City Council Minutes
September 1, 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 7:08p.m.

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Those present were Mayor Rick Snyder, Aldermen Bruce Gorman, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Mike Allison, Rick Sonnemaker and Neil Conklin. Andrew Gain was unavailable. Also, others present were Treasurer Melissa Riley, Attorney Jason Brokaw (7:11), City Secretary Tract Ceisler 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 Loberg-Simmering and seconded by Alderman Gorman to approve the agenda. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, 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 Loberg-Simmering to accept the Warrant List and the Accounts Payable, via an omnibus vote. VOTES: Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

B. The City Clerk presented the regular meeting minutes of the 8.18.26 city council meeting. After a review, a motion was made by Alderman Gorman and seconded by Alderman Allison to accept the 8.18.26 city council meeting minutes. VOTES: Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

IV. HEARING OF CITIZENS

1.Abby Simmons – Jaycee's Halloween Parade - Oct 24th.
Abby presented the Menard's County Jaycees plan for the Halloween Parade, with road closures. The parade will be on October 24th from 3:30pm - 6:00pm on the town square and environs. Road closures are Douglas Street, from 6th Street through 7th Street and 7th Street from Taylor through Sheridan. The actual parade will start near the Alliance Community Bank at 4:00pm.
A motion made by Alderman Sonnemaker seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve the Jaycee's Halloween Parade on October 24th and the associated street closures. VOTES: Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes, Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

2. Abby Simmons reminded folks that the upcoming Harvest Fest was on September 19th, 8:00am - 11:00pm. Road closures were for both Douglas and Jackson from 6th Street through 8th Street. Additionally, 7th Street, just south of Lincoln, through Sheridan. The parade will start at 10:30am.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. Police Department

1.The Police Department Monthly Report was given by Assistant Chief Royce Shamhart. The department responded to 212 calls for assistance for a wide variety of reasons. Assistant Chief Shamhart provided additional information on some policing activities.
-The police department received a check for $4,487.95 in relation to a grant for ballistic shields.
-Status was provided on issues for two police officers. A new part-time officer was doing very well, and another officer had a hearing in regard to his petition to the state.
- Assistant Chief Shamhart requested permission to sell pink police breast cancer awareness patches to raise funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The council and mayor didn't have any objections.

B. Fire Department

1.Fire Department Monthly Report was given by Chief Eric Hubner. The department had fifteen calls for service. Ten medical calls, one call for shorted electrical equipment, the rest of the calls were for a variety of reasons.
-The Foreign Fire Tax Board had the firehouse professionally power-washed, including gutters and downspouts. Additionally, new gear racks were purchased, that were formerly approved by the board.
-The department training last month was for Diabetic Emergencies and Apparatus Driver Training.
-On August 7th members of the department attended the Prelude Kids Center for their first annual Touch-A-Truck event. The kids were shown fire apparatus and fire safety material was distributed.
-The annual pancake and sausage breakfast will take place on September 19th, the same day as the Harvest Fest, from 7am - 10am.
-The department will hold their annual charity golf outing on September 12th at the Shambolee Gold Course.
-There will be the annual pump testing, this month.

C.Street Department

1.MFT & Road District #8 CD.
Background: Both the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) and District #8 city accounts have had CDs in a local bank that were earning interest on monies that were not needed at the moment. Over time the CDs were allowed to roll over to earn more interest. During budget planning sessions, council members wished to learn more about these CDs and how they could be used, so the city auditor was contacted for more details. City Auditor Feriozzi provided guidance in an email to Treasurer Riley which was shared with the council.
After discussion, it was determined to let the CDs stay as-is except a motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Allison to add Melissa Riley, Rick Snyder and Brian Whitehurst as signers for the CD's and change the name of both CD's by removing Chris Hinton from the title. VOTES: Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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VI. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor

1.Vote on Transfer of City Property to a Homeowner.
The council explored the idea of transferring a parcel of land that was not suitable for home building, to a citizen or citizens. Attorney Brokaw wanted additional information and no vote was taken.

VII.NEW BUSINESS

1. In earlier city council meetings members expressed the need for a new committee to talk over issues that require long-range planning and project prioritization, and that could later, be brought before the whole council. In this manner administrative issues could be solved/resolved prior to coming to the full council. During the discussion, it was mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce is working on a way to better communicate with the City Council and other city focused groups so that all could be on the same page regarding issues. After lengthy discussion it was determined to use the existing committee structure with additional communications and planning to serve the city appropriately. Attorney Brokaw recommended that cities plan for one year, five years, and 10 years into the future.

2.The city was notified that a Phase 1 Archeological Survey on the proposed site of the future new sewage treatment plant, was required. The additional cost will range from approximately $9,500 - $13,000.

2.City Secretary announced that the new computers have arrived and will be available for the next council meeting.

3.Treasurer Riley announced that the final payment for the water plan would be made on September 24,2026.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Conklin and seconded by Alderman Loberg-Simmering to adjourn the meeting. VOTES: Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED. Meeting Adjourned at 8:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Ramage
City Clerk

Approved September 15, 2026,

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