

**MINUTES  
OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular meeting on Monday, February 2, 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 Ms. Shannon Weddle of the Bluff First Church of Poplar Bluff.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shane Cornman.

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

Also present was 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.

No one from the audience appeared before the Council.

**WORKSHOP  
ITEMS FOR  
DISCUSSION**

The City Council considered a resolution reappointing Municipal Court Judge Ralph Innes for a two-year term.

**Municipal Court  
Judge  
Reappointment**

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated she recommends the reappointment of Ralph Innes as the Municipal Court Judge for a two-year term.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Billy DePew, seconded by Councilman Robert Smith and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held February 17, 2026.

**BUILD Grant  
Application**

The City Council considered authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Fiscal Year 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program for funding relative to the Highway 67/I-57 Project.

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated this item is for Phase 3A of the project. She stated it covers 2.7 miles from County Road 352 south.

She stated MoDOT is very supportive of the application and will be helping Mr. Bill Robison of Smith & Company draft it along with co-sponsoring it. City Manager Phelps stated MoDOT is willing to provide matching funds with no matching funds being required of the City. She stated the application is due February 24, 2026. City Manager Phelps stated the estimated cost for Phase 3A will be 45 million dollars.

After further discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Parson, seconded by Councilman Mark Massingham and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held February 17, 2026.

**ACTION**  
**REQUIRED**  
**ITEMS**

**Industrial Park  
Paving  
Improvements**

The City Council took action on an ordinance accepting a bid for the DRA Project No. MO-7561, Industrial Park Paving Improvements. Motion was made by Councilman Massingham and seconded by Councilman DePew that Bill No. 8668, **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A BID FROM HESSLING CONSTRUCTION, INC. OF DEXTER, MISSOURI FOR THE DRA PROJECT NO. MO-7561 INDUSTRIAL PARK PAVING PROJECT**, be read for the first time by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its first reading, was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilman Massingham that Bill No. 8668 be placed upon its second and final reading whereupon such bill was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Cornman asked if there was any discussion of this bill. There being no discussion, motion was made by Councilman Massingham and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Parson that Bill No. 8668 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 ordinance adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 26 - 01.

**Antiquated  
Records - Black  
River Coliseum**

The City Council took action on an ordinance authorizing the destruction of records for the Black River Coliseum and Black River Coliseum Aquatics and Fitness Center. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilwoman Barbara Horton that Bill No. 8669, **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTIQUATED RECORDS BY THE POPLAR BLUFF BLACK RIVER COLISEUM**, be read for the first time by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its first reading, was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Councilman Massingham and seconded by Councilman DePew that Bill No. 8669 be placed upon its second and final reading whereupon such bill was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Cornman asked if there was any discussion of this bill. There being no discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilman Massingham that Bill No. 8669 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Horton, Smith, Massingham, DePew, Boyer, Parson, Cornman; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such ordinance adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 26 - 02.

**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 Smith and seconded by Councilman DePew 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.

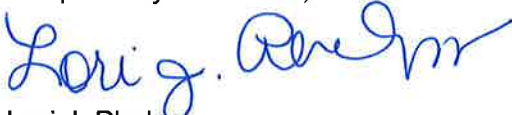
**City Manager's  
Report**

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated a check from the Opioid Settlement fund was provided to Savage 2 Saint Ministries for the purchase of chairs for their meetings. She stated they were very grateful and appreciative. She stated the City is thankful for their ministry and all they are doing for our community. City Manager Phelps stated she and City Planner James Sisk met with Susan Odum of the University of Illinois Extension Office regarding a grant funding opportunity. She stated the grant would be \$75,000 for various projects. She stated there would not be a match required from the City. Ms. Phelps praised the Street Department for their efforts with snow and ice removal last week. She also expressed her appreciation to the Police and Fire Departments who also worked tirelessly during the winter storm.

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 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori J. Phelps  
City Clerk

**APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

**OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF,**

**MISSOURI, THIS 16th DAY**

**OF March, 2026.**