoemaker made a motion to set a public hearing date of 2/24/26 for the FY25/26 Budget Amendment; seconded by J. Diercks. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution #1373, Authorized Signers

This resolution states who is able to sign checks. The mayor expressed the need for policy to be built with limits and guardrails around designated amounts, purposes, and required signatures thereof. M. O'Hara made a motion to approve Resolution #1373, Authorized Signers as long as an aligned work policy is in place within 30 days; seconded by E. Shoemaker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Monitor/Camera Access

J. Diercks made a motion to approve the purchase of a monitor (for the police department) and to permit police chief viewing access of all designated cameras internal and external; seconded by E. Shoemaker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Boat Leases

The Mayor informed Council that he is in support of continuing with the boat slip leases and that they are a good thing for our community. He stated he is not aligned with dilapidated or unsafe docks and that we should have standard. Mayor Johnson met with the DNR and has a meeting scheduled with the Corps of engineers in regards and will share details of their requirements. E. Shoemaker made a motion to table; seconded by S. Hibbard. For the time being, the boat leases will be on hold for clarification.

Post Office Lease

Mayor Johnson provided clarity to what the intent and purpose of the line item is and as well provided clarity to what it is not. The post office lease expires 05/31/26. The mayor shared that we simply want and must ensure the City of Sabula, its residents, and employees have a fair and aligned lease going forward with the USPS and that is the desire. E. Shoemaker made a motion to provide notice and enter into conversations and negotiations with the post office; seconded by S. Hibbard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Department Reports

A motion was made by E. Shoemaker; seconded by S. Hibbard to place on file the department reports. All ayes. Motion carried. Reports for January included the following: Mayor Report, City Clerk/Utility Billing, Public Works, Fire Department, and Police Department.

Adjournment

J. Diercks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM; seconded by E. Shoemaker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Curtis Johnson, Mayor

Lynn Parker, City Clerk