MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
ZEARING CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, ZEARING, IOWA
OCTOBER 12, 2026

7:00pm Mayor Beard called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Present: Hill, Perisho, Johnson, Pascuzzi, Adams.

Hill motioned to approve the agenda, Pascuzzi seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Perisho motioned to approve the minutes from the special meeting held 8.25.26, Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Johnson motioned to approve the minutes from the special meeting held 9.9.26, Perisho seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Adams motioned to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held 9.14.26, Pascuzzi seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Adams motioned to approve the claims totaling $76,610.77, Pascuzzi seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS REPORT 10.12.26		
VENDOR		
AG SOURCE COOP SERVICES	TESTING SERVICES	184.50
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRICITY/GAS	1,848.24
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING	CLEANING SUPPLIES	7.48
CHASE VISA		
CITY HALL	COMPUTER/OFFICE SUPPLIES/POSTAGE	81.89
LIBRARY	BOOKS/DVDS/PROGRAM/SUPPLIES/COMPUTER	877.39
SOLID WASTE	BILLING POSTAGE	45.60
PUBLIC WORKS	FUEL /SUPPLIES	185.67
WATER	BILLING POSTAGE	45.60
SEWER	BILLING POSTAGE/PARTS/SUPPLIES	590.59
CITY OF ZEARING	ADD. HEALTH DEDUCTIBLE	34.28
DENTON DAVIS BROWN PC	LEGAL FEES	1,468.71
FOLLETT SOFTWARE CO	LIBRARY ANNUAL SERVICE RENEWAL	1,430.71
GANNET IOWA LOCALIQ	JULY PUBLISHINGS	80.00
HILL'S BACKHOW & TILING	VALVE & STREET REPAIRS	28,358.17
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	3,051.22
IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES ASSOC	WATER PURCHASE	4,460.00
IPERS COLLECTIONS	IPERS	2,122.14
KEY COOPERATIVE	HERBICIDE & FUEL	439.32
MICHAEL FREDERICK	LIBRARY BOOKS	50.00
MINERVA VALLEY TELEPHONE	OCTOBER PHONE/INTERNET/TV	366.10
MID IOWA PLANNING ALLIANCE	ANNUAL FEE	80.00
STORY COUNTY TREASURER	2ND QUARTER SHERIFF'S CONTRACT	9,496.08
STATE OF IOWA TREASURER	WITHHOLDING/WET/SALES & USE	1,020.81

US BANK	CITY HALL COPIER CONTRACT	557.98
VAN WALL EQUIPMENT	ARTS	123.58
WELLMARK BC/BS	HEALTH INSURANCE	1,371.53
XEROX FINANCIAL SERVICES	LIBRARY COPIER CONTRACT	168.66
SUBTOTAL		**66,018.04**
PAYROLL	9.16.26	3,848.12
PAYROLL	9.30.26	3,744.61
TOTAL		**73,610.77**
EXPENSES BY FUND		
GENERAL		31,625.04
ROAD USE TAX		6,386.44
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT		1,371.53
WATER		30,284.51
SEWER		3,943.25
TOTAL FUNDS		**70,230.74**

There was no sheriff's deputy present at the meeting.

Nobody signed up to speak during the open forum.

New Business:
The 2026 City of Zearing Housing Assessment was discussed. Zearing's population has been decreasing over time and is projected to continue to decrease. The report included suggestions city leaders can use to grow the community and support housing development. No action was taken regarding this at this meeting, but this will be kept in mind as the city moves forward.

Fire hydrants were flushed September 23rd. Most of our hydrants were noted as having issues with flow or leaks of some kind. This is something that needs addressed. We need to do what troubleshooting we can to see if there are any that may just need simple fixes, such as making sure valves are fully open. Then we need to get bids for repairs and explore grant options as this is major infrastructure work that must be taken care of.

Superintendent Chitty supplied a list of his daily work tasks for the last month as requested to help outline his scope of work.

Gerald Murrell submitted his resignation from the board of adjustments on September 24th. Adams motion to accept Murrell's resignation from the BOA, Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Iowa Regional Utilities Association has notified us that our water rate will be increased by 7% starting January 1st. Rate adjustments will need to be made, but no action was taken at this meeting.

The stray cat population is out of control in Zearing. There are several people in town feeding strays, many of which are not fixed. We have been notified by Story County Animal Control that they are able to spay/neuter then re-release cats at a discounted rate as opposed to re-homing the animals. City officials have also heard complaints about the number of strays we have, so slowing their population growth would help, but not solve the problem. The person that SCAC contacted us about is feeding approximately 20 cats. While slowing the growing numbers would be good, it's hard for the council to accept that the city is responsible for the animals other's are encouraging to thrive. The Council argues if you are regularly feeding an animal, you are claiming the animal as your pet. Adams motioned to draft a

letter with the help of legal council stating that if you are regularly feeding an animal, you are taking responsibility for it. Pascuzzi seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business:
Delinquent water bills: All but one of the twenty-three accounts that received shut-off notices last month made arrangements to settle their account balances.

Nuisances properties: A few notices will be going out for weeds/overgrowth, indoor furniture being discarded in yards, and junk that needs cleaned up.

Superintendent's report: Currently drawing down the lagoon, cleaning out behind the office and shop, sprayed around the lagoon, he has arranged to scrap the old lights from the library and some of the old meters we have sitting around.

7:50pm Hill exits.

Clerk's report: Reviewed our housing assessment, attended SFR webinar to prepare for that report, cleaning/organizing office, working on finishing typing up codebook updates, and met with Jennifer from the Ames Alliance.

Mayor's report: He is pleased with the difference he has noticed around the shop/office. He would like to see the burn pile burnt as soon as weather/harvest allow. Then use the clay/rock we have to build a base on which the burn pile will sit to help divert water away when it rains, rather than collecting in a bowl as it does now. Lastly, while nothing was critical he would like to see corrections from our DNR review addressed and reported back to them as completed.

Council members' report: The trustees signed off on the purchase of a new pumper truck for the fire department. EMS soup dinner is scheduled for October 31st at Dakins Community Center from 11am-1pm.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9th, at 7pm.

7:58pm Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting, Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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Marlin Beard, Mayor Zearing, Iowa

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Attested:
Amy Womeldorff, Zearing City Clerk