



**City of Robins
City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 1, 2026
Robins City Hall**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hinz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Robins City Hall and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with Council Members Present: Mike Foley, Cary Smith, Leigh Cook, and Bruce Vander Sanden. Council Members Absent: Leslie Hoyt. Staff Present: Vance McKinnon, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Kelli Scott, City Engineer; Holly Corkery, City Attorney; Keith Feldkamp, Fire Chief; Mike Kortenkamp, Building Official/Superintendent of Public Works; Neal Boeckmann, Fire Code Official/Deputy Superintendent of Public Works; Rhonda Kortenkamp, Deputy City Clerk; and Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer. Additional attendees included Ken Paxton, REDI Economic Development Director, and members of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Smith, seconded by Cook, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hinz congratulated City staff on the successful City-Wide Cleanup event held on May 23 and thanked all employees who participated. He expressed support for making the event an annual community tradition.

COUNCIL REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – Foley reported that the Fire Department responded to 24 calls during May, several of which involved urgent distress situations. He commended department personnel for their response times and ongoing training efforts. Foley also reported that Police Chief Adam Cirkl recently swore in three additional part-time officers, increasing staffing to six officers. The Police Department issued 111 traffic citations during May and experienced an increase in overall shift coverage. Foley further noted that Officer Gabe Humphrey would be returning to the department following a year-long overseas military deployment.

STREETS – Smith reported that the City continues to await notification regarding federal BUILD Grant funding for the Tower Terrace Road project.

FINANCE – Cook reported that the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and Fiscal Year 2026 budget amendment have been certified. She also announced that the City has successfully filled the Municipal Accountant position, with the new employee scheduled to begin July 1, 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS – Vander Sanden reported that negotiations continue with the City of Cedar Rapids regarding a water utility 28E agreement and with the City of Hiawatha regarding operation and maintenance of the water utility. He also noted that work continues on the Indian Creek sanitary sewer improvement project and that upcoming phases are anticipated to be costly.

PARKS – No report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Kelli Scott reported that the remaining five segments of the Indian Creek sanitary sewer project are expected to result in approximately \$12 million in expenditures for the City. Project scheduling remains under



development. Scott noted that recently approved sewer rate increases are intended to help accommodate these significant future infrastructure investments.

PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Planning and Zoning Administrator Vance McKinnon reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission recently considered proposed setback modifications in Ordinance 2609 and voted to not recommend the Ordinance to Council. The Board of Adjustment granted a height variance request to the Eastern Iowa Hindu Temple and Cultural Center. McKinnon advised that the City Attorney has recommended updates to Chapter 165 of the Municipal Code to address building height limitations.

During discussion, Council Member Foley inquired about lot sales within Robins Landing. McKinnon reported that two lots have been sold. Council Member Vander Sanden requested additional information regarding potential amendments to Chapter 165, and McKinnon provided an overview of the amendment process.

ROBINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (REDI) REPORT

REDI Economic Development Director Ken Paxton reported that discussions with staff from Congresswoman Ashley Hinson's office indicate that federal funding designated for the Tower Terrace Road project remains available and that a final vote is expected in the near future.

Paxton also reported that support for the City's BUILD Grant application remains strong at the federal level and that an award announcement is anticipated by mid-June.

Paxton summarized activities undertaken since assuming the role of REDI Economic Development Director, including interviews with elected officials, City staff, and community members. He discussed the relationship between future Tower Terrace Road construction and development opportunities within the Robins Landing commercial areas.

Paxton further discussed communication initiatives, including the potential development of a centralized Robins social media hub to improve access to City information. He suggested an annual REDI meeting involving City officials and community stakeholders, a membership drive to increase participation from local businesses, and the creation of financial development packets for prospective businesses and developers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

JD Smith, 780 Kervin Court, commented regarding the proposed police body camera system and asked whether the equipment under consideration represented the newest available technology, including language translation capabilities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

JD Smith, 780 Kervin Court, asked whether any asbestos abatement activities had occurred at the former Church of the Brethren property. Deputy City Clerk Rhonda Kortenkamp responded that asbestos abatement work is expected to begin during July, with the help of DNR grant awards.

Joe Suchan, 1115 Morrison Drive, again expressed concerns regarding drainage conditions on his property following construction activities on a neighboring lot. Mayor Hinz stated that City staff and the City Engineer continue to investigate the matter and determine whether mitigation measures may be necessary. Council Member Smith asked whether the property was experiencing flooding. Mr. Suchan stated that flooding was not occurring but that water no longer drains in the same manner as it had prior to the neighboring development.



CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Cook, seconded by Foley, to approve the Consent Agenda, including:

- Minutes of the May 18, 2026 City Council meetings; and
- List of Bills Submitted.

Ayes: Foley, Smith, Cook, Vander Sanden.

Absent: Hoyt.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION – CEDAR RAPIDS/LINN COUNTY SOLID WASTE AGENCY

Joe Horaney, Deputy Director of the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency, provided an overview of agency operations. He discussed compost availability and recreational opportunities at Mt. Trashmore, upcoming increases in landfill, yard waste, and select recycling tipping fees effective July 1, and recycling programs available at no cost. Horaney emphasized the importance of limiting plastics to recyclable No. 1 and No. 2 materials and flattening cardboard before disposal. He highlighted battery recycling opportunities and ongoing efforts to divert bulky materials from landfill disposal.

Horaney reported that the agency handled 184,661 tons of solid waste during Fiscal Year 2025, including 128,981 (70%) tons from commercial and industrial sources and 55,680 (30%) tons of residential waste. He noted that data center development is expected to significantly increase waste volumes and reduce landfill lifespan.

The agency is working with the City of Marion regarding potential landfill expansion opportunities. Horaney stated that the agency has determined that no additional landfill sites will be developed within Linn County. Upon closure of the existing landfill, the County Home Road facility would transition into a transfer station until approximately 2044. Council Member Smith inquired about fees payable to the City of Marion. Horaney responded that the agency receives no tax revenues and that any such fees would ultimately be passed through to agency customers.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 2609

Mayor Hinz opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2609, an ordinance amending Chapter 165 – Zoning Regulations, at 6:41 p.m.

No public comments were received.

Council discussion focused on the proposed reduction of side-yard setbacks within the Robins Landing development. Council Member Vander Sanden expressed concern regarding making isolated amendments to the zoning code and noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission had not recommended approval of the ordinance. McKinnon confirmed that the Commission had voted against recommending the amendment.

Council Member Foley stated that the City has a substantial financial investment in Robins Landing and should remain responsive to developer needs. He characterized the proposed three-foot reduction as a modest change intended to improve marketability.



Vander Sanden responded that the proposal represented a 30 percent reduction in setback requirements and argued that the City should undertake a comprehensive review of Chapter 165 rather than adopting piecemeal amendments.

City Clerk Goodin observed that several factors beyond setback requirements are affecting lot sales within Robins Landing. Mayor Hinz and City Engineer Scott both expressed support for a broader review of zoning regulations in conjunction with the City's ongoing Comprehensive Plan update. Council Member Smith also supported future work sessions involving REDI, the Planning and Zoning Commission, developers, and other stakeholders.

City Attorney Corkery provided guidance regarding the ordinance amendment process and noted that approval would represent a piecemeal modification to the City's zoning regulations.

Mayor Hinz closed the public hearing at 6:56 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 2609 – CHAPTER 165 ZONING REGULATIONS

The proposed ordinance would have reduced side-yard setbacks from ten feet to seven feet in R-3, R-3A, and R-4 zoning districts.

No motion was offered. The item died due to lack of a motion and received no further action.

RESOLUTION NO. 0626-1

PROVIDING CONDITIONAL APPROVAL TO A TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION FOR PARCEL NO. 11291-76004-00000 – TOWER TERRACE ROAD

Motion by Cook, seconded by Foley, to approve Resolution No. 0626-1.

Ayes: Foley, Smith, Cook, Vander Sanden.

Absent: Hoyt.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 0626-2

APPROVING FIREWORKS APPLICATION BY JC DISPLAYS, LLC FOR THE ROBINS ROUNDUP EVENT

Engineer Scott noted a typo in the resolution number, as presented and recommended amending the resolution to accurately reflect the document number

Motion by Vander Sanden, seconded by Cook, to approve Resolution No. 0626-2 as amended.

Ayes: Foley, Smith, Cook, Vander Sanden.

Absent: Hoyt.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 0626-3

APPROVING QUOTATION FOR SIDEWALK REPAIRS AT ROBINS CITY HALL AND HOPPE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Building Official Mike Kortenkamp reviewed the need for sidewalk repairs at both facilities.

Motion by Cook, seconded by Smith, to approve Resolution No. 0626-3.

Ayes: Foley, Smith, Cook, Vander Sanden.

Absent: Hoyt.

Motion carried.



RESOLUTION NO. 0626-4

APPOINTING GARY PETERSEN TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Mayor Hinz reviewed the appointment recommendation. McKinnon corrected the spelling of Mr. Petersen's name. Motion by Vander Sanden, seconded by Foley, to approve Resolution No. 0626-4.

Ayes: Foley, Smith, Cook, Vander Sanden.

Absent: Hoyt.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 0626-5

APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH SNYDER & ASSOCIATES FOR GIS INFRASTRUCTURE MAPPING SERVICES

Scott explained that GIS infrastructure mapping would provide substantial benefits to City operations, including support for MS4 permit compliance, infrastructure inventories, project planning, utility mapping, sign inventories, and tree inventories.

Foley stated that implementation of GIS technology would modernize City operations and provide long-term savings in staff time and resources.

Cook inquired about costs. Scott reported an initial implementation cost of \$5,500 and an annual licensing fee of \$1,500.

Motion by Foley, seconded by Cook, to approve Resolution No. 0626-5.

Ayes: Foley, Smith, Cook, Vander Sanden.

Absent: Hoyt.

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION – POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY CAMERA SYSTEM UPGRADE

Police Chief Adam Cirkl reviewed the status of the Police Department's current body camera system. He reported that the existing Arbitrator system stores video and case files on a local physical server and will reach end-of-life status in October 2026. Additional storage is needed, but replacement components are no longer available.

Cirkl emphasized the importance of body camera and dash camera systems in protecting the City during litigation and explained that many law enforcement agencies are transitioning from local servers to cloud-based platforms. Working with Heartland Relay, the department evaluated several alternatives, including continued use of Arbitrator, Motorola cloud-based services, and Axon cloud-based services.

RESOLUTION NO. 0626-6

APPROVING UPGRADE TO POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY CAMERA SYSTEM

Council Member Foley expressed support for Axon's proposal, particularly the option providing ten years of pricing stability. He also noted Axon's commitment to officer safety.

City Attorney Corkery asked whether staff would be able to perform video redactions internally. Chief Cirkl confirmed that the system would permit in-house redaction and that Axon would provide installation and training services.

City Clerk Goodin asked whether the expenditure could be accommodated within the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Chief Cirkl stated that sufficient funding is available and that future costs are expected to remain manageable.



Motion by Foley, seconded by Smith, to approve Resolution No. 0626-6 as amended.

Ayes: Foley, Smith, Cook, Vander Sanden.

Absent: Hoyt.

Motion carried.

DISCUSSION – CITY EMPLOYEE CELL PHONE STIPENDS

Mayor Hinz recommended the development of a formal policy governing employee cell phone use and compensation and suggested appointing a Council committee to research available options.

Council Member Foley reported that conversations with individuals in other industries indicated that leadership positions are often provided employer-owned cellular devices rather than receiving stipends. He stated that employees should not be expected to remain continuously available on personal devices.

City Attorney Corkery advised that providing City-owned devices and service plans would be the preferred legal approach.

Council Members Smith and Cook volunteered to research the issue and develop policy recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Foley encouraged future consideration of purchasing an audio-visual system to improve meeting presentations and communications.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vander Sanden, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Goodin
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chuck Hinz, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer