

**Rowan City Council Meeting  
February 2, 2026**

Mayor Hollman opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Council present- Heather Baumgartner, Mark Bruns, Chad Ketchum, Virgil Park and David Eriksen.

Minutes of January meeting were approved with a motion by Bruns, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eriksen. Approved unanimously.

Financials/Vouchers – Motion by Bruns to approve and pay bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ketchum. Approved unanimously.

February Expenditures – Alliant Energy (electric) \$1,104.93; Belmond Laundry (rugs) \$40.00; Bruns Machine & Welding (water riser ext) \$35.00; Central Waste Solutions (water main break) \$12,500.00; Clear Lake Sanitary (water testing) \$44.00; Doreen Pasieka (septic plumbing reimb) \$2,048.00; Hawkins, Inc (additives) \$369.68; IPERS (pensions) \$303.20; Lamson Dugan & Murray (legal fees) \$1,798.00; Mountain Movers (gravel-wat main/snow removal) \$3,190.20; Rowan Library (1/3 LOST) \$438.56; S&H Environmental (Water Super/Frozen tower) \$2,029.90; Sewer (transfer) \$4,275.87; Storey Kenworthy (office/cleaning supply) \$176.67; T&S Sanitation (dumpster) \$21.50; USDA (loan) \$3,000.00; VISA (postage) \$312.00; W&H Coop (propane) \$1,700.86; WMTel (phone) \$42.89; Aimee Frohling (City Clerk) \$1,123.05; Dale Hollman (Mayor pay) \$92.35; David Eriksen (water assist) \$351.12; Terri Curtis (Janitor) \$99.41.  
January Receipts – Property Tax \$445.64; LOST \$1,315.68; Rents/Interest \$2,190.40; Utilities \$8,735.12.

Public Input – Mark Pluff wants clarification on snow removal expectation, complaints about not doing enough, other complaints doing too much. LP drivers are complaining about difficulties in alleys. Hollman wonders why the LP drivers are contacting our contractor instead of coming to the City, they can come to a meeting if they want to complain. Hollman doesn't think the streets need to be plowed when there is only an inch or two of snow. Discussion about brush growing in the alleys and/or encroaching on the alleys, along with junk on certain properties. From a Fire Department stand point Pluff would like the alleys opened with 2 passes rather than the 1 he is doing now. Bruns agrees that there should be 2 passes and that's how he did it when he moved snow. It was agreed that the council will push to get alleys cleaned up and that Mountain Movers should make 1 ½ to 2 passes down alleys for Fire Protection.

Maintenance – none.

Fire Department Annual Report/Budget – Pluff (Fire Board President) reported that 2025 was a busy year for the fire department. Two trucks were upgraded for \$28,000 and \$20,000, a very nice bargain for much newer and more dependable trucks. The board completed their Constitution and Bylaws and overall the Board of Trustees and the Rowan Fire Department worked well together, achieving many goals in 2025! The Vision for 2026 – “where there is no vision, the people perish”. The Rowan Fire Department along with the Board of Trustees will continue to work together to keep a standard of excellence up, so when called to a fire they say WE GOT THIS! The Board recommends Bruns to be Fire Chief for another year. Goals include upgrading gear, radios, tools, and adding equipment to assist in firefighting, such as FS2 Fire Suppression packs. Bruns presented the budget to include those upgrades along with potential grant funding. Motion by Ketchum to approve the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Baumgartner. Approved.

Appoint Fire Chief – Motion by Ketchum to accept the board recommendation and appoint Mark Bruns as Fire Chief, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Park. Approved with Bruns abstaining.

Time of Transfer Inspections – Clerk described issues occurring with home sales in town and the unique structure of our sewer system. According to the Wright County Sanitarian these systems are considered private, even though the City owns and maintains them. The Mayor, Clerk, and Central Waste Solutions facilitated an agreement this past month so that a home purchase could take place without the buyer having to pay for a ToT inspection or put money into an escrow. Would like to put a formal policy in place for future transactions. Bruns makes a motion that the City will pay for Time of Transfer Inspections with our own septic contractor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ketchum. Approved. Clerk will send out communications to Real Estate Agency's and other pertinent institutions to this effect.

Gambling License – current license expires this month, cost is approx. \$150 to renew. Motion by Baumgartner to renew it, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruns. Approved.

Water Department Issues – tower repairs were completed today and the tank is about 2/3 full, testing should take place tomorrow in order to lift the boil order after results are received. There is an 8” gate valve between the tower and the main that does not fully close and will need to be replaced. In the past 2 weeks we pumped over 1M gallons of water! Clerk advised that an insurance claim was filed, insurance will pay for the tower freezing, however will not pay for any of the resulting water main/line breaks that are underground. So far, invoices received for the water main break on Bingham total \$13,685.20. There will also be the \$750 deductible for the insurance claim. The City does not have the funds to cover this expense. The Clerk contacted the bank to see about getting a loan and received instructions for doing so. Eriksen moves to borrow \$20,000 over the course of 4 years for the purpose of paying for emergency water infrastructure repairs with Dale Hollman and Aimee Frohling being authorized signers for the loan at First Citizens Bank – Clarion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by

Bruns. Approved Unanimously. The council discussed adding a surcharge/debt service fee to water bills to cover the loan payments until the debt is paid. This will be further discussed at the next regular meeting of the council. The Clerk should send letters out with water bills, explaining the situation.

Possible Amendment to FY26 Budget – Clerk will start working on one to present next month, to reflect the insurance claim and water repairs.

FY27 Preliminary Budget and Levy Approval – Motion by Bruns to approve the property tax levy as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eriksen. Approved unanimously.

Set Public Hearing for Property Tax Levy – Motion by Bruns to hold a public hearing for the proposed property tax levy for FY27 on March 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ketchum. Approved unanimously.

Set Special Meeting to Set Hearing Date on Full Budget – Motion by Bruns to hold a special meeting on March 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ketchum. Approved unanimously.

Possible Changes to Chicken Ordinance – Hollman would like to see the chicken ordinance amended to allow for more chickens, allow for selling of eggs, and to change restrictions on handling of feed. Bruns moves to have clerk draw up an amendment to allow 25 chickens, the sale of eggs, and allow feed to stay out at night if the feeding equipment can be sealed from rodents, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ketchum. Approved unanimously.

County Maint on City Streets & Abandoned Properties tabled to next meeting.

Septic – Control panel light was on at one residence and possibly another, will check on all of them. Tank is frozen at 1014 Bingham.

Nuisance Abatement – none.

Building permits – none.

Meeting adjourned.

Next regular meeting of the council will be March 2, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aimee J Frohling - City Clerk