

Atlantic City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Rob Clausen presiding. Council members present were Kennedy (Ward 1), Behrens (Ward 2), McDermott (Ward 3), Sarsfield (Ward 4), Halder (Ward 5). Butler (At-Large), and Otte (At-Large). Absent: None. Also present: City Administrator Lund, City Clerk/Treasurer McLean.

Motion by McDermott; second by Butler to approve agenda. All ayes: motion passed. Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Sarsfield; second by Behrens to approve consent agenda: Minutes of December 17, 2025 City Council Meeting. Bills: \$230,343.81. All ayes: motion passed.

Public Forum & Requested Hearings.

Frank Saddlemire urged the City's new leadership to reconsider hiring a Parks & Recreation Director. He said that Atlantic will be growing with the new housing project and already has the largest parks system in southwest Iowa. Atlantic has a history of strong and visionary projects under the leadership of a full director. At the time the City decided not to replace the last Parks Director, he was told it was to save the City money, but it isn't worth the sacrifice.

Presentation by Rod Deter, Board member, on the Atlantic Cemetery.

- On behalf of the board, Deter thanked the City and the taxpayers for the annual \$30K contribution to support the cemetery.
- They keep track of all 11,000 burials with dozens of section maps, all handwritten.
- The first burial was in 1863. The Cemetery Association began in 1874.
- There is one full-time employee, Darryl Hanson, and one part-time/seasonal.
- The Association is a 501(c)(3) and is audited annually.
- Because this is a perpetual care cemetery, for every burial, they must set aside money which cannot be used for anything else, though they can collect interest on it.
- There are around 3600 plots available. Though fifty were buried in 2025, only ten plots were sold because many people bought large family plots in the past.
- The funeral homes have said a mausoleum for cremations would be very popular, though it would cost an estimated \$100K.
- 2026 plan: Document procedures. Buy a new mower. Recruit new board members. Digitally back up the paper section maps. Remove 22 dead trees. Eventually they need to replace bent flagpoles and plan for road repairs.
- McDermott suggested the Library might be able to help with recordkeeping and tree removal.

Motion by Butler; second by Halder to appoint Roger Poulsen to the Planning & Zoning Commission. All ayes: motion passed. The Mayor administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Poulsen.

Motion by McDermott; second by Sarsfield to approve First Whitney Bank & Trust as the City's Official Bank for the City Checking Account for 2026. All ayes: motion passed.

Motion by Behrens; second by Halder to approve the Atlantic News-Telegraph as the City's Official Newspaper for Legal Publications in 2026. All ayes: motion passed.

Motion by Butler; second by Sarsfield to approve Pay Application #5 for \$94,872.79 to TK Concrete for the West 22nd Street Improvement Project. All ayes: motion passed.

Motion by Halder; second by McDermott to approve Resolution #01-26 "Authorizing Certain Parameters for the Acceptance and Approval of a Bond Purchase Agreement." Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Administrator's Report.

- Governor's State of the State Speech. – Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Mayor's Report.

- New Mayor Clausen thanked the voters for their trust and said he will try to earn it. He has been studying how the city works and meeting the people. He has learned the City does more than he imagined and has good people working for it, but there is room for improvement.
- He reminded the public that the Camblin Hills project is in full swing and it is a closed construction site. For the safety of the workers, no one should drive through it.
- Reminder to everyone to remember the snow ordinance and to move vehicles off the road.
- Recognition of last meeting for Clerk McLean.

City Council Reports.

- Kennedy: PFC meeting discussing City Clerk transition.
- Behrens: Fire Department: voted Tom Cappel as Chief again. The subcommittee to purchase a new truck has one they want to view. They are finishing remodeling the basement at the fire station. Received DNR grant for \$4500 to replace grass unit.
- Sarsfield: PFC
- Halder: Transfer station.
- Otte: PFC
- Butler: Cemetery Board. Transfer station/Landfill committee.

The next City Council meeting will be a budget work session on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, at 5:00 pm. The next regular City Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

Motion by McDermott; second by Butler to adjourn at 6:08 pm. All ayes. Motion passed.

Rob Clausen, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Laura McLean, City Clerk