

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall by Mayor Fitzgerald

ROLL CALL: Present & answering to roll call were Commissioners Hedrington, Morse, Prentice, and Mayor Fitzgerald. Commissioner Adleman was absent
City Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski was present
City Administrator Sonya Hoppes was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
Police Chief Adam Truman
Waste Water Superintendent Jeff Reininger
Street Superintendent Steve Haas
Community Development Director Shawna Henthorn
City Engineer Brandon Boggs
Robert Mueller, Resident

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Fitzgerald and recited by all members present.

INVOCATION: Finance Director, Don Elliott delivered the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 2, 2026. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

REPORT OF OFFICER

1. Finance:
Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the claims paid from January 31 - February 13, 2026 in the amount of \$339,690.95. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
2. Attorney Report:
3. Reports:
City Administrator Report and Staff Report:
 - City Administrator provided an update regarding the staffing of the Fire Department and advised that Chief interviews are scheduled to take place and it is anticipated that Metro will hire a Chief to staff the Fire Department within the next week.
 - Community Director Henthorn presented a quarterly report from December, 2025 to February, 2026 advising the council on updates to development and new construction, new businesses, regular projects, planning and zoning, permit applications, annexations, and municipal code enforcement. Community Development Director Henthorn provided an update regarding the South Beloit Mobile Home Park and the status of the sewer situation with the Winnebago County Health Department to Council.

- Brandon Boggs provided an update regarding the lift station project and the status of funding applications that will be submitted on March 31, 2026 for funding through IEPA program for construction of the lift station and provided updates regarding the 2026 streets project, pavement striping project, Illinois Route 2 Reconstruction project is entering into phase 2 and will be completed in 2027 with construction to be completed in 2028 or 2029, and the OSLAD Grant was awarded for the Neighborhood Park and phase 1 of the project has begun.

Accounts and Finance-Commissioner Ryan Adleman
 Health & Public Safety-Commissioner Ken Morse
 Streets & Public Improvement-Commissioner Brian Hedrington
 Public Properties-Commissioner Courtney Prentice
 Mayor-Tom Fitzgerald

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:

- a. Request for waiver of penalty fees for 616 Fairview from Robert Mueller. Commissioner Morse made a motion to discuss waiver of penalty fees for 616 Fairview. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Robert Mueller requested that the fees be lowered due to a mix up in the billing, Robert Mueller advised that his first bill totaled between \$2,400 and \$2,900 with interest. Mr. Mueller advised that he did not know that he could use garbage for the first two to three years that he owned the property. Mayor Fitzgerald advised that he reviewed the records and the bills date back to 2019 and none of them were returned to the City even though Mr. Mueller did not receive the invoices. Mayor advised what has been done in the past is to set up a payment plan and give 50 percent off of the penalties. Commissioner Morse advised that the Council should be consistent with what has been done in the past. Commissioner Prentice advised that if 50 percent is what has been done in the past then he would like to do 50 percent in this case. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- b. Ordinance 2901 Approving Annexation of South Bluff. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2901 Approving Annexation of South Bluff. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- c. Ordinance 2902 Amending Article VIII Raffles, regarding Raffles. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2902 Amending Article VIII Raffles, regarding Raffles. Commissioner Prentice seconded the motion. City Clerk Patrick advised that this Ordinance would update the current code so that it is in line with the County code and allow for the City to issue permits for raffles directly. City Administrator Hoppes advised the Council that the current ordinances indicates that the City mirrors what the County requires, however, the County has updated their ordinance and that is no longer the case for the City. Attorney Sosnowski advised that if this ordinance passes the City would be collecting a permit fee. The new ordinance updates the standard to state and county standards and allows for the City to collect and issue the permit instead of the County. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to layover Ordinance 2902 Amending Article VIII Raffles, regarding Raffles. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion. Laid over to next meeting.
- d. Ordinance 2903 Declaring certain property surplus and authorizing the City to sell certain surplus City property. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2903 Declaring certain property surplus and authorizing the City to sell certain surplus City property. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Attorney Sosnowski advised that the property was obtained through judicial foreclosure and is required to be vacated in March. The City is the owner of the property and it can be declared as surplus. Attorney Sosnowski advised that the City would need to hold off on publishing for bids until the eviction process (if needed) is completed in

- March. Attorney Sosnowski advised that fair market value was used to determine the minimum bid of \$131,900.00. Commissioner Prentice advised that this property has a lot of interested parties and suggested allowing a walk through of the property to the public. City Administrator Hoppes advised that for one property in the past they did do a walk through of that property for interested parties. Commissioner Prentice suggested that the minimum bid be \$100,000.00. Commissioner Morse moved to Amend the minimum bid in paragraph b of the Ordinance to \$100,000.00. Commissioner Prentice seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman. Commissioner Morse mad a motion to approve Ordinance 2903 Declaring certain property surplus and authorizing the City to sell certain surplus property with Amendments. Commissioner Prentice seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- e. Resolution 6676 Approving the purchase of GR2120-2-54 series riding mower with snowblower attachment from Johnson Tractor at a cost not to exceed \$15,077.44 for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve Resolution 6676 Approving the purchase of GR2120-2-54 series riding mower with snowblower attachment from Johnson Tractor at a cost not to exceed \$15,077.44 for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Steve Haas advised the council that he obtained bids from Sourcewell and obtained a second bid from John Deer, however the second bid was higher. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Morse.
- f. Resolution 6677 Approving purchase of a rotary broom attachment for L2180-1/F5212 Q.H from Johnson Tractor at a cost not to exceed \$8,775.00 for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve Resolution 6677 Approving purchase of a rotary broom attachment for L2180-1/F5212 Q.H from Johnson Tractor at a cost not to exceed \$8,775.00 for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Steve Haas advised that this purchase is being made with the intention to add to use in the Park. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- g. Resolution 6678 Authorizing the Mayor, City Administrator and Chief of Police to execute a Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois, Law Enforcement Training regarding grant funding for the purchase or lease of cameras for law enforcement use. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6678 Authorizing the Mayor, City Administrator and Chief of Police to execute a Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois, Law Enforcement Training regarding grant funding for the purchase or lease of cameras for law enforcement use. Commissioner Prentice seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- h. Resolution 6679 re-appointing member to the SMTD Board. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6679 re-appointing member to the SMTD Board as follows:
- Pam Clifton is hereby reappointed as Trustee for the SMTD Board for a term of two (2) years with said term to expire in July 2027.
- Commissioner Prentice seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- i. Hiring Megan Reff at a rate of \$31.25 as Deputy Clerk effective March 16,2026. Commissioner Morse made a Motion to hire Megan Reff at a rate of \$31.25 as Deputy Clerk effective March 16,2026. Commissioner Hedrington seconded the motion. City Administrator Hoppes advised that the City could not have two City Clerks at one time and the plan was to hire Megan Reff as a Deputy Clerk first and then appoint her as City Clerk the following Monday after City Clerk Patrick's last day on March 27, 2026. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:48 P.M. on a motion made by Commissioner Morse, Council approved going into Executive Session. Commissioner Prentice seconded the motion. The purpose of Executive Session is to:

1. Discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity as provided by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

At 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call showed all members previously at the meeting at the onset of the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURN:

At 6:00 P.M. on a motion by Commissioner Morse second by Commissioner Prentice. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: