

July 28, 2025

The West Bend City Council met in regular session at City Hall on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Pro Tem Linda Thilges presiding. Mayor Kimberly Johnson was absent.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Roll call of the City Council was answered by Joe Montag, Chris Newton, Grant Gearhart, Linda Thilges and Brooke Winkelhorst. Also present for the meeting were ISG Engineer, Guadelupe Munoz Rocha and Gas/Public Works Foreman, Trevor Bruhn.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Chris Newton, seconded by Joe Montag to approve the agenda of the meeting. Roll call of vote, all present voting in the affirmative. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Brooke Winkelhorst, seconded by Grant Gearhart to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Roll call of vote, all present voting in the affirmative. Motion carried.

THIRD READING OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WEST BEND, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTION 99.01, SUBSECTION 1, PERTAINING TO SEWER SERVICE CHARGES:

Moved by Chris Newton, seconded by Joe Montag to approve the third reading of the proposed ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WEST BEND, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTION 99.01, SUBSECTION 1, PERTAINING TO SEWER SERVICE CHARGES. Roll call of vote, "Ayes" – Joe Montag, Chris Newton, Grant Gearhart, Linda Thilges, Brooke Winkelhorst; "Nays" – None. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WEST BEND, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTION 99.01, SUBSECTION 1, PERTAINING TO SEWER SERVICE CHARGES:

Moved by Joe Montag, seconded by Brooke Winkelhorst to adopt the proposed ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WEST BEND, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTION 99.01, SUBSECTION 1, PERTAINING TO SEWER SERVICE CHARGES. Roll call of vote, "Ayes" – Joe Montag, Chris Newton, Grant Gearhart, Linda Thilges, Brooke Winkelhorst; "Nays" – None. Motion carried. Mayor assigned Ordinance #303. Said Ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law. Ordinance shall be published on July 31st with rates effective on August 1st.

ISG COUNCIL & STAFF UPDATES:

ISG Engineer, Guadelupe Munoz Rocha was present at the meeting to give the City Council updates on the different projects they are working on for the City. The Facility Plan for the Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project will be filed with the DNR by the end of July. There may be a need for a temporary easement during the construction phase of the wastewater improvements. Easements obtained during the 1997 lagoon construction were submitted to ISG for review. It is thought that the same legal description of the temporary easement could be used for the Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project. A map showing the area being proposed will be provided to the City by ISG. The Gas/Public Works Department will contact the current property owner to see if they are open to providing the easement. The Well No. 8 Project is moving forward. SCE has submitted all of the documents needed for BABA compliance. They will begin construction on their portion of the Well No. 8 Project in the near future. Eggers Electric still needs to comply with the BABA regulations. Water samples for the new well did not meet the EPA standards allowed for the "Gross Alpha" composite. The results must be lower than 15 pCi/L. ISG recommended that the well be further developed in order to pump water to waste for a longer period of time. Water tests can then be conducted to see what the City's next step will be.

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR WEST BEND WELL NO. 8 PROJECT:

Sargent Drilling submitted Change Order No. 2 for the Well No.8 Project to perform a 7-day pump test because of the “Gross Alpha” water test results. The cost for this was \$54,818.00. ISG did not recommend approval of Change Order No. 2. It is thought that the City can perform its own pump testing after the well is developed. The City Council did not act on this agenda item.

SITESCAPES QUOTATION – ENCLOSED GARBAGE CONTAINER LIDS:

Moved by Chris Newton, seconded by Joe Montag to approve the quotation submitted by Sitescapes, in the amount of \$1,845.00, for enclosed garbage container lids and to authorize the City Clerk to issue a 50% down payment when placing the order. Roll call of vote, all present voting in the affirmative. Motion carried.

SALE OF 2006 FORD F150 PICKUP TRUCK:

Mayor Pro Tem Linda Thilges opened the bids that were received for the 2006 Ford F150 Pickup offered for sale by the City. The following bids were received:

Keith Laubenthal \$3,500.00

Levi Zaugg (Kurt Zaugg) \$3,111.00

Angela Guzman \$2,800.00

Moved by Joe Montag, seconded by Grant Gearhart to accept the bid submitted by Keith Laubenthal for the purchase of the City's 2006 Ford F150 Pickup Truck, in the amount of \$3,500.00. Roll call of vote, all present voting in the affirmative. Motion carried.

GAS/PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS REPORT:

Gas/Public Works Foreman, Trevor Bruhn prepared the Gas/Public Works Operations Report for the City Council to review. Employees have completed a cathodic protection survey, repaired the pool vacuum cart, repaired plumbing at the Water Plant, read meters, sprayed weeds, swept streets, mowed, taken samples and performed numerous miscellaneous tasks.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES:

Council Member Linda Thilges stated that the last Kossuth County EMA Meeting was postponed. Kossuth County Waste Management will be holding their annual meeting on Tuesday, July 29th. Council Member Chris Newton will attend the meeting if the Mayor is unable to. Council Member Joe Montag reported on a meeting with Greg Fritz of NIMECA. Corn Belt Power Cooperative has been discussing the feasibility of constructing another transmission line to serve West Bend. There is probably going to be the need for a new substation and additional diesel engines for generation.

COUNCIL REPORT:

The City Council suggested that something be put in the next Mayor's monthly news article encouraging the public's use of the dog waste stations to dispose of pet feces. Information pertaining to the WS#4 Cash Request for the month of August was included in the Council packets. K/PAEDC Director, Tod Faris is willing to facilitate a Community Visioning Program for the City of West Bend. The West Bend Public Library prepared a Strategic Plan and updated Library Director Job Description. Cornwell, Frideres, Maher and Associates were hired to complete the City's audit for FY25. Their letter of engagement was reviewed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Council Member Brooke Winkelhorst requested that the Police Chief contact Travis Goeders about the condition of his property.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Grant Gearhart, seconded by Joe Montag to adjourn the meeting to Monday, August 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Roll call of vote, all present voting in the affirmative. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

/s/ Lisa Sewell
City Clerk

/s/ Linda Thilges
Mayor Pro Tem