

City Council Minutes
February 3, 2026

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 7:06 p.m.

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Members present were Mayor Rick Snyder, Aldermen Bruce Gorman, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Mike Allison, Rick Sonnemaker and Neil Conklin and Andrew Gain. Also present were 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 Gain and seconded by Alderman Loberg-Simmering to approve the agenda. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, 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 Gorman and seconded by Alderman Gain to accept the Warrant List and the Accounts Payable. VOTES: Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gain, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

B. The Regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2025, were presented. A motion was made by Alderman Sonnemaker and seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve the January 20, 2025, regular City Council meeting minutes. VOTES: Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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IV. HEARING OF CITIZENS

1. Nobody wanted to speak.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report was given by Chief Mike Nichols. In January the department had 132 calls for assistance, which is average for this time of year. The department is in the process of rehiring a former officer.
2. The department called for a Police Committee/Personnel meeting to discuss personnel issues. The council has agreed to have the meeting on Monday February 9, 2026, at 7:05pm.

1. Fire Department

1. Fire Department Monthly Report was given by Chief Eric Hubner. The department (PFD) had 23 calls for service in January with 10 calls being medical in nature. Two calls were for structural fires; four calls were for smoke detector/smoke scare issues and one outside trash/rubbish call.
2. Maintenance activities include the replacement of batteries on Tanker #1 and Engine #2 and getting quotes to repair the left front outrigger on Ladder Truck #1 that is leaking hydraulic fluid.
3. The chief represented the city and the fire department at the MABAS 48 division meeting in Chatham.
4. An insurance ISO review is scheduled for April 6th.

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C. Water and Sewer Department

1. Klingner Presentation on New Sewer Plant. Engineers Geoffrey Thompson and Ashkan Naghdi, from Klingner & Associates, presented solutions to wastewater issues that have been documented by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Two solutions were presented, the first required an extensive upgrade to the existing Lagoon system and the second was replacing the Lagoon system with a new Mechanical Plant. Pros and Cons of both systems were discussed, and it was recognized that the size and location of the existing system on the floodplain was a serious negative as was the apparent push from the state to get rid of Lagoon facilities in the state. The Mechanical Plant option provided better water quality but also was more expensive. Preliminary impressions from the council, by a show of hands, were that the Mechanical Plant option would be a better option for the city.

Funding for both options would come in part from the EPA's State Revolving Fund which provides loans and grants. The Klingner engineers believe the city is positioned well to get a large grant from the IEPA, along with loans with favorable interest rates. To determine where the city stands, related to loans and grants, it was recommended that the city provide preliminary paperwork to the IEPA. A motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Gain to approve the submittal of the Wastewater Project Planning Submittal Checklist and the Funding Nomination Form for Water Pollution Control Loan Program to the EPA. VOTES: Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes, Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

The Klingner team made the council aware that this process could take several years to complete, and it was complex in nature.

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VI. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor

1. Bid Openings for Demo of Old School. The mayor gave a status of the bids for demolition of the old grade school building. Next, the mayor called for the bids to be opened. Seven companies provided bids and because of the complexity involved it was determined that the council needed more time to evaluate the bids and that a special meeting would be the best method to make that determination. Therefore, a special meeting was scheduled for Monday February 9, 2026, at 7:00pm to select the best company.

2. The mayor reminded the council that he would be away for the next two council meetings, and that Megan Loberg-Simmering would be taking over for him during that time.

3. The mayor reported on a meeting with library personnel. A discussion followed.

2. Treasurer

1. No Report.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Gain and seconded by Alderman Allison to adjourn the meeting. VOTES: Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes, Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED. Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ramage
City Clerk
Approved: February 17, 2026,

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