

**City Of New Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
January 5th, 2026**

The Council met in regular session on Monday January 5th, 2026, at 7:05 p.m. for the January council meeting.

Justin Strange was officially sworn in as Mayor through the end of December 2027. Lee Chandler was officially sworn in as Councilmember through the end of December 2029.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Chandler, Dunkin, Galivan, and Truman present. Absent Bailey.

Minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Old Business: There are issues with the pop machine at the GAMP building again. The cash mechanism is not accepting bills. However, it will accept quarters. The Atlantic Bottlers Representative will be contacted again about the pop machine not working appropriately.

The company that the City purchased the blinking red lights for the East Street stop signs will be replacing them free of charge due to the current ones not working correctly.

The New Virginia Sanitary Sewer Board will be looking into a sewer issue at 705 West Street.

Citizen Input: A citizen inquired if the City is ever going to consider asphaltting the remainder of South Street to G76 Highway. It currently is not planned to be asphalted anytime soon. The graveled portion of South Street will have gravel added to it.

There were numerous citizen inquires about fireworks at the end of the year and the first day of January. The Ordinance states that consumer fireworks can be discharged December 29 and December 30 from the hours of 5 pm until 9 pm; December 31 from the hours of 5 pm until 11:59 pm; and January 1 from the hours of 12 am – 12:30 am and 5 pm until 9 pm.

Fire Department Business: The fire department generator is not working, and the panel has an error code. Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to have Ziegler come down and service the generator and correct the error code on the panel. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Fire Chief Jake Zuercher will contact Ziegler to schedule an inspection and service of the generator.

Fire Chief Zuercher advised the Council he would like to appoint Mike Hagen to Fire Lieutenant. Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to appoint Mike Hagen to the position of Fire Lieutenant. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Zuercher inquired about removing the guard rail and sign down on the north side of the fire station cement apron. It was the Council's opinion to remove the guard rail and sign.

The quote for the fire station door locks was reviewed. After discussion, it was decided that Councilman Galivan will take on the fire station door lock project.

Kid Ride To School in a fire truck for an after prom fundraiser was discussed. The fundraiser project will be allowed.

Water Utilities discussed: The December water report from POM was reviewed. Water usage was 701,000 gallons averaging 23,000 gallons per day. Water testing is in compliance and on schedule with IDNR testing requirements.

Law Enforcement: – The Sheriff’s Report for the month of December was reviewed. There were 21 calls for service received or initiated by Deputies for the month. Officers spent in excess of 42 hours in the City of New Virginia for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 142 miles within the city limits for the month of December.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Truman to pass and approve Resolution 2026-01 – A RESOLUTION NAMING CITY STATE BANK AND IOWA PUBLIC TRUST AGENCY INVESTMENT TRUST (IPAIT) DEPOSITORIES OF CITY FUNDS. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Chandler to pass and approve Resolution 2026-02 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING PAY PER FIRE AND EMS REPORTS ENTERED IN EMERGENCY SERVICES SOFTWARE. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chandler moved, seconded by Truman to designate the Indianola RHT/Independent Advocate as official paper for publication of city budget, State of Iowa Annual Financial Report, ordinances, and other necessary legal publications for 2026. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Chandler to designate the Tri Corner Express as official paper for publication of city council meeting minutes, public notices, and other legal publications for 2026. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Chandler to re-appoint Brent Hinders as City Attorney for the City of New Virginia for 2026.

Galivan moved, seconded by Dunkin to pass and approve Resolution 2026-03 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF 503 WEST STREET, NEW VIRGINIA, IOWA, AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO CLOSE REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The 2026-27 city budget was discussed. It was determined sidewalk removal will be the first priority and the walking/biking trail will be the second priority. Sidewalks in areas of school bus stops were discussed with the possibility of grants (Safe Route To School) to help with this project. The City Attorney will be consulted about big dollar budget purchases and the ramifications of House File 718 on these budget items.

GAMP UPDATE

There will be a truck pull this summer. It will be scheduled for Saturday, June 27th.

GAMP rentals will be kept online. It will be looked into for auto-forward emails to Kim McWilliams for rental inquiries and a work flow that works for Kim.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL/HOMETOWN PRIDE UPDATE

Upcoming Events in 2026: January 11th – Music Jam 2-5 p.m. @ GAMP Community Bldg.; February 22nd, (Tentative) – Music Jam 2-5 p.m. @ GAMP Community Bldg.; March 8th – Music Jam 2-5 p.m. @ GAMP Community Bldg.; Spring – Country Dance? Contra Dance? The Committee is looking for new avenues for getting information out to the public. New merchandise considerations include T-shirts and stickers.

ELF CLUB

The Christmas lights and displays have been taken down. The star on the tree will be removed in January or February. Alliant Energy has turned the flood lights in Old Settlers Park back on.

TRI CORNER EXPRESS

Fund balance \$16880.15. No new information to present to the Council.

Renting out the Lions Hall was discussed. It needs to be confirmed if the Lions Club already has rentals scheduled for this year and honor them. The Lions Bingo Nights will be scheduled and an upcoming scrapbooking event. The scheduling will be done just like the GAMP Building but at a lesser amount - \$100.00 full day; \$75.00 half day; \$25.00/hour; deposit \$100.00.

Mayor Strange advised he was contacted by Mande Shivers and he met with her. She will be running for the Iowa State Senate District 11 seat. She is interested in attending a future council meeting to get the Council and Mayor’s input on government issues and local issues.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Galivan to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Dunkin moved, seconded by Galivan to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

The February council meeting is scheduled for Monday February 2nd, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
February meeting date – Monday February 2nd, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Baughman

Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk