

CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 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 Laura Goding was present
City Administrator Sonya Hoppes was present
City Clerk Tracy Patrick recorded the minutes
Department Heads in attendance:
Police Chief Adam Truman
Street Superintendent Steve Haas
Community Development Director Shawna Henthorn

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

INVOCATION: Finance Director, Don Elliott delivered the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA: Commissioner Morse made a motion to amend the agenda to move Executive Session to after reports due to an item on the agenda requiring Executive Session. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.
Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Randy Peterson said in lieu of the events last week regarding the Fire Chief's resignation, the City spent a lot of money to hire previous Chief Fisher. Mr. Peterson asked if there could be any type of legal recourse to recoup some of the money and believes it should be pursued.
Josh Loyd spoke about the process of candidates that were recommended by the Illinois Chiefs Association. Mr. Loyd said he is not in favor of moving in a different direction by abandoning the remainder of the candidates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 5, 2025. 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 3 - 16, 2026 in the amount of \$265,580.29. 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
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

Administrator Hoppes reviewed the OSLAD grant award that will go to the new Charles Street park area as well as the IDOT Hub Grant, and the Darin LaHood grant in the amount of \$750,000 to go towards the Lift Station #1 project.

Administrator Hoppes said she has received calls regarding former Fire Chief Scott Fisher. Administrator Hoppes said there will be no pension benefits that Mr. Fisher would have received during his short tenure with the City. Mr. Fisher also waived the City's Health Insurance, so there is no long term costs associated with Mr. Fisher.

Commissioner Prentice said Metro was part of the plan to get the city to a self-sufficient department.

Mayor Fitzgerald said Scott Fisher was well qualified. He wanted to pursue, and we can't chastise him for that. It did cost the city money. Regarding the remaining list of applicants, the city was not in a position to take more time for that process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:22 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 5:50 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and/or Motion Items:
 - a. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Ordinance 2896 Approving an agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. to provide access to public safety network services. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Police Chief Truman said the agreement is for portable radios. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
 - b. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve Ordinance 2897 Declaring property surplus and authorizing the City to sell surplus City property at 532 Hemenway Place. Commissioner Hedrington second the motion. Community Development Director, Shawna Henthorn said the property was acquired through code enforcement for non-remediation. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
 - c. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6667 Approving Interagency Agreement with Youth Services Network, Inc. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Police Chief Truman said the agreement is an annual agreement, and there is no cost to the City. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.

- d. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve Resolution 6668 Approving an agreement with Norther Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies for Strategic Planning Service. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. City Administrator, Sonya Hoppes said the agreement creates a timeline and details. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- e. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve Resolution 6669 Approving a renewal lease for a postage machine from Pitney Bowes, Inc. Commissioner Prentice second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- f. Commissioner Prentice made a motion to approve modifying the language of Resolution 6670 to approve the Public Private Partnership Agreement for EMS/Firefighting Staffing and Fire Chief Staffing to the City of South Beloit with Metro Paramedic Services pending legal review. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Commissioner Morse said the city is entering into an agreement with Metro that will provide 9 full time personnel, (3 per shift paramedic/firefighters, 3 EMT/firefighters, and 3 firefighters), an interim Fire Chief. Mayor Fitzgerald said the agreement will be a 3-year agreement. If and when the City finds a Chief, the City can provide Metro with a 30-day Chief Agreement notice, and a 90-day cancellation of the full staffing agreement. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.
- g. Commissioner Hedrington made a motion to approve hiring Ed Eggers as part-time for the Streets Department at a rate of \$15.00/hour. Commissioner Morse second the motion. Roll call vote showed 4 ayes and 1 absent by Commissioner Adleman.

ADJOURN:

At 5:58 pm on a motion by Commissioner Prentice second by Commissioner Morse. Voice vote carried the motion.

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved: