



**City Of Robins
City Council Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2026
Robins City Hall – 6:00 p.m.**

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 and Pat O'Connell, City Attorneys; Keith Feldkamp, Fire Chief; Deputy Superintendent of Public Works/Fire Code Official Neal Boeckmann and Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer. Additional attendees included Officer Carter Dralle, and members of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by **Cook**, seconded by **Foley**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried 4-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items: None Heard

PUBLIC COMMENT – Non-Agenda Items: Joe Suchan, Morrison Drive, addressed the Council regarding his continued concerns with the drainage easement located between his property and the adjoining property. Mayor Hinz suggested that Mr. Suchan meet with City staff outside of a Council meeting to further discuss the matter and work toward a resolution.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were considered under the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of the July 6, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of the List of Bills.

Motion by Foley, seconded by Vander Sanden, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll call vote: Cook aye, Smith aye, Foley aye, Vander Sanden aye, Hoyt absent. **Motion carried 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 0726-3 – Approving the Professional Services Agreement with Snyder & Associates for the West Main Street Reconstruction and Trail Project

Staff Presentation: City Engineer Kelli Scott presented an overview of the proposed West Main Street Reconstruction and Trail Project, including the project background, anticipated improvements, funding sources, property acquisition process, and overall project timeline.

Council Discussion: Council Member Bruce Vander Sanden asked whether property owners affected by the project had been notified of potential right-of-way acquisition. Ms. Scott explained that affected property owners were contacted during the 2023 public open house and that while some residents expressed concerns regarding the trail alignment, there remains flexibility within portions of the design. She noted that condemnation would only be considered as a last resort if property acquisition efforts were unsuccessful.

Council Member Mike Foley asked for clarification regarding the limits of the project. Ms. Scott stated the project extends from Tullymore Drive east to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Mr. Foley also questioned whether an asphalt overlay could be completed instead of a full reconstruction and asked about the relative costs. Ms. Scott responded that an overlay



was not included in the City's upcoming bond issue and would not significantly change the project timeline. She further explained that her estimated asphalt prices were lower than those experienced during 2025, and that reconstruction remains the preferred long-term solution.

Mr. Foley also commented that he had not heard requests from residents in the area to add a trail or sidewalk along West Main Street.

Council Member Leigh Cook asked what feedback was received during the 2023 public open house. Ms. Scott indicated public opinion regarding the trail was mixed and reminded the Council that the trail has long been identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan as an important connection between existing neighborhoods and future development areas. Ms. Cook also asked how the City would proceed if property owners declined to convey the necessary easements. Ms. Scott reiterated that every effort would be made to work with property owners before considering condemnation proceedings. Council Member Cary Smith commented that the proposed realignment of the Quass Road and West Main Street intersection would improve safety for emergency responders.

Council Member Bruce Vander Sanden expressed support for reconstructing the roadway rather than pursuing repeated short-term pavement repairs. He also spoke in favor of completing the trail as part of the overall project while federal funding remains available.

Mayor Hinz agreed that completing the reconstruction now would provide a long-term solution while maximizing available federal funding. He also noted that pedestrian traffic already exists along West Main Street and that constructing the trail would improve public safety. The Mayor emphasized that property acquisition efforts should focus on the least disruptive solutions possible while maintaining public safety and neighborhood aesthetics.

Ms. Scott advised that removal of the trail component could jeopardize the federal funding committed to the roadway improvements.

Council Action: Motion by Vander Sanden, seconded by Cook, to adopt Resolution No. 0726-3 approving the Professional Services Agreement with Snyder & Associates for the West Main Street Reconstruction and Trail Project. Roll call vote: Smith aye, Vander Sanden aye, Cook aye, Foley nay, Hoyt absent. Motion carried 3-1.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

Employee Cell Phone Policy Discussion

Council Discussion: The Council continued its discussion regarding the proposed Employee Cell Phone and Mobile Device Policy.

Council member Foley proposed a change to the policy, recommending Council approval of an employee's eligibility for either a City-owned cell phone or a stipend. Council Member Foley also proposed a monthly stipend of \$50; however, discussion continued regarding whether a lower amount would more accurately reflect the cost of an employee's business use of a personal cell phone.

City Attorney Holly Corkery recommended revising the policy so that eligibility for a City-issued phone or stipend would be determined by an employee's job description rather than at the discretion of the City Clerk/Treasurer. Council members generally agreed with this recommendation.

City Engineer Kelli Scott asked whether a standalone mobile hotspot could be provided for employees whose work primarily requires internet access. Council Member Leigh Cook suggested polling department heads to better understand employee usage and service needs before establishing stipend amounts.

Mr. Foley noted that the T-Mobile government unlimited cell phone plans are available for approximately \$25 per month and suggested reducing the stipend to that amount. Pat O'Connell questioned whether a stipend was necessary, while Mr. Foley responded that many employees prefer not to carry separate personal and City-issued phones. Ms. Corkery provided that a part of the proposed policy included a form for stipend-eligible employees to acknowledge the risks associated with personal cell phone use for City business.



Following discussion, Council reached consensus to amend the proposed policy by providing a \$25 monthly stipend and specifying that eligibility for either a City-issued phone or stipend would be determined by an employee's job description.

Resolution No. 0726-2 – Approving the City of Robins Employee Cell Phone and Mobile Device Policy

Motion by Cook, seconded by Foley, to adopt Resolution No. 0726-2 approving the City of Robins Employee Cell Phone and Mobile Device Policy as amended.

Roll call vote: Vander Sanden aye, Cook aye, Foley aye, Smith aye, Hoyt absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance No. 2611 – Amending Chapter 53 (Weeds)

Motion by Foley, seconded by Vander Sanden, to suspend the rule requiring three separate readings of Ordinance No. 2611.

Roll call vote: Cook aye, Foley aye, Vander Sanden aye, Smith aye, Hoyt absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Cook, seconded by Foley, to adopt Ordinance No. 2611.

Roll call vote: Smith aye, Vander Sanden aye, Foley aye, Cook aye, Hoyt absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance No. 2613 – Code Amendments

City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Goodin explained that, at the recommendation of the City Attorney, revisions had been made to the proposed ordinance to update Chapter 50 so that procedures for serving nuisance abatement notices are consistent with other chapters of the City Code. The amendment authorizes personal service of notices as an alternative to certified mail.

Motion by Cook, seconded by Vander Sanden, to suspend the rule requiring three separate readings of Ordinance No. 2613.

Roll call vote: Mike Foley aye, Cary Smith aye, Bruce Vander Sanden aye, Leigh Cook aye, Leslie Hoyt absent. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Foley, seconded by Cook, to adopt Ordinance No. 2613.

Roll call vote: Bruce Vander Sanden aye, Leigh Cook aye, Mike Foley aye, Cary Smith aye, Leslie Hoyt absent. Motion carried 4-0

Closed Session – Pursuant to Iowa Code §21.5(1)(i)

City Attorney Holly Corkery advised the Council that a closed session was appropriate pursuant to Iowa Code §21.5(1)(i) and requested that the Council convene in closed session.

Motion by Foley, seconded by Smith, to enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code §21.5(1)(i) at 7:10 p.m.

Roll call vote: Cook aye, Foley aye, Smith aye, Vander Sanden aye, Hoyt absent. Motion carried 4-0.

The Council returned to open session at 7:31 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Smith thanked Council for allowing her to attend tonight's meeting via telephone phone. And thanked Council and especially Councilor Vander Sanden for supporting the W. Main St. Reconstruction project.

Mayor Hinz agreed with Councilor Smith and commented on good discussion.

Council Member Cook spoke again regarding City Hall office hours. Was unable to find evidence of a Council vote in archived Council meeting minutes on the City website. Clerk Goodin responded that research by staff netted no Council resolution approving the change in City Hall hours in 2024 and that the change in office hours was an administrative decision made by the Mayor, as was his prerogative.



ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cook, seconded by Foley, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Goodin
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chuck Hinz, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer