City of Wyoming
Council Meeting
February 17, 2026

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor James Mercer at 6:03 p.m. Those in attendance pledged their Allegiance to the Flag. The Wyoming Illinois City Council met Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at the Paramount Theater located at 104 S. 7th Street, Wyoming IL, in Regular Session. Alderpersons, Dave Rumbold and Carol Potter of the First Ward, Michelle Owens of the Second Ward, and Steve Hansard of the Third Ward all were present**. Ald. Lindahl of the Second Ward and Ald. Hardman of the Third Ward were absent.**

Citizens wishing to be heard. None currently

Consent Agenda

A. **Approve Minutes** of January 6, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, January 02, 2026, Finance Committee Meeting, January 29, 2026, Police Committee Meeting, and February 09, 2026, TIF Committee Meeting.

B. **Treasurer's Report, including the operation and CD balances totaling $1,616,523.88.**

C. **Approval of Bills and Claims** totaling $29,911.99.

D. **Staff Reports**

Mayor Mercer reported that the Town Hall Meeting, held on January 27, was a great success with a strong response. We are currently upgrading our LOCIS accounting software including training for Diane Baker and Lisa Evens.

He reported we have had good interest in three of our downtown locations for new businesses. I am keeping a list of homes and businesses that are for sale.

He received a quote to move the Mayor's and Denny Rewert's office to the Police department building. He will also appoint a committee for building upgrades at the city hall and Police Department. He reviewed the Employee handbook and made appropriate changes to it.

Kerry Copeland has graduated from the academy, and the committee is working to integrate him into the police force.

The Mayor will be reviewing several Ordinances, employee policies, and workloads. He will also be working on a new City website. February will be a busy month for the TIF Committee as we are pursuing new business opportunities.

City Engineer, Justin Reeise reported the approval of our MFT program and recommends getting it out for bid right away. He is working with Mayor Mercer on crosswalk details and preliminary design for budgeting purposes. These would be located on Madison Street near the entrances to the football field

Police Chief, Philip Wells reported he delivered four ordinance violations, had 2 citations, and a few traffic stops. He informed the Council that the Axon Body Cameras and software need to be upgraded. They will need to get a quote from Axon.

Mayor Mercer reported for Joe Kinsella, they have repaired fences and removed trees at the WWTP. The Mayor is looking into federal grant money for fence replacement. They have also been cutting back overhanging trees along the city streets.
Denny Rewerts informed the Council that the Bakery owners plan to begin working on their building next week. The building is located at 102 N 7th Street.
The motion was made by Ald. Hansard to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Ald. Rumbold. Discussion: All above. Roll call vote (4) ayes from Ald Rumbold, Owens, Potter, Hansard, and the motion passed.

New Business
Open Discussion Only: Jon Koblauch, representing Stark Council for Continuous Improvement (SCCI), attended the meeting to inform the Council of SCCI's focus and goals in Stark County. Their focus is on housing, business retention, and small-scale growth. Updates on projects like housing rehabs, starter homes, and senior housing planning. He discovered that only 17% of people in stark county are below the age of 54. There is a great need for senior housing. They currently have a $10,000.00 budget for 2026. All the members of SCCI are volunteers that are working to help our communities grow and flourish.

Justin Heaton with Wisdom Financial Services, LLC explained the benefits of switching to his firm as Retirement Plan Advisor for the City of Wyoming full-time employees 457(b)-plan. He explained that his company is much more diversified to provide the best possible investment options. They will keep the employees informed of their accounts and be available to answer any questions and meet with them in person if requested. NOVA will be the Independent Administrator and Ascensus is the Investment Platform Provider. Justin presented the NOVA Estimated annual cost of $1,958 and the estimated ongoing billed cost of $1830.

Consideration of Resolution No. 25/26-46 Authorizing the City of Wyoming to select Wisdom Financial Services, LLC as an Investment Advisor for the full-time employees 457(b) plan and that NOVA has been selected as the third-party administrator and Ascensus has been chosen as the general administrator. Estimated annual cost of $1,958 and estimated ongoing billed cost of $1,830. **The motion was made by Ald. Owens to approve Resolution No. 25/26-46 and seconded by Ald. Rumbold. Discussion:** Ald. Ownes asked if the employees felt comfortable changing to Wisdom Financial. Diane Baker stated that Justin was very detailed and helped her understand the differences between the current investments and how they would have done better with more diversification. **Roll call votes (4) ayes by Ald. Rumbold, Potter, Owens, Hansard and the motion carried.**

Consideration of Resolution No. 25/26-47 Authorizing the City of Wyoming to donate the sum of $500.00 to Stark County After Prom Committee for the purpose of supporting the event that will be held on April 25, 2026. **The motion was made by Ald. Rumbold to approve Resolution No. 25/26-47 and seconded by Ald. Hansard. Discussion: None. Roll call vote (1) abstain (Ald. Potter) and (4) ayes by Ald. Owens, Rumbold, Hansard, and Mayor Mercer and the motion passed.**

Consideration of Resolution No. 25/26-48 Authorizing the City of Wyoming to donate the sum of $500.00 toward the local match to Abilities Plus for the continued operation of the Henry County Public Transportation service which serves Stark County, and western Bureau County.
The motion was made by Ald. Hansard to approve Resolution No. 25/26-48 and seconded by Ald. Potter. Discussion: None. Roll call vote (4) ayes by Ald. Hansard, Potter, Rumbold, Owens and the motion passed.

Consideration of Resolution No. 25/26-49 Authorizing the City of Wyoming to donate the sum of $500.00 to the Society of Growth Inc. (NFP) to help mental health services.
The motion was made by Ald. Owens to approve Resolution No. 25/26-49 and seconded by Ald. Rumbold. Discussion: None. Roll call votes (4) ayes by Ald. Rumbold, Hansard, Potter, Owens and the motion passed.

Consideration of Resolution No. 25/26-50 Authorizing the addition of Stop signs and Yield signs based on the traffic study completed by Chief Wells (Exhibit "A"). For locations see attached.
The motion was made by Ald. Hansard to approve Resolution No. 25/26-50 and seconded by Ald. Potter. Discussion: None. Roll call all (4) ayes by Ald. Hansard, Owens, Potter, Rumbold and the motion passed.

Alderperson's Report: Ald. Hansard presented research showing that the **City of Wyoming has an Aldermanic - Weak Mayor form of government**, Aldermen hold significant legislative and administrative authority as members of the city council, acting as the primary representatives for their specific wards. Many administrative duties are shared or overseen by the Council rather than centralized solely under the mayor. There were discussions on the mayor's role in day-to-day operations and employee management. Attorney Lessard explained the practicality of the mayor's current authority and the need for clear policies. Ald. Hansard and Ald. Owens were concerned about lack of discussion and need for clear communication and feedback from the council on decisions regarding personnel. Ald. Rumbold and Ald. Potter both stated that Ald. Hansard did not discuss these issues with them. They were as surprised as everyone else. Attorney Lessard argues that the Council cannot handle decisions at such a granular level due to time constraints and the need for focus on emergencies. The Attorney and Mayor suggested this subject be discussed further in Executive Session next month.

The motion to Adjourn was made by Ald. Rumbold and seconded by Ald. Owens. Voice votes all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by,

Diane Baker,
City Clerk