

City Council Minutes
October 7, 2025

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the City Council, at City Hall.
Petersburg, Illinois

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Members present were Aldermen Bruce Gorman, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Andrew Gain, Rick Sonnemaker, Mike Allison, and Neil Conklin. Also, present were Mayor Rick Snyder, Treasurer Melissa Riley, Attorney Jason Brokaw, City Sec. Tracy Ciesler, and City Clerk John Ramage.

B. Mayor Snyder led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

c. A motion was made by Alderman Gorman and seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve the agenda. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

III. CITY CLERK

A. The City Clerk presented the Warrant List and Accounts Payable. After a review, a motion was made by Alderman Gain and seconded by Alderman Loberg-Simmering to accept the Warrant List and the Accounts Payable. VOTES: Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

B. The Regular meeting minutes of September 16, 2025, were presented. A motion was made by Alderman Sonnemaker and seconded by Alderman Gorman to approve the September 16, 2025, regular City Council meeting minutes. VOTES: Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, abstain; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

C. The minutes of the Police and Personnel Executive Session of September 22, 2025, were presented. A motion was made by Alderman Gain and seconded by Alderman Gorman to approve the September 22, 2025, minutes of the Police and Personnel Executive Session of September 22, 2025. VOTES: Loberg-Simmering, abstain; Gain, yes; Allison, abstain; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, abstain,

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Mayor Snyder, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

IV. HEARING OF CITIZENS

1. Abby Simmons - Halloween Movie at Jaycee's Park.
Abby of the Menard County Jaycee's proposed they be allowed to show a movie at Jaycee Park on October 18th at dusk.
A motion made by Alderman Gain seconded by Alderman Gorman to approve the showing of a movie at dusk (7:00-9:00pm) at Jaycee Park on the 18th of October. VOTES: Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. Fire Department

1. Fire Department Monthly Report was given by Chief Eric Hubner. The department had 23 calls for service in September. Also, the department received a FEMA, Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG) for approximately \$159,000. Petersburg will be responsible for 5% of the grant which is within the department's budget. The grant will be used, in part, to get air packs and bottles.
2. Vehicles Engine #1 and Command #1 are running well after repairs.
3. This week is fire prevention week, and the department will be visiting schools in the area to educate the students.
4. Chief Hubner brought up the idea of having a mechanism to declare a county wide fire ban to manage dry conditions like we are experiencing now. The council was in favor of having this idea brought forward to county officials. In the meantime, **the Fire and Police departments will issue a burn ban for the city, until further notice.** This does not include gas grills and the like.

B. Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report was given by Chief Mike Nichols. In September the department had 130 calls for assistance.

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2. The department will be getting a new squad car in a couple of weeks and then it will be upgraded with police equipment.

3. City Council moves to Executive Session regarding a personnel issue. A motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Gain to move to an Executive Session. VOTES: Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED at 7:35pm.

4. At 7:41pm, after discussions, a motion was made by Alderman Gain and seconded by Alderman Gorman to return to the Regular Session of the city council. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

C. Zoning Department

1. TIF Application for Kevin Thomas - Edward Jones building. This was cancelled and will be brought back during the November 4th city council meeting.

VI. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor

1. Discussion and Vote on Water Bills Late Fees. Changes in mail service have caused the water bills to arrive later than expected to water customers, last month. In some cases, residents did not get last month's bill at all or are just getting them with this month's bill. After discussion and since this month's mailing appears to be on time, no changes were made to the billing process.

2. Discussion and vote on Architecture Charges for the Old School Property. The city received a bill of approximately \$10K for engineering work that was not contracted. After discussion and advice from Attorney Brokaw a motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Sonnemaker to disapprove payment. VOTES: Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, abstain; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

3. Vote on Snedeker Risk Management Insurance Renewal. After discussion a motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve the renewal of insurance through Snedeker Risk Management. VOTES: Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes;

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Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

4. Vote on Property Sale of 221 E Washington Street. A homeowner would like to enlarge their property to be compliant with ordinances, for future improvements on their parcel. The property is approximately 108 feet by 39 feet in area and has little value to the city because of its topography and location. After discussion it was found that it would be cheaper and more efficient to vacate that strip of property than it would be to sell it. It was recognized that it will benefit the city if it vacates the property.

A motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Loberg-Simmering to approve the plan to vacate the strip of land requested, contingent upon the requestor completing the process for the land vacation. VOTES: Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A future council vote will be necessary to complete the process.

5. Set Halloween Hours. Halloween hours are 5:00 - 8:00pm on October 30th and 31st.

6. Bid Package for Old School Demolition. The bid package will be developed in-house with the help of Attorney Brokaw.

C. Treasurer

1. Treasurer Riley reported back about a question regarding the Jaycee Park Fund account that was brought up during the last city council meeting. Closure of the account will be added to the agenda of the November 4th council meeting.

VII OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussions were held on the bid from McHenry Construction regarding the replacement of windows in the city hall building. The council requested more information prior to approving the bid.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Gorman and seconded by Alderman Sonnemaker to adjourn the meeting. VOTES: Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED. Meeting Adjourned at 8:55

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p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ramage
City Clerk

Approved: October 21, 2025