

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Notice of this regular meeting of the City Council was given in the Daily American Republic, a newspaper of general circulation located in the City of Poplar Bluff. A copy of the agenda of this meeting was posted on a bulletin board located in the City Municipal building at 501 Vine Street in the City of Poplar Bluff, twenty-four hours prior to this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Shane Cornman at 7:00 p.m.

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Parson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shane Cornman.

A roll call was as follows: Present: Boyer, Horton, Smith, Massingham, DePew, Parson, Cornman; Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Mark Richardson and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Lori J. Phelps who performed the duties of their respective offices.

**DISCLOSURE
OF
INTEREST**

Each member of the City Council was given the opportunity to disclose any possible conflict of interest dealing either with any item on the printed agenda or with any matter discussed at a previous meeting.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

CITIZENS INPUT

Each person in the audience was given an opportunity to address the City Council on any matter which is not on the printed agenda.

Shavonne Young, who gave her address as 1116 S. 11th Street, appeared before the Council and stated she and her husband run a 501(c)3 non-profit ministry called Savage2Saint Ministries Inc. She stated their recovery group meets on Saturday nights and has had an attendance of 100+ since October. Mrs. Young stated transportation and hot meals are provided for each meeting through donations and money from her family's own pocket. She stated they are currently meeting at the Bible Baptist Church located at 549 South C Street with a seating capacity for 75 people in benches and folding chairs for the remaining attendees. Mrs. Young requested the use of funds from the Opioid Settlement money to buy 150 stackable chairs for their weekly meeting and dinner.

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps stated she would check into the amount available and proper procedure for allocating the funds.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

The minutes of the City Council regular meetings held December 15, 2025 and December 23, 2025 and special meetings held December 10, 2025 and December 18, 2025 were presented to the City Council for their approval.

Approval of
Minutes for the

**Month of
December 2025**

**CITY CLERK'S
REPORT**

**Report on Fund
Balances,
Investments &
Collections as of
December 31,
2025**

The City Clerk reported that each Councilperson had before them a report on fund balances, investments, and collections as of December 31, 2025. She reported on funds on deposit in the Commerce Bank in the amount of \$1,170,100.97; in the Peoples Community State Bank \$406,342.84; in the First Midwest Bank \$29,568,584.09; in Sterling Bank \$235,492.24 and in the First Missouri State Bank \$1,073,374.24. She stated this reflects a grand total of all funds in all banks in the amount of \$32,453,894.38. She stated of this amount, total funds on deposit for the account of City Hall is \$12,936,339.14, total amount on deposit for the Coliseum is \$235,492.24, total amount on deposit for the Park Department accounts is \$597,428.79 and total funds on deposit for the account of the Municipal Utilities Department is \$18,684,634.21.

The City Clerk reported that each member of the City Council had before them the following reports for the month of December, 2025: a list of Bills Paid, a report from the Fire Department, a Municipal Court report, a Payroll report by departments, a report from the Planning Department, a Police Department report, a Street Department report, a list of payments from the Police and Fire Pension Fund and a Sales Tax Report for the month of December, 2025.

After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Robert Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Barbara Horton and carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**WORKSHOP
ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

**Grow Our
Downtown**

Ms. Stephanie Knoppe appeared before the City Council to present information on a newly formed 501c3, Grow Our Downtown.

Ms. Stephanie Knoppe appeared before the Council and stated a new downtown non-profit group has been formed, Grow our Downtown, specifically to support, strengthen and guide the future of downtown. She stated the non-profit will be governed by a Board of Directors. Ms. Knoppe stated the goal is to build a strong, sustainable downtown organization that works collaboratively with the City, supports local businesses, honors our history and plans responsibility for growth.

Councilman David Boyer thanked Ms. Knoppe for the quick response to the dissolution of the Downtown Poplar Bluff Inc. Board and wants the City to fully support this organization in any possible way.

Discussion was held regarding the Downtown Poplar Bluff, Inc. Facebook page and if it could be re-established.

**Housing Authority
Board
Appointment**

The City Council considered an application received to fill a vacancy on the Housing Authority Board.

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated with the passing of Billy Cobb, a vacancy exists on this Board. She stated Ms. Shannon Midgett has submitted an application. She stated Housing Authority Director Rebeca Pacheco is recommending this appointment and has requested this item be placed on the voting session tonight.

After further discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Parson, seconded by Councilman Smith and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held tonight.

**Industrial Park
Paving
Improvements**

The City Council considered bids received for the DRA Project No. MO-7561, Industrial Park Paving Improvements.

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated bids were solicited for the Delta Regional Authority grant we received for paving improvements in the Industrial Park. She stated five (5) bids were received with the lowest coming in at \$999,964.70 from Hessling Construction out of Dexter, Missouri. Ms. Phelps stated Smith & Company Engineers reviewed the bids and stated the bid from Hessling was a competitive and reasonable bid and within the funding parameters of the grant for this project. She stated the City's portion of in-kind work from the Street Department would be ten percent (10%) of the project cost.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Billy DePew, seconded by Councilwoman Horton and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held February 2, 2026.

**Antiquated
Records - Black
River Coliseum**

The City Council considered the destruction of antiquated records for the Black River Coliseum and Black River Coliseum Aquatics and Fitness Center.

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated this is simply a housekeeping item. She stated the records submitted by the Coliseum staff have been checked against the records retention manual and are cleared for destruction.

After further discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Parson, seconded by Councilman Smith and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held February 2, 2026.

**ACTION
REQUIRED
ITEMS**

**Housing Authority
Board
Appointment**

The City Council took action on a resolution making an appointment to the Housing Authority Board. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilman DePew that Resolution No. 2064, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD FOR THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**, be read by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its reading and was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Cornman asked if there was any discussion of this resolution. There being none, motion was made by Councilman Massingham and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Parson that Resolution No. 2064 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Boyer, Horton, Smith, Massingham, DePew, Parson, Cornman; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 2064 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

**Call For a Closed
Session**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff called for a closed meeting in which they would discuss such matters which are exempted under the open meetings law Section 610.021.1, RSMo, Section 610.021.2, RSMo, Section 610.021.3, RSMo, Section 610.021.9, RSMo, Section 610.021.11, RSMo, Section 610.021.12, RSMo, Section 610.021.13, RSMo, Section 610.021.14, RSMo. Motion was made by Councilman Massingham and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Parson that the City Council move into a closed meeting immediately after this regular meeting of the City Council. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Boyer, Horton, Smith, Massingham, DePew, Parson, Cornman; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously to move into closed session immediately after this regular meeting of the City Council.

**City Manager's
Report**

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated money from FEMA due to last year's tornado should start coming in the next 30 - 45 days. She

stated after all Federal funds are received, SEMA will pick up an additional 15% leaving the City's out of pocket at 10%. She stated an interest payment will be made to the bridge loan.

Councilman Boyer questioned the issuance of conditional use permits to the United Gospel Rescue Mission and SA Recycling.

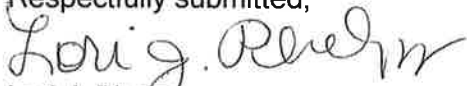
Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps stated SA Recycling did not require a conditional use permit. She stated they required a variance which was presented to and approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustments. She stated the Zoning Board of Adjustments recommendations do not go to the City Council for approval.

City Attorney Mark Richardson stated a meeting with the City Planner is needed to see what process was used for the approval of SA Recycling to open for business.

There being no further business to come before this meeting of the City Council, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Parson and carried to adjourn this regular session of the City Council.

Mayor Cornman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori J. Phelps
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF,

MISSOURI, THIS 17th DAY

OF February, 2026.