

JANUARY 2026 MINUTES

The George City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Community Room, 115 S Main Street, with Mayor Billy Sprock presiding. Mayor Sprock called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The roll was called by Mayor Sprock. Present were Joe Anderson, BJ Gerken, Kris Hamilton and Derek Storm. Absent: Bob Gruis.

Hamilton made a motion to adopt the agenda. Storm seconded the motion. All present cast aye votes, motion carried.

OPEN FORUM: Bernie Weier presented to the council the proposal to apply for the Community Foundation of Lyon County grant to repair the recreational trail around the pond. Weier will present the grant for approval at the February council meeting.

Dennis Winkowitsch presented to the council that he has property for potential city growth. Council will keep moving forward working with the economic development for future city development.

REPORTS: Bill Sprock, Chief, presented the annual report from the George Fire Department. They continue to maintain a squad of 29 members. Elections were held on January 1 with the following results: Chief – Bill Sprock, 1st Assistant – Josh Eben, 2nd Assistant – Paul Denekas, Secretary/Treasurer – Emily Denekas, Fire Marshal – Caleb DeKam, Training Officers – Cole Riemersma, Matt Grave, John Vivian, David Grave, Safety Officers – Jared Kannegieter and Chad Bechler. The GFD responded to 35 calls in 2025. George Fire Department continues to host their annual Duck Race Fundraiser and fireworks show during the 4th of July.

The City Council wants to thank the GFD for their continued dedication to the City of George. These volunteers go above and beyond the call of duty when needed.

Kayla Gerloff, Librarian, presented the annual report from the library. Library staff continue to do an excellent job offering many program opportunities for youth and adults. The library checked out 24,290 books and movies during 2025. The City Council would like to thank the librarians for all their work in the library and providing a variety of programs for our community.

Hamilton made a motion to approve the consent items. Anderson seconded the motion. All present cast aye votes, motion carried.

VENDOR, REFERENCE	AMOUNT
A&B, COPIER LEASE	\$210.48
AFLAC DENTAL & VISION, GROUP INSURANCE	\$172.59
AFLAC PRE-TAX, GROUP INSURANCE	\$302.68
ALLIANT UTILITIES, ELEC/GAS	\$5,785.71
AMAZON, BOOKS	\$121.59
BECK ENGINEERING, FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$803.20
BILL SPROCK, FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$250.00
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC, SUPPLIES	\$240.19
BRANDON HONKOMP, REIMBURSE BATTERIES	\$21.13
CALEB DEKAM, GFD-RACES	\$75.00
CARDMEMBER SERVICE, SUPPLIES	\$548.39
CASEY'S, SUPPLIES	\$80.19
CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS, COPIER LEASE	\$436.03
CFE, SPRAY-CEMETERY	\$227.55
COMPUTER CLINIC, LEAK DETECTOR HEADSET	\$34.59
COOPERATIVE ENERGY CO, FUEL/REPAIRS/PARTS	\$1,444.41
DENNY'S SANITATION, DEC'25 GARBAGE/RECYCLE/DUMPSTER	\$8,926.77
DINGES FIRE, DRYWALL HOOKS	\$240.00
DOLLAR GENERAL, SUPPLIES	\$40.70
EBEN WELDING & REPAIR, REPAIRS WHITE PLOW TRUCK	\$768.27
ED M FELD EQUIPMENT, FIRE COAT	\$2,276.00
EFTPS, FED/FICA TAX	\$3,510.10
ETSY, SUPPLIES	\$51.47
FRONTIER TELEPHONE, WATER TOWER PHONE	\$50.00
GALE, BOOKS	\$378.71
GEMS, 2025 EMS CALLS	\$4,500.00
GEORGE CHAMBER, 2026 DUES	\$75.00
GEORGE OFFICE SUPPLY, CALENDARS	\$71.87
GRATEFUL GROUNDS, ANNUAL MEETING	\$384.00
HEARTLAND HARDWARE, SUPPLIES	\$175.49
IOWA INFORMATION, ADVERTISEMENT	\$239.00
IPERS, IPERS	\$2,949.57
JOE ANDERSON, MEETING EXPENSE	\$50.00
JOHN M DONAKER, CEMETERY WAGES	\$95.68
KALEB MODDER, GFD-RACES	\$225.00
LAKE VIEW BOOKS, BOOKS	\$242.88
LELOUX DIVERSIFIED, LLC, SEWER JETTING	\$500.00
LITTLE ROCK FREELANCE, PUBLICATIONS	\$455.69

LYON CO SHERIFF, GARNISHMENT	\$778.44
LYON RURAL ELECTRIC COOP, ELEC/GAS	\$223.36
MICHAEL MULDER, EMS CHIEF STIPEND	\$250.00
MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY, DONATION	\$2,000.00
MITCHELL-HUSS EXCAVATION, STORM SEWER PROJECT	\$60,427.00
NEW CENTURY PRESS, ADVERTISEMENT	\$129.00
NORTHERN LEAK DETECTION, WATER LEAK DETECTION	\$512.50
PETTY CASH, REPLENISH PETTY CASH	\$2.79
POPKES INC, PROPANE FOR GENERATOR	\$1,210.16
POST OFFICE, POSTAGE	\$343.43
PREMIER COMMUNICATIONS, PHONE/INTERNET	\$353.38
SECURITY SAVINGS BANK, 2026 ANNUAL CEM SAFEBOXRENT	\$14.00
SIEBRING MANUFACTURING, REPAIRS	\$109.29
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY, SAMPLE TESTING	\$168.50
TOTAL STOP FOOD STORE, SUPPLIES	\$262.00
TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA, DEC'25 WATER EXCISE TAX	\$2,191.34
WARNTJES PAINT & BODY, REPAIRS	\$394.87
WELLMARK, HEALTH INSURANCE	\$1,950.71
WILLIAMS & COMPANY, PC, LEGAL FEES	\$5,300.00
WATER REFUND DATE 12/18/2025	\$2,244.67
TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS	\$14,389.40
CLAIMS TOTAL	\$130,214.77

GENERAL	\$28,709.62
CEMETERY	\$403.14
ROAD USE TAX	\$10,591.01
INSURANCE	\$2,123.30
LIBRARY	\$155.78
GEORGE FIRE DEPT CKGACCT	\$2,994.25
GEORGE EMS CKGACCT	\$445.34
STORM SEWER PROJECT	\$60,427.00
WATER	\$10,000.96
WATER DEPOSITS	\$2,244.67
SEWER	\$3,076.16
LANDFILL/GARBAGE	\$9,043.54
EXPENSE TOTAL FUND JAN 14	\$130,214.77

GENERAL	\$29,706.93
CEMETERY	\$5,740.45
ROAD USE TAX	\$11,951.20
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,618.33
INSURANCE	\$1,941.98
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	\$16,339.57
LIBRARY	\$1,553.93
GEORGE FIRE DEPT CKGACCT	\$125.00
GEORGE EMS CKGACCT	\$2,525.00
FEMA	\$467.10
DEBT SERVICE	\$6,094.30
DAKOTA/VIRGINIA	\$2,808.01
STORM SEWER PROJECT	\$4,302.73
LIBRARY HEEREN ESTATE	\$24,092.24
WATER	\$15,723.67
WATER/SEWER RESERVE	\$12,000.00
WATER DEPOSITS	\$1,400.00
SEWER	\$16,464.73
LANDFILL/GARBAGE	\$10,259.45
REVENUE REPORT TOTAL DEC 31	\$165,114.62

GFD TREASURER REPORT DIDN'T GET IN THE DECEMBER 10 COUNCIL MINUTES	
NOVEMBER RECEIPTS, DEPOSIT	\$3,850.00
NOVEMBER EXPENSES	
LITTLE ROCK FREE LANCE, ADVERTISEMENT	\$30.00
TOTAL STOP FOOD STORE, SUPPLIES	\$59.16
ETSY, SUPPLIES	\$165.94
TOTAL STOP FOOD STORE, SUPPLIES	\$100.68
CLAIMS TOTAL	\$355.78

Council asked that the City Clerk to start advertising for summer help in the areas of mowing, street help and swimming pool staff.

The State of Iowa requires all gross wages to be published annually. Gross wages paid by the City of George for 2025 are as follows: ZACHARY ANDERSON \$1,416.03; LUIS AVILA \$4,174.17; JUDE BETZ \$1,886.78; PATRICIA BRUINSMA \$2,193.54; GAVIN BRUNS \$3,050.67; PATRICK DEN HARTOG \$941.78; EMILY J DENEKAS \$5,358.28; TAMMIE L DROWN \$1,025.50; AUSTIN EBEN \$5,697.30; BYRON J GERKEN \$1,345.00; KAYLA M GERLOFF \$28,709.62; DAVID R GRAVE \$52,525.70; BOBBY L GRUIS \$1,235.00; MAX L GRUIS \$123.75; SAM GRUIS \$71.82; KRISTINE N HAMILTON \$1,070.00; MATTHEW HELKENN \$6,161.72; MICAH JUMBECK \$400.26; JAMES KANNEGIETER \$9,160.58; HARRIS KASTER \$112.00; TODD F KLEIN \$12,869.64; CARLY KOERSELMAN \$2,521.12; CLIFF KRUGER \$7,674.71; ALEXIS LANDIS \$7,512.13; MARLIN MARTINEZ \$3,102.75; KIRRA MITCHELL \$1,983.38; SAVANNA NILLES \$6,347.90; COLE J RIEMERSMA \$48,944.89; COLE J RIEMERSMA (CEMETERY) \$633.74; SUSAN M ROSEBERRY \$743.75; BRADLEY SANDBECK \$5,222.00; JOHN SANDBECK \$7,217.17; GAVIN SMIT \$68.04; BILLY J SPROCK \$4,200.00; SPENCER SPROCK \$291.75; DEREK E STORM \$1,290.00; GRETCHEN STRATMAN \$3,556.78; REBECCA L STUEVEN \$3,080.50; BRANDON VAN BRIESEN \$2,439.08; CAROLA O VIVIAN \$1,345.00; BERNETTE WEIER \$1,859.63; BARBARA J WESSELS \$3,984.84; LORALYE C WIBBEN \$48,899.94.

Council recapped the continued work on prior approved projects: installing manholes in the 400 block of W Minnesota Ave and on the end 400 block of E Indiana Ave; installing storm sewer at the intersection of S Sidney St & W Indiana Ave; replacing the intersection of N Main St; stubbing off water & sewer to properties on south side of Lacour St in Locker Park; replacing zone valves.

Gerken arrived at 8:29 p.m.

Gerken introduced the following **Resolution 2026-01-492** entitled "RESOLUTION NAMING THE CITY CLERK/TREASURER AND ALLOW CITY CLERK TO PAY CERTAIN CLAIMS PRIOR TO COUNCIL APPROVAL, AUTHORIZING DEPUTY CLERK TO SIGN, CITY DEPOSITORY AND DEPOSITORY LIMIT, CITY ATTORNEY, PUBLICATION NEWSPAPER, AND AUTHORIZE SURETY BONDS" and moved that the same be adopted. Storm seconded the motion to adopt. Roll call vote –ayes: Anderson, Gerken, Hamilton, Storm, –nays: none –absent: Gruis. WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the following Resolution duly adopted. Motion carried.

Storm made a motion to approve the Mayor recommendations to the committees. Anderson seconded the motion. All present cast aye votes, motion carried. The mayor's recommendations for council committees are as follows:

- Trees/Parks – Joe Anderson, Kris Hamilton
- Streets/Alleys – Bob Gruis, Joe Anderson
- Pool/Recreation – Bob Gruis, BJ Gerken
- Water/Sewer – Bob Gruis, Derek Storm
- Bldgs/Beautify – Joe Anderson, Kris Hamilton
- Personnel Committee – Bob Gruis, Derek Storm
- Finance Committee – Billy Sprock, Loralye Wibben
- Mayor Pro-Tem – Bob Gruis
- Daycare Committee/Library – Billy Sprock, Bob Gruis
- NW IA Area Solid Waste Rep – BJ Gerken, alt. – Derek Storm
- NW IA Regional Housing Authority Rep – Kris Hamilton, alt. – Derek Storm
- George Chamber of Commerce Rep – Loralye Wibben

Hamilton made a motion to accepted the resignation from Kristi Donaker from the Library Board. Storm seconded the motion. All present cast aye votes, motion carried.

Gerken made a motion to appoint Sara DeHaan as a representative on the Library Board for a 6-year term. Storm seconded the motion. All present cast aye votes, motion carried.

Council tabled the appointment to the Cemetery Board until the next meeting.

BJ Gerken, recapped the NW IA Solid Waste Agency annual meeting earlier this evening. The NW IA Solid Waste Agency board of directors set no change to the agency gate fees. Staff numbers have been reduced this past year to 8 full-time employees. Cell 25 on the landfill expansion project is completed and will last approximately 5 years. They are looking into other options for recycling collection. The Household Hazardous Material Collection had an increase in participation this past year keeping those materials out of the landfill.

Lyon County Eggs & Issues Legislative Coffee Dates scheduled for January 31, February 28 and March 28 at 8:30 a.m. in the Forster Community Center; 404 First Ave; Rock Rapids, IA. Join State Senator Jeff Taylor & State Representative Skyler Wheeler for an open legislative forum. Coffee & rolls will be served for a free will donation. If your business is interested in sponsoring a month, please let Angie Jager, Director of the Rock Rapids Chamber know. The sponsorship covers the cost of rolls & beverages.

GEMS Annual Waffle Breakfast is scheduled for February 1

Kiwanis Annual Pancake Supper was rescheduled for March 17

Next monthly council meeting will be held February 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Hamilton made a motion to adjourn at 9:08 pm. Gerken seconded the motion. All present cast aye votes, motion carried.

All decisions made by the Council become effective upon publication.

Loralye Wibben, City Clerk

_____ Little Rock Free Lance _____ Date

_____ Loralye Wibben, City Clerk