



**City of Robins, Iowa
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2026**

Unofficial Meeting Minutes Until Approved by Council

The City Council of the City of Robins, Iowa, met in regular session on Monday, January 19, 2026, at City Hall.

Call to Order

Mayor Chuck Hinz called the meeting to order at **6:00 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hinz.

Roll Call

Present: Councilors Mike Foley, Cary Smith, Leigh Cook, Bruce Vander Sanden, and Leslie Hoyt.

Also present: Vance McKinnon, Planning & Zoning Administrator; Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer; Kelli Scott, City Engineer; Will Wagner, Police Officer; Holly Corkery, City Attorney; Keith Feldkamp, Fire Chief; Mike Kortenkamp, Building Official/Superintendent of Public Works; Rhonda Kortenkamp, Deputy City Clerk; and numerous members of the public.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilor Cook, seconded by Councilor Hoyt, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Citizen Comments – Agenda Items

Several citizens addressed the Council regarding snow removal responsibilities along East Main Street and the proposed ITC Trail project.

Comments regarding snow removal were made by Richard Starks and Angie Starks of 500 Mary Jo Avenue, expressing concerns about sidewalk maintenance and safety.

Multiple residents spoke in opposition to the proposed ITC Trail, citing concerns including but not limited to impacts on property enjoyment, safety, crime, vandalism, lack of notice to homeowners and homeowner associations, placement of a public trail near private property, and questioning the necessity and priority of the project. Speakers included Cathy Sindelar, Mike Fuller, Russell Hotchkiss, Nick Zuber, Nick Rolling, Brian Pecinovsky, Jennifer Lawrence, Jim Brown, and Chad Martin.

Mayor Hinz confirmed that the City has permission from ITC regarding the proposed trail location.

Citizen Comments – Non-Agenda Items

None heard.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Hoyt requested that Resolution No. 0126-6 and Resolution No. 0126-7 be removed from the consent agenda and placed under New Business.

Councilor Cook noted that the January 5, 2026 meeting minutes should be amended to reflect Councilor Vander Sanden's offer to assist with the Police Chief hiring process and redesign of the Robins Police Department, and Councilor Cook's request to add snow removal discussion to the January 19 agenda.

Motion by Councilor Cook, seconded by Councilor Vander Sanden, to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting, the list of bills submitted, and the following resolution:

- **Resolution No. 0126-8** Relating to Exemptions Allowed by the Code of Iowa Under the Slough Bill and Open Prairies/Forest Cover

Roll Call Vote: Foley – aye; Smith – aye; Cook – aye; Hoyt – aye; Vander Sanden – aye. Motion carried (5-0).

New Business

Resolution No. 0126-6 – ITC Trail Grant Application

Mayor Hinz explained that the resolution authorized application for Corridor MPO grant funds to plan and develop the ITC Trail as part of a long-range, five-year planning effort. City Engineer Scott stated that if funded, construction would not occur until approximately 2031, and that approval of the resolution was limited to submitting the application.

Council discussion included concerns regarding the age of the City's Comprehensive Plan, public survey results ranking trails as a low priority, competing infrastructure needs, and the degree of commitment implied by applying for grant funding. City Engineer Scott clarified that the grant is competitive, may be rescinded, and that funds could be declined if the project does not move forward. Public input would continue to be considered during planning.

Residents asked questions regarding the origin of the trail concept, Comprehensive Plan updates, future roadway extensions, alternative trail alignments, liability, and access considerations. Alternatives such as North Center Point Road and Tower Terrace Road were discussed.

Resolution died due to lack of a motion.

Resolution No. 0126-7 Authorizing Application to Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for Regional Transportation Funds and Committing to Provide Local Matching Funds Contingent Upon Award and Acceptance of Transportation Grant Funds for the ITC Trail

Resolution died due to lack of a motion.

Resolution No. 0126-9 – Three-Year Tax Abatement (3150 Eagle View Court)

Mayor Hinz described the resolution approving a commercial tax abatement under Chapter 404.

Motion by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Cook. Roll call vote: Smith – aye; Hoyt – aye; Vander Sanden – aye; Cook – aye; Foley – aye. Motion carried (5–0).

Resolution No. 0126-10 – Appointment of Interim Police Chief

Mayor Hinz described the appointment of Michael Kitsmiller as Interim Police Chief for a three-month term.

Motion by Councilor Cook, seconded by Councilor Foley. Roll call vote: Hoyt – aye; Cook – aye; Smith – aye; Foley – aye; Vander Sanden – aye. Motion carried (5–0).

Resolution No. 0126-11 – Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem

Councilor Foley recused himself from voting due to a conflict of interest. Mayor Hinz explained that experience and availability were the primary criteria for the appointment.

Motion by Councilor Cook, seconded by Councilor Hoyt. Roll call vote: Smith – aye; Cook – aye; Hoyt – aye; Vander Sanden – aye; Foley – abstained. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 0126-12 – Professional Services Contract for Managed IT Services

City Clerk/Treasurer Goodin explained an amendment to the quoted monthly fee due to required liability insurance.

Motion by Councilor Cook, as amended, seconded by Councilor Foley. Roll call vote: Hoyt – aye; Smith – aye; Vander Sanden – aye; Cook – aye; Foley – aye. Motion carried (5–0).

Discussion Items

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Planning: Council discussed FY27 taxable property valuations, employee raises, a one percent operating cost increase, and the Capital Improvement Plan.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2601 – Amending Chapter 155 (Building Code)

Motion by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Cook, to suspend the requirement for a second reading pursuant to Iowa Code section 380.3. Roll call vote: Foley – aye; Smith – aye; Vander Sanden – aye; Hoyt – aye; Cook – aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Vander Sanden, to adopt Ordinance No. 2601. Roll call vote: Vander Sanden – aye; Foley – aye; Smith – aye; Hoyt – aye; Cook – aye. Motion carried.

Discussion – Chapter 71: Snow Removal

Mayor Hinz emphasized that the discussion was informational only and that no decisions would be made.

Council and staff discussed the distinction between sidewalks and trails, liability concerns, equipment needs, potential exceptions for high-traffic areas, and possible contracting options. City Attorney Corkery noted that if the City assumes winter maintenance responsibility, liability would rest with the City. City Engineer Scott indicated the City currently lacks proper sidewalk-clearing equipment and would need to budget accordingly.

Council Comments

Councilor Smith requested that fewer items be included on future consent agendas.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Cook, to adjourn the meeting at **7:52 p.m.** Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Goodin
City Clerk/Treasurer

Attest: Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer

Chuck Hinz, Mayor

Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer