City of Wyoming
Council Meeting
May 12, 2026

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor James Mercer at 6:02 p.m. Those in attendance pledged their Allegiance to the Flag. The Wyoming Illinois City Council met Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the Paramount Theater located at 104 S. 7th Street, Wyoming IL, in Regular Session. Alderpersons, Carolyn Conover and Carol Potter of the First Ward, Michelle Owens and Dave Lindahl of the Second Ward, and Steve Hansard and Dan Hardman of the Third Ward were all present.

Citizens wishing to be heard.

Trent Frisby, owner of The Lounge, addressed the Council regarding concerns about law enforcement presence near his business.

- Frisby said Stark County officers have been parking uptown near the bar, which he believes is discouraging customers and hurting business.
- He noted that the City already has an officer on duty and questioned the need for an additional county officer in the area.
- He asked the Mayor to contact the Stark County Sheriff about the issue.
- Mayor Mercer and Attorney Zac Lessard suggested that Frisby contact the Sheriff directly, explain the impact on his business, and ask whether any action could be taken.

Samantha and Gerald Berchtold addressed the Council regarding traffic concerns

- The Berchtold's expressed concern about the 4-way yield signs at Galena and Park Street, as well as similar intersections throughout town.
- They said some drivers fail to yield, while others stop at the same time and are unsure who should proceed first.
- Samantha also asked when Council meeting minutes become available. The Mayor and City Clerk explained that minutes are posted on the City website after they are approved at the following month's Council meeting.
- The new website is cityofwyomingil.gov.

Consent Agenda

A. **Approve Minutes of April 21, 2026, Regular Council Meeting and April 20, 2026 Committee Meeting,**

B. **Treasurers Report: General Operation and CD's balance of $1,476,004.19**

C. Bills and Claims totaling $29,796.82

D. Staff reports:

Mayor Mercer listed several items that need discussion;

- Property cleanup and the demolition of houses in need of removal.
- Downtown traffic concerns, including farm equipment and semi-truck traffic on East Williams Street.
- Installation of gates on Madison Street for football and soccer games.
- Planning an open house for both the Water Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- TIF incentives to encourage home construction in Wyoming.

Joe Kinsella, Public Works Superintendent, reported that there is a large tree on Smith Street that will be cut down and we will begin replacing sidewalks as soon as we are given the budget.

Justin Reeise, Engineer was absent.

Philip Wells, Police Chief, reported 31 calls for service. Officer Kerry Copeland has been on days trying to slow down traffic in a few main reported areas in town. S. 7th Street and N. 6th Street in the school zone, Park Street, Williams Street and Henderson Street.

Kerry is enrolled in his 80-hour full-time transitional academy. He will be out of town for the academy on June 1st through June 5th, and then again on June 8th through June 12th. He also has been inspecting and permitting golf carts and UTVs while he has been on days. Chief Wells would like to hire a part-time officer to help with nighttime coverage. He has someone in mind that is already a full-time certified officer who is looking for a part-time job on his nights off.

Denny Rewerts, Economic Development was absent.

The motion was made by Ald. Lindahl to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Ald. Potter. Discussion: None. Roll call all (6) ayes by Ald. Conover, Owens, Potter, Lindahl, Hansard, Hardman and the motion carried.

The motion was made by Ald. Hansard to go into Executive Session regarding Personnel, annual cost of living pay rate increase and seconded by Ald. Lindahl. Voice vote all ayes and the Executive Session started at 6:24 p.m.

Ald. Hardman made the motion to go back into Regular Session and was seconded by Ald. Lindahl. Voice votes all ayes and the Regular Session began at $6.39 p.m.

New Business

Consideration of Resolution No. 26/27-1 Ratifying the Mayor's Decision to Change Financial Institutions and Credit Card Issuers from Wyoming Better Banks to the State Bank of Toulon in January of 2026. **The motion was made by Ald. Hansard not to accept Resolution No. 26/27-1 and seconded by Ald. Owens. Discussion:** Ald. Owens concern was that the authorized changes to the accounts and the increase in the spending limit on the Mayor's card were not properly investigated. These issues came to light through the work of the finance committee. Based on her research, ratification should occur only after the ratifying party has full knowledge of the original action's intent, context, and consequences to determine whether it was appropriate and consistent with organizational and legal standards. She suggested that the account be closed and reopened with employees, rather than an elected official, as signatories to provide greater continuity over time. At a minimum, the finance committee should be allowed to investigate further and speak with State Bank of Toulon about available options. Attorney Zac Lessard informed the Council that when they go to the State Bank of Toulon make sure to ask questions regarding cancelling credit cards and reopening new ones with lower amounts. Is the Bank willing to do this and will it adversely affect us in any way. Ald. Hansard suggested taking Treasurer, Lisa Evans with them. Roll call votes **Roll Call votes all (6) no's by Ald. Conover, Potter, Owens, Lindahl, Hansard, Hardman and the motion failed to pass.**

Consideration of Resolution No. 26/27-4 Approval from the Wyoming City Council to set forth the annual pay rate increase for full-time and part-time employees of the City set forth in the attached schedule. These new rates shall be effective retroactively to begin May 01, 2026. (see Attachment).

The motion was made by Ald. Owens to approve Resolution No. 26/27-4 and seconded by Ald. Hardman. Discussion was made in Executive Session. Roll call votes all (6) ayes by Ald. Hansard, Owens, Hardman, Conover, Lindahl, Potter and the motion passed.

Alderperson's reports:

Ald. Lindahl has a list of Ward 2 sidewalks that need replaced. He will give it to Ald. Owens for her to add any additional locations.

Ald. Hansard reported that the R/O needs a new scale. Mayor Mercer is aware of this. The current scale can still be used and a new scale will cost between $3000.00 and $6,000.00. We will get by for now.

Ald. Hardman mentioned that former Chief Tiller's mother, Peaches Tiller, passed away today. She was a great lady.

Mayor's report:

Mayor discussed putting out two sealed bids in the Prairie News for city owned lots on 611 N. 7th Street, and 103 N. Galena Ave. with a minimum bid of $2000 on both. The City can always reject the bid.

> TIF incentives could be used to encourage home construction in Wyoming. For example, the City owns 3 acres on E. South Street in TIF 2. The City could offer TIF assistance by reimbursing property taxes or lot cost if a home is built within one year. Any incentive program must be applied consistently to all lots in the TIF districts. The City could also set requirements, such as minimum square footage and must be a house not just a building or garage. There will need to be more details discussed in Committee with the TIF Attorney.

Cleaning up lots: There are 5 properties we need to focus on. Nuisance Notices have been sent by mail and they have not cleaned up their properties or paid the fines. One of the properties will cost around $5000.00 to be demolished by Chris Baumann. Ald. Owens and Ald. Hansard will talk to the owners of the properties in their Ward before proceeding.
The motion to adjourn was made by Ald. Hansard and seconded by Ald. Potter. Voice Votes all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:48.

Minutes submitted by,

Diane Baker
City Clerk