

City of Van Meter, Iowa

City Council Minutes – June 9, 2025

- 1) The Van Meter City Council met for a regular council meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the United Methodist Church located at 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA 50261. Mayor Herman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. The following council members were present upon roll call: Joel Akers, Travis Brott, Blake Grolmus, Quin Pelz and Penny Westfall.
Staff present: City Attorney Fatino, City Engineer Randy Johnson, Police Chief Mike Brown, Public Works Director Drew McCombs, Library Director Jonatha Basye, Parks & Rec Director Sam Chia, City Clerk Jessica Drake, and City Administrator Liz Faust.
- 2) Mayor Herman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Introductions were made.
- 4) Mayor Herman read a Civility Statement setting expectations of respect for the meeting.
- 5) City Clerk Drake noted that Items #7d & #7g on the Consent Agenda have been removed and will be included on the July Consent Agenda. Grolmus moved, supported by Brott, to approve the agenda as amended. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 6) No one addressed the Council during the Citizen's Hearing.
- 7) Mayor Herman asked for a motion to adopt the consent agenda as amended which included the following:

a. Minutes of May 12, 2025 City Council Regular Business Meeting

b. Minutes of May 29, 2025 Board of Adjustment Meeting

c. Minutes of May 30, 2025 City Council Special Meeting

d. ~~Minutes of June 5, 2025 Park Board Meeting~~

e. June Claims List

Claims Report

Vendor	Reference	Amount
ADAM BOECK	3X SOCCER GAMES	120
AFLAC	AFLAC PRETAX	150.66
AGSOURCE COOPERATIVE SERVICES	WA/SW TESTING	180.5
AINSLEY WATSON	3X SOCCER GAMES	100
ALLIANCE CONSTRUCTION GROUP	ARLINGTON AVE PP#1	64,585.57
ANDREW COOPER	FSA REMIBURSE - A.COOPER	705.95
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY	8' DI MJ 45 C153	375.74
AT&T MOBILITY	PD PHONE SERVICE	277.6
AVEY WATSON	1X U6 GAME	10
AYLA LANSMAN	1X U10AR GAME	20
BALDON & SON HARDWARE	EXTENSION SPRINGS	13.87
BASE	JUL CAF MONTHLY	30
BEELINE + BLUE	MUNICIPAL BUILDING POSTERS	98.1
BOLTON & MENK INC	VM/RICHLAND RD TRAIL PROJECT	2,979.00
BRAELEE KUNKEL	2X U8 GAMES	30
BRAYDEN FENNESSEY	SOCCER REFEREE RECERT COURSE	62.5
CALVIN VERDI	2X U10AR GAMES	40
CITY OF VAN METER	BB/SB GAMES - UMPIRE MONEY	1870
CULLIGAN	CH & PW WATER	150.41
DANE BERNHARDT	SOCCER REF	30
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP	URPA & DATA CENTER DEV AGR	56,825.00
EARLHAM SAVINGS BANK	EBANK EFT ACH FEES	25
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	15,447.52
ELAN FINANCIAL - EBANK CC	STREET SIGN POSTS/SIGNAGE	3,297.01
ELECTRIC PUMP	BV BOOSTER PACO/PUMP	16,843.93
EMMA VERDI	1X U6 GAME	10
FENIX USA LLC	108X WATER METERS	16,200.00
FIRE SAFETY USA	2X STANDARD SHIELDS	139.85
FULLER PETROLEUM SERVICE	#2DSL ULS DYED	878.98
GABE JONES	3X BB GAMES	190
GALLS LLC	GH APB OUTER CARRIER	318.99
GATEHOUSE MEDIA IA HOLDINGS	PUBLICATIONS	603
GCMOA	FY26 ANNUAL DUES	25
GRAYSON WIGANT	2X U12AR GAMES	50
HEARTLAND BUSINESSES SYSTEM	MANAGED SERVICES	4,558.65
HUDSON SODERHOLM	3X U13AR GAMES	90
INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS	LIFT STATION DEGREASER	903.28
INVISION	MAY FIELD VER & BIM MODEL 601	7,598.10
IOWA CODE ENFORCEMENT	MAY SERVICE FEE	600
IOWA ONE CALL	EMAIL LOCATES	78.3
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	3X TRASH BINS FOR CEMETERY	2,454.17
IOWA PUMP WORKS INC	MAIN BREAK REPAIR	574
IOWA RUSH	14 TEAM REGISTRATIONS	560
IPERS	IPERS	4,644.18
JACK JACOBS	1X U6 GAME	10
JACK KRIEGER	3X SOCCER GAME REF	70
JESSICA DRAKE	FSA REIMBURSE	76.88
JIMMER PETERSEN	1X U6 GAME	10
KAEGAN WIGANT	4X SOCCER GAMES	170
KATE OLIVER	SOCCER REFX1 GAME	25
KONICA MINOLTA	JUNE MONTHLY MAINT CHARGE	35.2
LANE OBERMEIER	7X SOCCER GAMES	130
LAURA KUNKEL	CLEANING SERVICES 5/11 & 5/25	50
LAYTON FANNON	3X SOCCER GAMES	85
LEVI LUKAN	4X SOCCER GAMES	125
LIBERTY READY MIX	ROCK FOR ARLINGTON	310.5
LINDA BETSINGER MCCANN	SPEAKING AT VM LIBRARY	125
LUKAS HETLAND	2X SOCCER GAMES	75
MATEYA SPELTZ	3X SB GAMES	185
MATHESON TRI GAS INC	OXYGEN	43.48
MEDIACOM	CITY HALL INTERNET FOR JUNE	406.95
MEMPHIS VIS	2X U6 GAMES	20
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	GAS/ELEC MAY	2,628.28
MOTOROLA	V700 CHARGER DOCK	200
ORKIN	JUNE25-JUNE26 PEST CONTROL	910.08
PEEK SALES & SERVICE	MOWER SERVICED FOR SPRING	1,278.93

PLAYAWAY	50 WONDERBOOKS	4,588.41
REGAN BERNHARDT	SOCCER REF	25
SAM CHIA	MEETING RE: FLAG FOOTBALL	24.78
SCHEELS - DES MOINES	2X PD LIFE VESTS	179.98
STIVERS FORD	2020 TAHOE OIL CHANGE	88.12
STRYKER SALES CORP	AED INFANT CHILD	132.6
TEAG SCHWEITZBERGER	5X SOCCER GAMES	85
THORPE WATER DEV CO	SPRINKLER FIX AT REC COMPLEX	3,111.84
TOMMY MADDEN	2X BB GAMES	125
TOYNE INC	FREIGHTLINER M2 REPAIRS	120,038.00
TREAS - STATE OF IOWA W/H	STATE TAX	770.7
UMB BANK NA	BOND PAYMENTS	223,700.00
UNITED UTILITIES & EXCAVATION	WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT p1	286,007.95
US POSTMASTER	JUNE POSTAGE	178.01
VEENSTRA & KIMM INC	APRIL ENGINEERING FEES	65,285.78
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE CHARGES MAY	731.97
WASTE CONNECTIONS	GARBAGE CONTRACT JUNE	12,799.62
WASTE SOLUTIONS OF IA	KYBOS - BASEBALL FIELDS	1,288.00
WEX BANK	FUEL PURCHASES	2,073.83


Accounts Payable Total	932,949.75
Invoices: Paid	253,411.34
Invoices: Scheduled	679,538.41
Payroll Checks	45,531.28
***** REPORT TOTAL *****	978,481.03
GENERAL	250,860.84
ROAD USE TAX	7.14
DEBT SERVICE	223,700.00
ARLINGTON ROAD RESURFACE	79,403.77
MASTER TRAILS PROJECT	2,724.00
601 MUNICIPAL BUILDING	7,696.20
WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT P1	296,768.35
WATER TREATMENT FACILITY	7,387.30
MICROSOFT CAPITAL IMPROVE	48,437.90
WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT P2	2,652.00
VIRGINIA STREET EXTENSION	255
340TH TRAIL PROJECT	3,313.50
WATER	36,549.21
SEWER	18,725.82
TOTAL FUNDS	978,481.03

- f. May Financial Reports
- ~~g. May Building Permit Report~~
- h. May IPAIT Report
- i. Resolution #2025-71 Approving Certain Appointments to the City's Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Parks & Recreation Board and Library Board
- j. Resolution #2025-72 Setting Employee Wages for FY26
- k. Resolution #2025-73 Approving Class C Retail Alcohol License – VRC FY25 Renewal
- l. Resolution #2025-74 Approving Class C Retail Alcohol License – VRC FY26
- m. Resolution #2025-75 Approving an Engagement Letter with PFM Financial Advisors, LLC
- n. Resolution #2025-76 Setting Wages for Volunteer Fire Officers – FY26
- o. Resolution #2025-77 Approving a Federal Aid Agreement for Transportation Alternatives Project – Iowa DOT

Grolmus moved, supported by Westfall, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Akers questioned why certain fire department wages and library wages are not in line with the COLA pay increases for the rest of Staff. Staff detailed the request to increase Fire Officer pay by Chief Schmitt and stated that the Library Board approved the pay increases and all of the increases were contemplated on the FY26 budget that was approved & certified. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**


- 8) **Public Hearings**
- a. Grolmus moved, supported by Brott, to open the public hearing of the third and final reading of a proposed amendment to Chapter 92 Water Rates. Motion carried. The hearing opened at 7:09pm. No comments were received prior to or during the hearing. Grolmus moved, supported by Brott, to close the public hearing. Motion carried. The hearing closed at 7:09pm.
 - b. Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to open the public hearing of the third and final reading of a proposed amendment to Chapter 99 Sewer Charges. Motion carried. The hearing opened at 7:09pm. No comments were received prior to or during the hearing. Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to close the public hearing. Motion carried. The hearing closed at 7:10pm.
 - c. Pelz moved, supported by Akers, to open the public hearing the second reading of a proposed amendment to Chapter 106 Collection of Solid Waste. Motion carried. The hearing opened at 7:10pm. No comments were received prior to or during the hearing. Pelz moved, supported by Akers, to close the public hearing. Motion carried. The hearing closed at 7:10pm.
 - d. Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to open the public hearing regarding a proposed second budget amendment to the FY25 Budget. Motion carried. The hearing opened at 7:11pm. No comments were received prior to or during the hearing. Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to close the public hearing. Motion carried. The hearing closed at 7:11pm.
- 9) Akers moved, supported by Brott, to make this the third and final reading of Ordinance 2025-08 An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of Van Meter – Chapter 92 Water Rates, moving to approval and adoption of said Ordinance, directing the City Clerk to cause said Ordinance to be published in the newspaper of record for the City. Brott noted that he does not have concerns with the rate increase but wants to note need for continued progress on the Water Treatment Facility. Grolmus noted that he would not be voting no on rate increase due to lack of progress on the Water Treatment Facility. Westfall noted the same reasoning for voting no as well as the fact that a 5% increase is greater than COLA. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus-NO; Pelz – YES; Westfall - NO. **YES (3) NO (2) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 10) Akers moved, supported by Brott, to make this the third and final reading of Ordinance 2025-09 An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of Van Meter – Chapter 99 Sewer Services, moving to approval and adoption of said Ordinance, directing the City Clerk to cause said Ordinance to be published in the newspaper of record for the City. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus-NO; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (4) NO (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 11) Akers moved, supported by Grolmus, to adopt Resolution #2025-78 Adopting Budget Amendment #2 for FY25. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 12) Grolmus moved, supported by Pelz, adopt Resolution #2025-79 Approving an Agreement for Limited Legal Services with Nyemaster for property condemnation activities. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 13) Grolmus moved, supported by Akers, to adopt Resolution #2025-80 Approving a Proposal for Lawn & Field Care and Weed Management for the City of Van Meter. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus-YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 14) Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to adopt Resolution #2025-81 Approving an Agreement for Professional Services with Veenstra & Kimm – Richland Road Drainage Culvert Repair. Council encouraged staff to coordinate with Bolton & Menk and the Master Trails. City Engineer Johnson noted that the intent is to have the repair completed prior to school starting in August. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**

- 15) Westfall moved, supported by Akers, to adopt Resolution #2025-82 Certifying One Question pertaining to the City of Van Meter on the November 4, 2025 City/School Election Ballot. The City does not have a hotel/motel tax in place. This is not a tax assessed to the residents of Van Meter. This is a tax that would be required to be collected by property owners of hotels, motels, and short-term rentals within the City Limits of Van Meter and then the City collects the revenue from the taxes received. Half of the revenue received is required to be used for support of park & recreation programming. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 16) Westfall moved, supported by Akers, to adopt Resolution #2025-83 Approving an Amendment to An Agreement for Professional Services with Invision Architecture for the Municipal Building Project located at 601 Main Street. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 17) Akers moved, supported by Grolmus, to adopt Resolution #2025-84 Authorizing a Change in Operating Hours to City Hall and Giving the Authority to the City Administrator to change City Hall Office Hours with at least 24 hours prior notice. City Hall will be closed on the following Fridays: July 18, August 15, September 12, October 17, November 14 and December 12. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**
- 18) The Administrative report noted updates relating to economic development activities, a proposal for updates to the City Entrance Sign and remodel at City Hall. Bolton & Menk provided an updated on the environmental study relating to the Master Trails Plan and an overview of the Master Parks Plan. A copy of the conceptual plans for the Municipal Building was included for Council. An updated timeline on the software conversion was provided to Council. There in an anticipated go live date in Q4/2025. Public Works reported on updates with the meter replacements, project updates including water main replacement & Arlington Street resurfacing and continuing education. Police reported that there were 145 calls in May of which 53 were traffic stops & noted a variety of community engagement events. Fire reported that there were 39 calls in May of which 9 were not responded to – all of which were EMS calls, 7 in DeSoto and 2 in Van Meter. Library reported participating in several continuing education activities & updates on Summer Reading. Parks & Rec reported the current youth sport registration numbers for spring soccer, youth little league and youth softball. The City Engineer provided updates on several construction projects throughout the City.
- 19) Brott moved, supported by Akers, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.

Signed by:

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6/18/2025

Joe Herman, Mayor

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6/18/2025

Jessica Drake, City Clerk