

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 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 Pastor Brian Sharp of the Grace Christian Fellowship Church of Poplar Bluff.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Shane Cornman.

A roll call was as follows: Present: Boyer, Horton, DePew, Parson, Cornman; Absent: Smith, Massingham.

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.

Councilman Billy DePew stated he would abstain from any discussion or voting regarding the new Grow Our Downtown Board.

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.

Christopher Jones, who gave his address as 104 South Main Street, appeared before the Council and stated he owns Cutting Edge Barber Shop and would like to see more businesses and events downtown.

Stephanie Knoppe, who gave her address as 1133 County Road 552, appeared before the Council and stated she is on the Three Rivers Board of Realtors and asked for a letter of support from the City to apply for a NAR Placemaking grant. She stated the grant money would be used for benches and a trashcan at the top of the depot staircase.

Tad Long, who gave his address as 923 Vine Street, Apartment B, appeared before the Council and stated he owns Archer Gift Company and Artfully Framed at 416 Vine Street. He stated would like to see the funds from DPB, Inc. transferred to the Grow Our Downtown Board.

Debbie Merciers, who gave her address as 9620 Hwy 51 Broseley, Missouri, appeared before the Council and stated she has served as the Farmer's Market Director since 2018. She stated last year's season hosted 56 vendors. She stated she would like to

see the funds from the former Downtown Poplar Bluff, Inc. board allocated to the Grow Our Downtown Board and the Farmer's Market to be able to continue.

Discussion of a USDA grant was held. Stephanie Knoppe stated the grant deadline was February 28, 2026 and Grow Our Downtown, Inc. could not apply for the grant until they were given permission by the Council to oversee the Farmer's Market.

Mayor Cornman stated he would like a more itemized plan for the funds before they are allocated to the new Grow Our Downtown Board.

Councilman David Boyer made a motion that the items presented tonight in Citizens Input be studied and brought back to the Council for workshop and voting at the next City Council meeting on March 2, 2026. A consensus of the Council was agreed upon to workshop and vote the allocation of funds to the Grow Our Downtown Board at the March 2, 2026 meeting.

Rhonda Hillis appeared before the Council and stated the deadline for joining the Main Street project is March 13, 2026. She stated the specifics of the group are compatible with the D.R.E.A.M. initiative. She stated the information from the community meeting is still being processed.

The Council agreed to provide a letter of support for the application of the USDA grant for the Farmers Market.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

The minutes of the City Council regular meeting held January 20, 2026 were presented to the City Council for their approval.

**Approval of
Minutes for the
Month of January
2026**

The City Clerk reported that each Councilperson had before them a report on fund balances, investments, and collections as January 31, 2026. She reported on funds on deposit in the Commerce Bank in the amount of \$1,793,642.38; in the Peoples Community State Bank \$407,536.81; in the First Midwest Bank \$29,639,957.77; in Sterling Bank \$236,065.23 and in the First Missouri State Bank \$1,073,940.33. She stated this reflects a grand total of all funds in all banks in the amount of \$33,151,142.52. She stated of this amount, total funds on deposit for the account of City Hall is \$13,893,031.00, total amount on deposit for the Coliseum is \$236,065.23, total amount on deposit for the Park Department accounts is \$609,913.44 and total funds on deposit for the account of the Municipal Utilities Department is \$18,412,132.85.

**CITY CLERK'S
REPORT**

**Report on Fund
Balances,
Investments &
Collections as of
January 31, 2026**

The City Clerk reported that each member of the City Council had before them the following reports for the month of January, 2026: 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 January, 2026.

After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Billy DePew, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Parson and carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**WORKSHOP
ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

The City Council considered the donation of antiquated radio equipment from the Poplar Bluff Police Department to the Butler County Emergency Management Agency.

**Antiquated Radio
Equipment**

Police Chief JR Keirseay addressed the Council and stated the equipment reached its end of life twenty (20) years ago and parts are no longer being made. He stated the

Butler County Emergency Management Agency has asked for the equipment and he is requesting permission to donate the equipment to them.

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

**Kevin and Avonte
Program - Grant
Application**

The City Council considered authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Kevin and Avonte Program for the purchase of a drone and a side-by-side UTV to aid in locating missing individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities.

Police Chief JR Keirseley addressed the Council and stated this grant could help purchase a side by side which would be helpful in searches for missing autistic and dementia-related individuals.

Patrolman Austin Lemonds with the Poplar Bluff Police Department appeared before the Council and stated the grant would be for \$150,000 with no match from the City. He stated the deadline is February 27, 2026. He stated the grant would allow for three (3) drones to be purchased with training for drone pilots included.

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

**1985 GMC Van
Bids**

The City Council considered bids received for the sale of a 1985 GMC Van.

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated this van was previously used to fill air tanks on fire scenes. She stated it is not needed anymore. She stated two (2) bids were received and recommended the high bid of \$3,160.

Fire Chief Mike Moffitt appeared before the Council and stated one of the new pumpers now has the capability to fill the tanks on fire scenes. He stated the old unit from the van was incorporated into a station giving two (2) stations the capability to fill air bottles and the truck.

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

**Code of
Ordinances
Section 210.100**

The City Council considered the addition of Section 210.100 "Misuse of Emergency Telephone Service" to the City of Poplar Bluff Code of Ordinances.

Assistant City Manager Lori Phelps addressed the Council and stated currently there is not an ordinance for the misuse of 911. She stated the Police Department has had some issues with frequent abusers of the 911 system and this would allow them to ticket them. City Manager Phelps stated the proposed ordinance mirrors the State statute.

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

**IBEW - Local 702
Union Agreement
Electric
Department**

The City Council considered entering into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Poplar Bluff and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 702 for employees of the Electric Department.

Municipal Utilities General Manager Bill Bach addressed the Council and stated the changes proposed is a fair agreement and recommends the approval as presented.

Councilman David Boyer requested the wage agreement to be read aloud.

Mr. Bill Bach stated the agreement would give a 5% increase in 2026, a 3% raise in 2027 and a 2 1/2% raise in 2028.

Councilman Boyer requested the other changes be stated out loud.

Mr. Bill Bach read the list of changes to the agreement.

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

**IBEW - Local 702
Union Agreement
Water-Sewer
Department**

The City Council considered entering into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Poplar Bluff and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 702 for employees of the Water-Sewer Department.

Municipal Utilities General Manager Bill Bach addressed the Council and stated he feels this agreement is fair and mimics the electric agreement that was discussed earlier.

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

**Annual Net
Metering**

The City Council considered a recommendation from the Municipal Utilities Advisory Board to accept the annual Net Metering Report for the City of Poplar Bluff Municipal Utilities Department.

Municipal Utilities General Manager Bill Bach addressed the Council and stated to comply with Missouri State Statute regarding net metering, a utility must submit a report annually to the governing body and must disclose the availability of the net metering program of each of its customers. He stated upon approval the report will be posted on the City's website. He stated there are 26 customer generated facilities with an estimated capacity of 331 kilowatts and an estimated net kilowatt hour of 50,598 KWH.

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

**ACTION
REQUIRED
ITEMS**

**Municipal Court
Judge
Reappointment**

The City Council took action on a resolution reappointing Municipal Court Judge Ralph Innes for a two-year term. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilman DePew that Resolution No. 2065, **A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RALPH INNES AS JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF 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 Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilman DePew that Resolution No. 2065 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Boyer, Horton, DePew, Parson, Cornman; No: None; Absent: Smith, Massingham; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 2065 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

BUILD Grant Application

The City Council took action on a resolution 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. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Resolution No. 2066, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) GRANT PROGRAM FOR PHASE 3A OF THE HIGHWAY 67/INTERSTATE 57 PROJECT, FISCAL YEAR 2026**, 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 Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilman DePew that Resolution No. 2066 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Horton, DePew, Boyer, Parson, Cornman; No: None; Absent: Smith, Massingham; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 2066 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

Kevin and Avonte Program - Grant Application

The City Council took action on a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Kevin and Avonte Program. Motion was made by Councilman DePew and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Resolution No. 2067, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF POPLAR BLUFF AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, KEVIN AND AVONTE PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DRONE AND A UTILITY-TERRAIN VEHICLE (UTV) TO BE USED IN LOCATING MISSING PERSONS, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO**, 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 Mayor Pro Tem Parson and seconded by Councilman DePew that Resolution No. 2067 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: DePew, Boyer, Horton, Parson, Cornman; No: None; Absent: Smith, Massingham; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 2067 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. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Boyer, Horton, DePew, Parson, Cornman; No: None; Absent: Smith, Massingham; 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 stated she did not have anything further for the Council at this time.

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

Mayor Cornman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01 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 March, 2026.