

1-2. CALL TO ORDER

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Barnard at 5:30 pm. Members present, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ariss, Councilor Kuiken, Councilor Olsen, Councilor Manlow, City Supervisor Houk, Police Chief Stigall, Clerk/Treasurer Johnson and Fire Chief McGee.

3. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

The following individuals spoke in support of maintaining the Pledge of Allegiance as a standard practice at Council meetings: Jewel Hardy, Millie Clement, Jerry Bowman, Karla Weber, Lisa Olsen, Don Corcoran, and Patricia Corcoran. Mrs. Corcoran also expressed concern that the Pledge was removed without prior Council discussion or approval. Katie O'Neal spoke in support of removing the Pledge, while Diantha Weillepp noted that the Pledge is not required or necessary at public meetings. Bob Hall remained neutral on the issue. On behalf of Pacific County EMS, he asked the Council if they would like to schedule a demonstration of the newly acquired Life Packs. The Council expressed interest in scheduling this demonstration.

4. APPROVAL – Agenda, Consent Agenda, and Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilor Manlow to approve the Consent Agenda and the minutes of the December 8th, 2025, regular meeting, while refusing to approve the Agenda as written. He then motioned that the Pledge of Allegiance be reinstated as line 2 of all future Council meeting agendas. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-Ø.** After the vote, all who were in support, stood and recited the Pledge.

Vendors – Check #50101 thru Check #50177 - \$242,288.51 Including EFT Payments
Payroll – Check #25270 thru Check #25273 - \$203,210.92 Including Direct Deposit, Benefits and Payroll Taxes

5. CORRESPONDENCE -

Letters supporting the City of South Bend becoming a Certified Creative District were received from Chrisine Balcom, Heather Hamilton, and Anna Barile.

6. Bill Dorn IV – Certified Creative Districts Presentation

Bill Dorn verbally presented on behalf of the Certified Creative Districts Program. After his presentation, a motion was made by Councilor Manlow to further pursue application. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-Ø.**

7. DISCUSSION: Removal of the Pledge of Allegiance from City Council Meetings

No action was taken, with consideration to the actions taken in line item 4, regarding the approval of the Agenda, Consent Agenda and prior Meeting Minutes. All Council members voiced their support of the Pledge. The Mayor explained her reasoning for wanting the Pledge removed.

8. DISCUSSION: Coalition Support to HB 1806

A motion was made by Councilor Manlow to show support for HB 1806. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-Ø.**

9. DISCUSSION: Officially Partnering with America250 WA

A motion was made by Councilor Manlow to partner with America250 WA. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-0.**

10. APPROVAL: Personal Service Contract – Chief of Police

A motion was made by Councilor Kuiken to approve the contract. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-0.**

11. APPROVAL: Personal Service Contract – City Supervisor / Building Inspector

A motion was made by Councilor Ariss to approve the contract. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-0.**

12. APPROVAL: Personal Service Contract – City Clerk / Treasurer

A motion was made by Councilor Davis to approve the contract. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-0.**

13. APPROVAL: Professional Service Contract – City Prosecuting Attorney

A motion was made by Councilor Olsen to approve the contract. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-0.**

14. APPROVAL: Professional Service Contract – Indigent Criminal Defendants

A motion was made by Councilor Manlow to approve the contract. Motion carried. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-0.**

15. Mayor Pro Tem Appointment

Councilor Manlow nominated Councilor Davis, who accepted the nomination. The Council voted to approve the appointment. **Vote: Ayes-5, Noes-0.**

16. 2026 Council Committee Discussion

Councilor Davis and Councilor Olsen exchanged Committee duties. Councilor Davis will now serve on the RWCC in place of Councilor Olsen, and Councilor Olsen will serve on the Fire Department Committee in place of Councilor Davis. All other positions remained the same.

17. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Stigall reported that the Department met all 2025 training requirements and noted that two in-depth active investigations are currently underway. City Supervisor Houk shared that the dock repairs requiring crane work are progressing well and that the drainage system is recovering and functioning to standard. Following his report, he addressed questions from the Council regarding city maintenance and drainage systems. During this discussion, Councilor Ariss expressed a need for a stop sign at the intersection of Monroe and Water Streets. Clerk Treasurer Johnson reported that the City's finances are currently in order.

18. MAYOR'S REPORT -

Mayor Barnard expressed her gratitude to former Mayor Struck for the advice shared during the transition from retiring Mayor to newly elected Mayor. She also shared her appreciation for the public's participation in the current meeting.

19. PUBLIC COMMENT – CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS -

Patricia Corcoran inquired about the distribution of funds collected through HB 1806. Bob Hall noted that committee meetings are currently underutilized and suggested they meet more frequently. Jerry Bowman expressed his gratitude to the newly elected members for

their willingness to serve the community. Additionally, Don Corcoran thanked the Council for supporting the inclusion of the Pledge of Allegiance at all future Council meetings.

9. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Olsen noted that it was encouraging to see such high levels of public engagement. He also commended the board for its professionalism and expressed his hope that this standard continues throughout his term. Councilor Davis proposed the implementation of public Council workshops focused on various relevant subjects to further community involvement. Councilor Ariss and Councilor Kuiken both expressed their gratitude to the public for attending and participating, noting that they appreciated the interaction. Councilor Manlow concluded by stating that he looks forward to working with a council that maintains a professional conduct.

10. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS - None

11. ADJOURNMENT-

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM to meet again on Monday February 9, 2026 for a regular council meeting at South Bend City Hall.

Bethany Barnard
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
David Johnson

DRAFT