

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council
Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Members present: Sander, Prokosch, Lingl, Schneider, Leach

A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Leach to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve a land use permit for Rham Apartments (storage shed). Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to approve a land use permit for Tim Hegna (fence). Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve a land use permit for Teri DeSmith (gazebo). Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Leach and seconded by Schneider to approve a land use permit for Bill Rodel (sunroom addition). Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve a land use permit for Bird Island Lions Club (storm shelter/bathroom) to be built at the Lion's way side rest park. Passed unanimously.

Open Forum Steve Dobmeier was present to request the Council allow him to continue living in the building located at 115 South Main Street. Mayor Sander stated the issue is when Dobmeier first approached the Council to request a variance to live in the business, the variance was denied. Dobmeier ignored the decision from the Council and proceeded to use the business building as a residence. Currently the property is on the blight list. Dobmeier stated he is trying to clean up the nuisance but is struggling with other aspects of the business that are higher priority.

Law Enforcement Deputy Swyter reviewed the quarterly law enforcement report with the Council. First round of blight letters have been mailed and roughly 50% of the properties have complied. Second notifications will be mailed soon.

Ball Park Complex Mike Nagel, president of the BOLD Baseball/Softball Association, was present to discuss changes with the layout of the proposed fastpitch softball field addition to the current ball park complex. The new design will now reverse the placement of the home plates making them back-to-back in the center of the area. Nagel stated this revision will provide more green space for St. Mary's School to use. The permanent fence will still be installed on the north field. A temporary removable fence will be installed on the south field and will only be used during games. There will be cement walking paths connecting all of the fields together that will tie in with the current walking track. The press box may still be modified to be used with the new north softball field. Construction will begin in July 2026. Water will be trenched in to the Lily Pad so it can be used as a concession stand. Hopefully bathrooms will be added in the future. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to accept the revised plan as presented. Passed unanimously.

Nagel then proceeded to question specifics about charging gas to the city for mowing the ball park as stated in the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Bird Island and BOLD Schools. The agreement states "Mowing, trimming and weed control services on both properties will be provided via a contract with the BOLD Baseball Association or the School staff." The Ball Park Complex Contract with The City of Bird Island, BOLD School, and BOLD Baseball Association states the Baseball Organization "will take over mowing responsibilities from the School." Nagel did not respond when asked why the City's portion of the Ball Park Complex Contract was increased in 2023 and what the increase was used for. The City Administrator stated she is enforcing the current agreements as they are written. Nagel believes the agreements need to be revised because what is stated in the signed agreements and what he believes has been done in the past are two different things. Prokosch volunteered to make a donation of \$500 to the BOLD Baseball/Softball Association to pay for gas for the 2026 season. The Complex Contract and Joint Powers Agreement will be revisited prior to 2027 season. Nagel stated the City of Olivia charges teams to use their fields and claims they do not make improvements. He would like to see the new fields in Bird Island be free for teams to use.

Nagel expressed his confusion completing the building and land use permits for the project. He will work with the Administrator and the City's Building Inspector to complete these tasks. The City will cover the cost of the building and land use permits.

In November, the BOLD Baseball Association will be putting in a bid for hosting the state amateur tournament in 2030. The tournament would take place the three weekends before Labor Day 2030.

- Learning Funhouse The Mn Department of Children, Youth, and Families is requesting proposals that include renovation of facilities for early childhood learning programs under the Early Childhood Facilities Grant Program. It has been determined that a project to convert the Learning Funhouse existing fluorescent lighting to LED lighting would qualify for this funding opportunity. Mark Glesener, President of the Learning Funhouse, asked for the Council's permission to continue with the grant process due to the City owning the building. The City would be responsible for initiating the request and would be the fiduciary agent if the grant is awarded. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider for the City to be the grantee on the lighting project for the Learning Funhouse. Passed unanimously.
- Public Works Thompson reviewed his monthly report with the Council. Items discussed included: Pickleball courts, mowing, and spraying for weeds. A bathroom door was damaged when someone forced it open and needs to be repaired. Bathrooms will be open between the hours of 8 AM and 10 PM daily. The Burn Site will only be open during posted hours due to people leaving unauthorized items. Residents are encouraged to only have their trash carts on the street on trash pick-up day to make street sweeping easier.
- Fire Department Chief John Thompson, stated the fire department needs to order hoses. In the past the city has not billed for hoses damaged during fire calls. He will ask other fire departments what they do about billing for equipment damaged during fire calls. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve purchase to replace damaged fire hoses. Passed unanimously. Two townships have responded to the funding request for the new pumper truck. Thompson will follow up with the remaining townships.
- City Hall RFP The current condition municipal building/fire hall was discussed and the Council was in support of a needs study/request for proposal (RFP) for a remodel/upgrade to the fire hall and City offices.
- Resolution 2-26 A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to approve Resolution 2-26: A Resolution Governing Write-In Vote Counting. Passed unanimously.
- Election Judges A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to adopt Resolution 3-26, approving the 2026 list of election judges. Passed unanimously.
- Street Closures A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Schneider to approve the temporary street closures for Island Days events. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Leach to approve the temporary street closure on Ash Avenue between Main Street and the alley behind the Funhouse on Tuesday, May 26th from 3:30 – 5:30 PM for Toward Zero Death's Car Seat Check Event. Passed unanimously. A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Prokosch to approve the street closure for the Farmer's Market on Dogwood Avenue from Main Street to 6th Street, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays starting June 3rd until September 2nd, 2026 with the exception of August 12th. Passed unanimously.
- PFML Reform A motion was made by Lingl and seconded by Leach to approve signature of the MN Mayor support letter for Paid Family Medical Leave reform. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Tracey Ahl, City Administrator