

**City of Bates City**  
**Minutes of Board of Aldermen Meeting**

Thursday February 5, 2026  
7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
203 N Second Street  
Bates City, MO 64011

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**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Hilbrenner led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor, Darren Hilbrenner

**Roll Call:** Present: Diana Rickey- Alderwoman  
Jo Hilbrenner- Alderwoman  
Mike Brown- Alderman  
Emmitt Rickey- Alderman

A quorum was present

**City Employees Present:** City Clerk, Charity Eaton; City Collector/Court Clerk, Darlene Jones; Chief MacKay; James Newell City Attorney.

**Others Present:** Ken & Jane Beal; Dave Eaton; Mark & Misty Leatherman; Jim Dorhauer; Clarence Rickey

**Public Comments:** Mr. Dorhauer spoke in opposition to placing the city name on the bridge during the I-70 expansion project. Mr. and Mrs. Leatherman shared similar opinions. Mr. Clarence Rickey opposed it as well.

**Announcements:** Mayor Hilbrenner reminded attendees that City Hall would be closed February 16<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.

**Consent Agenda:** Board members reviewed meeting minutes from the January 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session and Closed Session as well as minutes from the January 21<sup>st</sup> Special Session.

January financials and bills paid were reviewed.

Alderman Brown made a motion to approve the consent agenda with Alderwoman Hilbrenner seconding the motion. Alderman Rickey abstained from the vote to approve the January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes- he was absent from that meeting

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

Consent Agenda Minutes from January 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, Closed Session, and Financials approved 3-0

Minutes from January 21<sup>st</sup> Special Session approved 4-0

Old Business

FIRST reading and vote on Bill No. 2026-03 **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF BATES CITY, MISSOURI AND PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY #1.**

A brief discussion regarding the MOU and what it meant for water service to future annexed properties was discussed. City Attorney, James Newell explained that the water district had water rights to most areas surrounding the city and would be federally protected. Alderman Rickey asked if the city could do anything to get water rights to properties and Mr. Newell explained that it was very difficult to do so and involved negotiations, and purchasing the rights.

With no further questions a motion to approve the First reading was made by Alderman Rickey and seconded by Alderwoman Hilbrenner.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

First reading approved 4-0

SECOND reading and vote on Bill No. 2026-03 **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF BATES CITY, MISSOURI AND PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY #1.**

Alderwoman Hilbrenner moved to approve the SECOND reading of Bill No. 2026-03. Alderman Rickey seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

Second reading approved 4-0. Bill No. 2026-03 passes to become Ordinance 5177

A discussion regarding the city placing its name on the new bridge during the I-70 expansion projects occurred with board members having mixed opinions. Two prices were given to board members. One for a basic style name estimated to cost approximately \$35,000 with a second option costing approximately \$53,700. A motion was made by Alderman Brown to approve the \$35,000 option with Alderwoman Hilbrenner seconding the motion.

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ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Nay
Alderman Brown	Nay	Alderman Rickey	Aye

The vote was a tie. Mayor Hilbrenner broke the tie with a Nay vote.

Motion failed 3-2

During the January 21, 2026 Special Session meeting, Clearwater Solutions presented their proposal for service to the board members. The city’s current contracted company, O&M Enterprises, for water and sewer maintenance, meter reading, and DNR compliancy is in the process of selling the company due to the owner’s upcoming retirement. Clearwater Solutions will be taking over after Tony Lerda’s retirement. Board members reviewed the contract for services and had no questions.

A motion to approve the contract was made by Alderwoman Hilbrenner and seconded by Alderman Brown.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

Motion to approve the Clearwater Solutions contract passed 4-0

**New Business:**

**FIRST reading and vote on Bill NO. 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BATES CITY, COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF MISSOURI; ESTABLISHING THE SAME; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN, EXCEPT AS HEREIN EXPRESSLY PROVIDED; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; AND PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.**

Clerk Eaton explained that Bill 2023-02 was an ordinance adopting the annual update to the city codes. Board members had no questions.

Motion to approve the FIRST reading was made by Alderman Rickey and seconded by Alderman Brown.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

First reading approved 4-0

**SECOND reading and vote on Bill NO. 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BATES CITY, COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF MISSOURI; ESTABLISHING THE SAME; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN, EXCEPT AS HEREIN EXPRESSLY PROVIDED; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; AND PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.**

Motion to approve the SECOND reading was made by Alderwoman Hilbrenner and seconded by Alderman Rickey.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

Second reading approved 4-0. Bill No. 2026-02 passes to become Ordinance 5176

Discussion and approval of Resolution 01-2026, **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR, DARLENE JONES, ACCESS TO ONLINE BANKING AND TO CALL, SEEK INQUIRIES, AND RECEIVE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE BATES CITY MUNICIPAL COURT'S BANK ACCOUNT**

Motion to approve Resolution 01-2026 was made by Alderwoman Hilbrenner with Alderman Rickey seconding the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

**Staff Reports:**

- City Clerk- included in packet
- City Collector & Court Administrator- included in packet
- Water & Sewer- included in packet
- Streets- Eaton Transport cleared all city streets of snow after the recent snow fall. No issues or concerns reported.
- Police- included in packet.

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With all public business complete a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to the following provisions:

- 610.021(1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys; and/or*
- 610.021(3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded; and/or*
- 610.021(13) individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees*

was made by Alderman Brown with Alderwoman Hilbrenner seconding the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

Motion approved 4-0

Board members entered closed session at 8:06 p.m.

At the conclusion of the closed session business a motion to return to open session was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderwoman Hilbrenner.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

Motion approved 4-0

Board members returned to open session at 9:28 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

With all City business completed, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Brown with Alderwoman Hilbrenner seconding the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Alderwoman Rickey	Aye	Alderwoman Hilbrenner	Aye
Alderman Brown	Aye	Alderman Rickey	Aye

Motion approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:34 p.m.

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APPROVED:

Darren Hilbrenner  
Darren Hilbrenner, Mayor

3/12/2026  
Date

ATTEST:

Charity Eaton  
Charity Eaton, City Clerk

3/12/26  
Date

