

January 19, 2026  
City Council Minutes  
213 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW  
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

The Mount Vernon City Council met January 19, 2026, at City Hall, 213 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW, Mount Vernon, IA. A Zoom option was available. The following Council members were present: Engel, Rose, Hansen Player and Andresen. Absent: Tuerler.

**Call to Order.** At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Thomas M. Wieseler called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Additions/Agenda Approval.** The Oath of Office for Lucas Wagner was added. Section H - the Mayoral Proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness Month was moved ahead of Section E (Public Hearing Section) on the agenda. Motion made by Rose, seconded by Andresen to approve the Agenda. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

**Consent Agenda.** Motion made by Rose, seconded by Hansen Player to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Approval of City Council Minutes – January 5, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

Approval of Liquor License – Glyn Mawr Winery – The Local

Appoint Lori Lynch, Michelle Omar, Michelle Zaruba, Jennifer Lee – LMVAS Board

Appoint Kim Benesh, Grace Chamberlain – Historic Preservation Commission

Appoint Bob Campagna – Parks and Rec Commission

Appoint Scott Rose – Mayor Pro Tem

### **Mayoral Proclamation**

Proclamation Establishing January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month.

Representatives with Chains Interrupted were in attendance as Mayor Wieseler read the proclamation into the record.

### **Public Hearing**

Public Hearing on an Ordinance Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its Successors and Assigns, a Non-Exclusive Twenty-Five Year Franchise to Acquire, Construct, Erect, Maintain, and Operate an Electric Power and Transmission System in the City of Mount Vernon, Iowa. Council previously voted to approve this ordinance; however, due to a discrepancy in the Sun Newspaper on days lapsed, staff are bringing it back before Council to ensure it cannot be challenged or invalidated on a technicality. Mayor Wieseler opened the public hearing at 6:47 pm. Hearing no public comment, Mayor Wieseler closed the public hearing at 6:48 p.m. Council then acted on Ordinance #1-19-2026A.

Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending Article Ten, Sign Regulations of the Municipal Code of Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Mayor Wieseler opened the public hearing at 6:50 pm. City Planner Bradbury summarized the recommendations for removal of language from the ordinance from the Planning and Zoning Commission not included in the council packet. There was no public comment, Mayor Wieseler closed the public hearing at 6:52 p.m. Council then acted on Ordinance #1-19-2026B.

### **Ordinance Approval/Amendment**

Ordinance #1-19-2026A: Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its Successors and Assigns, a Non-Exclusive Twenty-Five Year Franchise to Acquire, Construct, Erect, Maintain, and Operate an Electric Power and Transmission System in the City of Mount Vernon, Iowa. Since it had been previously voted on

and approved, a motion was made by Engel, seconded by Rose to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1-19-2026A, roll call all yes. Tuerler Absent. A motion was made to waive the second reading and proceed to the third and final reading of Ordinance #1-19-2026A, a motion was made by Rose, seconded by Engel, roll call all yes. Tuerler absent. Ordinance passes its third and final reading.

Ordinance #1-19-2026B: Amending Chapter 165 Zoning Regulations, Article 10, Sections 1003 and 1005 and Tables 1010-A, -B, -C, -D to the Mt. Vernon Municipal Code. Sandwich board signs permitted for use in the Central Business and Town Center districts and to be removed during events for pedestrian safety. Neon-type "open" signs permitted for use in the Central Business, Town Center and the three commercial districts. Internally lit cabinet signs are not permitted within the Central Business District. Correction of formatting errors on Tables 1010-A, -B, -C and -D. Motion made by Andresen, seconded by Hansen Player to approve the first reading of Ordinance #1-19-2026B. Roll call all yes. Tuerler absent. Ordinance passes the first reading.

## **Resolutions**

Resolution #1-19-2026A: Setting a Public Hearing Date to Approve the Purchase/Sale Agreement of 1040 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW (Old Public Works Site) as Required by Iowa Code Section 364.7. Nosbisch noted that the resolution may need to be revised, as the bond attorney may want to include additional state-required language specifically citing the code section that authorizes the action within the resolution. However, this does not change that Council is setting a public hearing date for the sale. Because the current Public Works building is located within an urban renewal area, the City must follow specific state code requirements, including providing notice and holding a public hearing. Motion made by Rose, seconded by Andresen to approve Resolution #1-19-2026A. Roll call all yes. Tuerler absent. Resolution passes.

## **Motions for Approval**

Consideration of Claims List – Motion to Approve. Motion made by Engel, seconded by Rose to approve the Claims List. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

PAYROLL	CLAIMS	
RATHJE CONSTRUCTION	PAY APP #1-RACHEL STREET	156,240.51
RATHJE CONSTRUCTION	PAY APP #2-RACHEL STREET	112,795.72
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	GROUP INSURANCE-ALL DEPTS	76,400.60
REPUBLIC SERVICES #897	GB,RECYL-SW RESIDENTIAL	35,488.21
LINN COUNTY SHERIFF	DISPATCH FEE-PD	25,300.72
REPUBLIC SERVICES #897	GB,RECYL-SW COMMERCIAL	22,003.58
LEASE SERVICING CENTER, INC	EQUIP LEASE-LBC	15,468.45
UNDER HILL TRUCK & AUTO REPAIR	VEHICLE MAINT-FD	8,464.61
IOWA ASSOC OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	SGEI MEMBERSHIP-PW	4,420.06
US BANK	CREDIT CARD PURCHASES-ALL DEPTS	3,888.14
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	INSURANCE CLAIMS-ALL DEPTS	3,700.70
H2I GROUP	BLDG MAINT-LBC	3,198.01
STATE HYGIENIC LAB	TESTING-SEW	3,000.00
HY-VEE	ACADEMY MEALS-PD	2,954.50
JOHNSON, MIRMIRAN & THOMPSON	DESIGN GUIDELINES-HPC	2,865.00
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	MONTHLY MAINT-PD	2,370.37
BANKCARD 8076	CREDIT CARD FEES-LBC,P&REC	1,863.08
RED LION RENEWABLES	SOLAR ELECTRIC-P&A,PD,LBC	1,137.05
PITNEY BOWES	METER POSTAGE-ALL DEPTS	1,095.42
STARNET TECHNOLOGIES	LIFT STATION ALARMS-SEW	1,000.00
AMERICAN RED CROSS	TRAINING-LBC,POOL	960.00
DE NOVO MARKETING	WEBSITE/HUBSPOT SUPPORT-ALL DEPTS	890.00
		825.00

LYNCH DALLAS PC	LEGAL FEES-P&A	507.50
SHERWIN WILLIAMS	SUPPLIES-PW FACILITIES	505.14
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-LBC	489.56
US CELLULAR	CELL PHONE-PD	399.20
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	EQUIP-P&A	391.04
MENARDS	BLDG MAINT-BRINE SHED	387.85
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	COMPUTER MAINT-PD	385.00
INTERMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS	PHONE SERVICES-CITY HALL	351.94
BRADLEY HAUGE	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-ALL DEPTS	325.00
DE NOVO MARKETING	WEBSITE SUPPORT-LBC	325.00
GARY'S FOODS	SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	302.94
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-LBC	301.82
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS INC	ADS/PUBLICATIONS-HPC	287.28
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	UNIFORMS-PD	230.00
KONICA MINOLTA PREMIER FINANCE	COPIER LEASE-LBC	220.54
CRITICAL HIRE, PLC	TESTING-PD	200.00
PITNEY BOWES	POSTAGE SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	182.58
MENARDS	SHOP SUPPLIES-PW	177.02
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING	SUPPLIES-LBC	159.50
AIRGAS INC	CYLINDER RENTAL-PW	147.65
TECH SOLUTIONS	FIRE ALARM MONITORING-LBC	136.35
BANKCARD 8076	REFUND-LBC	112.54
MIDWEST WHEEL CO	SUPPLIES-PW	104.97
CUSTOM HOSE & SUPPLIES INC	VEHICLE MAINT-WAT	97.34
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-CITY HALL	90.35
CYPRESS SOLUTIONS	SUBSCRIPTION-PD	78.75
RANDY COOPER	MAILBOX-RUT	74.99
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER/SALT-ALL DEPTS	67.50
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS INC	ADS/PUBLICATIONS-PD	67.40
STAPLES INC	SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	56.66
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	47.98
KONICA MINOLTA PREMIER FINANCE	COPIER USAGE-PD	47.89
HDC PRINTED PRODUCTS	FORMS-P&A	20.00
P&K MIDWEST INC	EQUIP MAINT-RUT	6.30
FORGE FIRE & COMPANY	EQUIP-FD TRAINING FACILITY	11,050.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	NEW SOFTWARE UPGRADE-ALL DEPTS	5,395.00
TOTAL TREE CARE OF IOWA CITY	TREE MAINT-RUT	4,400.00
PAYROLL	CLAIMS	2,795.81
HENDERSON PRODUCTS INC	EQUIP MAINT-RUT	1,098.56
BARNYARD SCREEN PRINTER LLC	T-SHIRTS/UNIFORMS-P&REC,LBC	1,066.00
VERMEER SALES & SERVICE INC	CHIPPER REPAIRS-SW	455.02
ROUNDABOUT REPAIR SHOP LLC	VEHICLE MAINT-P&REC,PD	427.94
RICKARD SIGN AND DESIGN CORP	SIGN-CITY HALL	305.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-LBC	269.83
HDC PRINTED PRODUCTS	CHECKS-ALL DEPTS	248.74
MENARDS	MATERIALS-PW FACILITIES	105.09
MENARDS	SUPPLIES-RUT	42.66
HAWKINS INC	CHEMICALS-WAT	40.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-P&REC	36.54
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER/SALT-PD	13.75
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>521,365.25</b>

**FUND EXPENSE TOTALS**

RACHEL STREET	189,196.32
GENERAL FUND	74,614.40
SOLID WASTE	44,512.00
LBC	21,040.04
SEWER FUND	12,012.22
WATER FUND	8,240.29
ROAD USE TAX FUND	11,386.25
STORM WATER FUND	1,317.87
PW FACILITIES	610.23
PAYROLL	158,435.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>521,365.25</b>

Discussion and Consideration of the Replacement of Amplifiers - LBC – Council Action as Needed. RC Tech originally anticipated that the existing amplifiers would be compatible with the newly installed control panels in the community room and fitness studio; however, they were found to be incompatible. As a result, new amplifiers were required for the system to function properly. Motion by Rose, seconded by Andresen, to approve Change Order #1 for new amplifiers for the LBC in the amount of \$2,086.04. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Engineering Services Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Phase 2 – Process Monitoring – Council Action as Needed. V&K Engineering submitted a services agreement for the IDNR-required Phase 2 nutrient reduction project at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, which includes evaluating and analyzing existing conditions to help identify and anticipate the necessary updates and compliance requirements. Motion by Engel, seconded by Andresen, to approve Engineering Services Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Phase 2. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Spray Foam Insulation for the Bryant Rd. Public Works Building – Council Action as Needed. With the potential purchase of the existing public works building coming up, the north building at the new public works site needs to be insulated along with heat added in the shop area. Motion by Rose, seconded by Player Hansen, to approve Estimate #1029 from Classic Spray Foam Insulation Inc. in the amount of \$38,713.08. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Tube Heater System for the Bryant Rd. Public Works Building – Council Action as Needed. Motion by Engel, seconded by Andresen, to approve Estimate #1427 from 8 Finger HVAC in the amount of \$15,960. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Discussion and Consideration of a Locker Purchase for the Bryant Rd. Public Works Building – Council Action as Needed. This is for individual locker storage for staff. Motion by Rose, seconded by Andresen, to approve the Salsbury Industries quote in the amount of \$6,600. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Discussion and Consideration of JMT Invoice #6-276762 – HPC Design Guidelines – Council Action as Needed. Motion by Rose, seconded by Hansen Player, to approve JMT Invoice #6-276762 in the amount of \$2,269.68. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Change Order #10 – 2025 Pool Renovations Project – Council Action as Needed. There were workdays included in the original project cost that were not needed/used. Motion by Andresen, seconded by Engel, to approve Change Order #10 providing a credit to the City of Mount Vernon in the amount of \$79,958.64. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Pay Application #1 – Rachel Street Improvements – Council Action as Needed. There is a significant amount of work being done on the Rachel Street Project as a result of the recent warmer weather. Motion by Engel, seconded by Andresen, to approve Pay Application #1 in the amount of \$112,795.72. Motion carries. Tuerler absent.

**Reports to be Received/Filed.** Reports available on the City website in the January 19, 2026 Council Packet.

Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Police Report

Mt. Vernon Public Works Report

Mt. Vernon Parks and Rec Report

Cole Library Report

Cemetery Commission Annual Report 2025

#### **Discussion Items (No Action)**

Sue Astley (former chair) gave an update on the Historic Preservation Guidelines. Randy Brown is the new Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission. JMT did great work and stayed right on budget with this project. Sue thanked the City Council for approving the \$16,000 allocation, which covered approximately three-quarters of the cost to update the guidelines, with the remaining balance funded through the HPC annual budget. Sue also expressed appreciation to Chris Nosbisch for successfully negotiating an agreement with JMT, noting that it was a complex and involved process. In addition, she thanked Leigh Bradbury for reviewing and editing the guidelines, and Paul Tuerler for serving as the liaison for the HPC Guidelines. A total of ten requests for proposals were distributed, with four responses received. The HPC subcommittee—comprised of Randy Brown, Edith Dawson, Duane Ash, and Wade Squiers—reviewed the submissions and provided a recommendation on the firm they believed was the best fit. Sue explained how historic districts are established and why it's important to preserve façades that reflect the architectural style of their historical period. Without proper maintenance, the district risks losing its distinctive character and historic value. She outlined what the new guidelines consist of. Nosbisch clarified that the existing Historic Preservation ordinance allows the HPC to adopt design guidelines without requiring City Council approval. The guidelines fall under the authority of the Historic Preservation Commission, with any appeals being presented to the City Council. The Historic Preservation Commission has already voted to approve the new guidelines, and they are ready for implementation and posting on the HPC website.

#### **Reports of Mayor/Council/Administrator**

December Reconciliation Report. Full report available on the City website in the January 19, 2026 Council Packet.

Quarterly Expense Fund Balance Report. Full report available on the City website in the January 19, 2026 Council Packet.

Mayor's Report. Wieseler noted the Council could consider moving the next meeting from February 16 to February 18 due to Presidents Day falling on Monday. The Mayor reported that he will attend a Linn County Emergency Management meeting tomorrow via Zoom. Wieseler asked if anyone had any topics they would like to present at the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference, scheduled for Fall 2026 in Bettendorf. An ECICOG item was also discussed, including a submission from Eldy Miller of Ely regarding property tax revenue—specifically where funds originate and how they are allocated. Miller provided a copy of Ely's information along with comparisons to neighboring communities, including Mount Vernon.

City Administrator's Report. Full report available on the City website in the January 19, 2026 Council Packet.

As there was no further business to attend to, the meeting adjourned, the time being 7:41 p.m., January 19, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Boren  
Assistant City Administrator