

New Providence City Council Meeting, August 10th, 2026 6:00 pm

Attendees: Scott Gleason, Lynn Cave, Melissa Berends, Dan Whitehead, Darin Tool, Denise Lange, Lou Schafer, Citizens: Dave Harrell, Lisa Lawler, Fong Lie Bavelaar, Jeff & Sandie Creech, Jon Martin, Eli Giguere, Terry Aucoin, Edward Aucoin, Holly Boyd, Taylor Crall, Treasa Vander Hart, Steve Teske

Mayor Gleason called meeting to order at 6:08 pm. Roll call was done of the council members, mayor, and clerk. Berends made a motion to approve the agenda, Schafer 2nded, MC.

Corrections to the 7/13/26 minutes, typo in 4th paragraph related to fox; instead of cited, should be sited. Also, in 4th paragraph "concern is that there", should be "their". Cave made motion to approve w/corrections, Berends 2nded, MC.

Citizens' Concerns:

The owner of the commercial property behind the Rustic Rose wants to build a fence behind the property and it is currently being surveyed. Planning to make 8 feet high and in cedar. The council will likely approve after the fence ordinance is in place. Project is preemptively approved. The owners of the lot behind this prospective fence also want to build a fence. We hope these owners can work together on this.

Old Business –

Ordinance Chapter 147 on Fences – Council reviewed the draft of the ordinance. Clarifications include to 147.02; Setbacks are 4 feet from the property line, 147.03; commercial fences can be 8- to 10-foot-high including barbed wire, 147.07; electric fences are considered temporary, adding 147.08 for exemptions which can be granted by council, and notes some fences are grandfathered in. Schafer made motion to approve ordinance as written with changes, Berends 2nded, Roll call:

First Reading:

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Tool	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Berends	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Whitehead	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Cave	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Schafer	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion carried.

Fence at 305 Apple – Counsel advises an agreement can be written to owner to advise city is not liable for damage due to inadequate setbacks and being a front yard fence. Mayor will advise attorney to proceed.

City Zoning Map – Still have some areas to confirm zoning on. Council clarified city shed, Berends will confirm questions on Renewal Community (Roundhouse), will likely be residential, a comment was made that a property that is both Ag and residential should be made all ag. This would require a change to an existing ordinance and will be considered and placed on the agenda. Vanguard made a change to the property of 406 W. Main as industrial. Berends will share with the assessors' office. Item is tabled until next month.

Dead Tree at 201 E. Main – Anderson Tree Service has taken this tree down as requested. A follow up letter to the owner will be sent with the bill and if not paid, lien documents will be done as noted to the owner.

Nuisance Abatement Letters – Actions were taken by most of the homeowners that were addressed. Actions still pending on 202 Apple, owner discussed with mayor and it should resolve soon, 207 E. Main says buyer hasn't removed, a follow up letter will be sent. A 2nd notice will be sent to 304 N. Main St. The city will hold off on the corner of W. Main and Pear as the owner is making progress.

New Business – Flower beds in alley at 505 Pear St., Access to farm land behind – Concerned citizen shared comment from owner that he would work with owner of farm land to move or have go around.

Proposed Ordinance 125 for Competition Vehicles & Repair Vehicle Licenses – Proposal was discussed by council and a copy of the proposed ordinance was shared with the new business owner for his input. The city will issue a license once ordinance is approved and would be for a total of 6 vehicles.

Sign Ordinance? A council member suggested this be done, but the council decided not needed at this time.

Long Term Dumpsters in City – Chapter 105 Ordinance doesn't spell out time limit on dumpsters. City system is stickers; some residents pay Knight's containers separately. Ordinance reads "it is the duty of each owner to provide for sanitary disposal of all refuse accumulating on the owner's premises before it becomes a nuisance". If a dumpster is used for projects and excess refuse and is maintained, it is acceptable. It's generally agreed refuse in a dumpster for a month is not acceptable. Some don't like stickers; but ordinance was just revised.

Junk at 118 Walnut St and 114 N Main St. – Mayor will contact his neighbor about the items and noxious weeds, and someone will reach out to 114 N Main.

Financials – Bills started circulation to council. Data is the first month of the new fiscal year. Garbage expenses were high since Solid Waste hadn't been sent to the city, caught up now. Water continues to be an area to keep an eye on. The calculation for LOST for New Providence and data for the last 5 years was shared as requested by the council. CDs - City has 3 CDs up for renewal totaling \$102k. With expenses paid to for the fire department and the upcoming street work, it is suggested city move \$12.5 from both Capital Improvement and Community Service back into checking and rollover the difference. Schafer made a motion to do this, Tool 2nded, MC. Cave made a motion to approve the financials, Whitehead 2nded, MC. Schafer made a motion to pay the bills, Berends 2nded, MC. Sewer CD will be tabled for now. EMC Workmen's Comp. Audit went well; there was a return premium of \$107.

Utility Report – Rhonda's monthly report was reviewed. Schafer would like to know the nitrite levels in the water and will contact the operator. Teske would like to review the meter reading order on the spreadsheet and will work with clerk.

Committee Reports –

Vet's Memorial – The POW flag doesn't hold up to wind. US flag is fine. Mayor will contact the vendor about quality.

Solid Waste – Nothing to report.

City Improvements, Streets – Flags on Main St. have been complimented, council decided to keep them up until Labor Day. Schafer will contact Heartland on timeline for street work. Exempt status hasn't been received yet, clerk will follow up. A quote will be solicited for some sidewalks in the city for next year. The idea of a city available brush pile was discussed, perhaps in Spring and Fall.

Park & Rec – Tree was trimmed by Gray, looks great. Still planning on working on the spring frog in playground. It is noted the city of Hubbard removed their play surface and went with asphalt. We'll get a quote for ours. Will quote new hoops.

911 – Cave reported Emergency 911 had a meeting. They got a \$3M grant to pay for radio project. A FEMA class was approved for local communities. It's planned for after harvest. She has started our plan and will bring sections to council monthly for review. Council reviewed the first section of the plan.

Website – Nothing to report.

Berends made a motion to adjourn, Whitehead 2nded, MC at 8:24 pm.

Financials thru 7/31/26 and Bills paid: Alliant Energy-\$910.55, Heart of IA - \$104.98, IRS-\$966.57, IPERS – \$905.91, IA Dept of Rev. - \$276.19, Times Citizen-\$26.41, POM-\$468.00, Sheriff Hardin Co.-\$449.27, Microbac Labs-\$19.50, Knight's Sanitation - \$1.285, AAA Septic Service - \$90, Providence Trustees - \$1,200, NP Fire Dept. - \$6,000, IA One Call - \$10.90, NP Hardware - \$8.49, DNR - \$210, Craig, Smith & Cutler - \$285, Scott Gleason - \$38.15, John Gray - \$930.57, Steve Teske - \$1,294.51, Denise Lange - \$1,614.65, Total Bills: \$17,094.65. July Receipts General - \$2,124.51, Employer Tax Levy - \$60.18, Capital Improvement - \$2,115.78, Community Service - \$2,203.60, Garbage - \$2,818.90, Roads - \$1,345.86, Sewer - \$1,400.99, Water - \$2,030.65, Total Receipts: \$14,200.47, Expenses: General - \$2,323.43, Employer Tax Levy - \$147.91, Franchise - \$25,000, Comm. Svc. - \$449.27, Garbage - \$3,901, Roads - \$2,981.39, Sewer - \$719.99, Water -\$2,527.30, Vet Mem, Heritage - \$350.34, Total Expenses: \$38,400.83.

Approved by Scott Gleason, Mayor

Attested by Denise Lange, City Clerk