

Bancroft City Council  
Monday, January 21, 2026  
Meeting Minutes of the Mayor and City Council for Bancroft, Idaho

Roll call showed the following council and staff members present:  
Jessica Vawser, Trevor Parsons, Jessica Thurman, Michael Ackerman, Mayor Perry and Clerk Swensen

Others in attendance: James Ackerman, Eric Christensen, TaraLee Christensen

Call to Order: Mayor Perry called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.  
Pledge: Mayor Perry

Item: 1 Agenda

Cm, Jessica Vawser made a motion to accept the agenda as stated.  
Cm, Jessica Thurman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 2 Appointment of Council President

Mayor Perry would like to appoint Cm, Jessica Vawser to the position of council president.  
Cm, Jessica Thurman made a motion to appoint Jessica Vawser as council president.  
Cm, Trevor Parsons 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item: 3 Department Head Assignments

Mayor Perry asked council which departments they were comfortable or interested in being over. Council discussed the departments and agreed to assignments. Clerk Swensen will update the list of assignments.  
Cm, Michael Ackerman made a motion to approve and update the new department head assignments.  
Cm, Jessica Vawser 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item 4: Electrical Panel Bid Review

Mayor Perry and Cm, Ackerman inspected the control panel at Memorial Park well due concerns and a large difference in estimates from contractors.  
Cm, Ackerman stated that there were loose wires causing multiple burn spots in the cabinet. One of the main wires had loose connections and was getting hot which caused burn spots in the panel. The terminals need to be replaced and the wire needs to be repaired. The repair consists of cutting the wire back, using compression crimps and putting heat treat over the top. The soft start or variable frequency drive that starts the pump up slowly seems to be fine with no proven failures. At this point the soft start does not need replaced but the city should purchase a back-up soft start in case of failure. Cm, Ackerman likes the estimate from Watt's Up Electric due to being similar to the issues they saw when inspecting the system. It will be a big savings to the city if they do the recommended repairs and then have a backup soft start on hand. Mayor Perry read the other estimate and explained his concerns to the council. The other quote is to completely replace the wires and other parts that don't appear to have issues. Some of the items that need replaced were not listed and the wire listed was incorrect. Cm, Ackerman and Mayor Perry suggested the city hire Watt's Electric due to the description of findings being closely similar to their inspection of issues. Cm, Ackerman noted that there might need to be a few additional items added once they get in and analyze things more closely. Cm, Jessica Vawser asked if all of this could have been avoided with routine maintenance. Cm, Michael Ackerman and Mayor Perry stated that yes it could have been avoided by routine checks and checking the connections. Cm, Michael Ackerman stated that the biggest failure was the loose wires.  
Cm, Trevor Parsons made a motion to hire Watt's Up Electric for the repairs (up to \$5k) and have them do routine maintenance going forward.  
Cm, Michael (Mike) Ackerman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Resident, James Ackerman asked if the city has checked the condition of the backup generator. Mayor Perry stated that it has been overheating due to bad ventilation. James stated that they used to open all the doors to give it proper ventilation but creating public access is not ideal. James stated that there was supposed to be a fence built around it a long time ago. Council discussed possibly installing forced air with a big fan to force the air through the room. Resident Ackerman stated that the transfer switch has CT's in it allowing it to start the fan automatically when the generator kicks off. Council agreed to continue reviewing this topic until they reach a decision. Cm, Parsons would like to hire someone do routine maintenance.

Resident, James Ackerman stated that he used to change the oil and filters once a year on the lift station generator. Mayor Perry noted that there hasn't been any routine maintenance.

Mayor Perry informed council that there is a generator in the Potter shop they will look at more thoroughly.

Mayor Perry will talk to Watt's Up Electric about finding a backup soft start and cooling system.

Resident, James Ackerman stated that the lift station is a hard start and could be part of the pump problems. The pumps used to alternate and had relays on them.

Cm, Parsons doesn't want to see the city put too much time and effort into what we have now; just keep them running. Cm, Ackerman stated that keeping them running is the main concern right now. Cm, Thurman is concerned about spending money and then possibly getting a grant. Cm, Parsons stated that the city might be money ahead to just purchase a new pump. Mayor Perry remembers council discussing the idea of purchasing a new pump and having the old one rebuilt for a spare. Cm, Parsons and previous council member Eric Christensen reminded council that a vendor told maintenance that parts for this model are not available, obsolete, and hard to find. Mayor Perry stated that calls are free and one person's opinion is not good enough for him. Mayor Perry will make a few calls and instruct maintenance to make a few calls as well.

#### Item: 5 Complaint Discussion

Cm, Michael Ackerman informed council that he made a complaint regarding noise and parking. The first complaint was filed in March and the other on December 30<sup>th</sup> for noise; created on the 26<sup>th</sup> and again on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ackerman's neighbor was working on his semi-truck across the street with a welder and was banging his trailer with a 20 lb. sledge hammer. Mike stated he had to leave his home. Cm, Ackerman played the video he had taken of the incident.

Mike stated that the city received a complaint from him but proceeding to give his neighbor a green light to continue parking his semi-truck there after his March complaint was filed. Cm, Ackerman stated that there are 33 trailers parked on public property right now making the city look unsightly and trashy. Cm, Ackerman stated that the ordinance needs to be reviewed and re-worded.

Cm, Vawser stated that there are no solid ordinances to stop the resident from parking there.

Cm, Ackerman stated that this is why the code needs to be reviewed. Cm, Ackerman stated that there is a truck route recently plotted out by the city and those roads in his area are not on the truck route causing the road damage.

Cm, Vawser stated that it is not constant everyday use and that is what the truck route is intended for.

Cm, Ackerman stated that it is constant parking in front of his house. Cm, Vawser stated that there have been no other complaints from other neighbors.

Cp, Vawser stated that the city council has already discussed this issue in the past and came to the resolution that nothing in the code prevents the resident from parking there. Council discussed giving the resident the information and option of contacting Chem-Star. They may be willing to help out the people with small businesses.

Cm, Ackerman advised council that the problem here is people starting up a business when they do not have the means to do so and are they are parking on public streets which is intruding on others.

Mayor Perry stated that there is a similar situation near his home. The property owner is parking his equipment on the city property and he has plenty of room on his own land.

Cp, Vawser stated that it is hard to push someone out of business and not give them options.

Cm, Ackerman stated that he has personally given this neighbor the option of parking his semi-truck on Mike's property and it would have 24-hour surveillance. His neighbor does not want to relocate his truck due to convenience.

Cm, Ackerman stated that the semi is intruding on his space. Cm, Ackerman would like to make changes to the existing ordinance. It would allow residents to have personal operative vehicles which are: trucks, cars, ATV's and UTV's. Mike stated that the city doesn't need 33 trailers and semi-trucks parked on city streets.

Mayor Perry asked council to look at the ordinances and be willing to go through them go through them.

Cp, Vawser would like to ask the city attorney if Cm, Ackerman is legal to participate with making a motion or voting on this topic where he has personal involvement.

Cm, Vawser asked if there are time restrictions on noise. Resident, Eric Christensen stated that it is from 6am to 11pm Monday through Thursday and later on the weekends.

Cm, Vawser noted that this situation happened during the middle of the day and asked if there is a decibel limit. Eric Christensen stated that the limit is pretty high and set by DEQ.

Cm, Parsons stated that he understands Cm, Ackerman's frustration, but we are a small mining and farming community. Cm, Parsons commented that he started his business while living in the middle of town. Cm, Parsons stated that he got turned in for a similar issue to this and his only complaint is that his neighbor did not come to him first. Cm, Ackerman stated that he has personally addressed his neighbor regarding these issues and his concerns.

Cm, Ackerman commented that Cp, Vawser has attempted to clean the cars and messes up for appearance reasons and this is no different. Cm, Ackerman noted that the noise issue with his neighbor is a separate problem.

Cm, Ackerman stated that he is not addressing the condition of the residents' yards he is just concerned about what is on the city streets. Cm, Vawser asked where she is supposed to park her snowmobile trailer.

Cm, Ackerman stated that people should have the means to store their own items.

Cm, Ackerman stated that this is why he is suggesting in his draft of the code to allow (POV) personal operated vehicles but eliminate parking of semitrucks.

Mayor Perry would like to review the ordinance as a council and have further discussions.

Item: 6 Cm, Parsons asked if anyone has heard about the donation for street lights from Degerstrom.

Mayor Perry informed council that he will reach out to Casey Lee who is over donations at that mine.

Item: 7 Street Light Replacement-Rocky Mountain Power Estimate Review

Cm, Mike Ackerman would like to replace the current street lights updating to the LED lamps due to the savings and reimbursement plan offered by Rocky Mountain Power.

Cm, Ackerman brought a demo light to show council the difference between a yellow and white light.

The 3,000 is the warmer yellow light and the 4,000 is the white light. Cm, Parsons likes coming home to the warmer lights and feels it's easier to sleep. Cm, Vawser also prefers the warm lights.

Mayor Perry likes the white look of the 4,000. Council would like to go forward with the application for the energy savings grant that would cover the entire cost of replacing the lights.

Council voted and decided to go with the 4k white light cobra style.

Cm, Trevor Parsons made a motion to upgrade the 44 city lights to the 4k cobra style lights contingent upon having the funds in the budget and/or receiving funds from the grant.

Cm, Michael Ackerman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Item 8 Building Permit

Jake Barfuss submitted a building permit for a hickory shed.

Cm, Parsons explained that this building permit was put back on the agenda per council request due to requiring the applicant to get written approval from his neighbor to put the shed close to the fence and add a gate. The city has received a signed consent from the neighbor agreeing to the noted changes.

Cm, Mike Ackerman made a motion to approve the permit.

Cm, Jessica Thurman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Cm, Ackerman asked if a particular neighbor filed a permit before building a shed. Council confirmed that a permit was filed and approved by council before the shed was built.

Cm, Trevor Parsons asked about the previous discussions regarding the pump behind the school. There is not a backup generator at this point. Cm, Ackerman asked if anyone has sized up the generator. City council had talked about checking with the state surplus to purchase one they had. Council discussed the need of having a backup. Cm, Ackerman asked if there is an issue with having both pumps on at the same time. Eric Christensen stated that he doesn't think there is an issue with them being on at the same time because they have separation.

Cm, Mike Ackerman asked if it should be initiated manually or an automatic. Mayor Perry informed council that there is a military style diesel generator at Potter shop they will check be checking out. Resident James Ackerman recalls that generator in the shop needing a fuel pump.

Cm, Parsons suggested having Watt's Up Electric look at the generator and see if it is compatible with the pump house.

Jessica Thurman feels like the city should utilize the rodeo grounds more and would like to plan a summer city event. Cm Thurman was told that a group was denied using the rodeo grounds. Eric Christensen informed Cm, Thurman that the individuals were not told they couldn't use the rodeo grounds, but that that they would need to pay a fee if their event was for profit and non-profit events are free of charge. Due to the cost of power, garbage, maintenance, and clean-up the city put fees on the grounds to help recuperate some of the cost. There has been an issue with collecting those fees since this policy changed. Some groups are willing to pay the fee without questions and others have been difficult. Cm, Thurman would like to have a spring or summer event and utilizing the grounds more.

Cm, Parsons asked what happened to the tree burn. Eric Christensen informed council that all of these events either pay for themselves or the city pays for them. People used to donate the chili and other items but no one wants to help out or donate anymore.

Cm, Trevor Parsons asked about the Teuscher Square tree lights. Council discussed purchasing the higher quality lights that are built heavy duty to prevent wasting money or replacements. Eric Christensen stated that the city is on the right track as far as getting good lights.

Clerk Swensen has made the annual \$5,500 bank transfer to satisfy the DEQ loan agreement. The voice recorder is having issues with going on and off. Council advised clerk Swensen to order another recorder. Council presented Eric Christensen with a 20-year service award and thanked him for all his hard work and devotion to the community. Eric thanked the newly elected officials and commented that it is a thankless job but they will do great.

Cm, Eric Christensen wants council to remember that patrons have good input and most people just want to be heard.

Cm, Vawser asked clerk Swensen for a license fees and utility account balance report.

Mayor Perry has been looking for a fire chief. Cm, Thurman suggested her brother may be interested.

Mayor Perry will go visit with him this next week.

Cm, Thurman is concerned about the city hall door being so hard to open and close during winter months. Council discussed different options. Mayor Perry will talk to a contractor about doing the repairs.

Cm, Thurman asked if the Fire Department has what they need. Cm, Parsons stated that everything should be up to date except for CBA's. Clerk Swensen informed council that a large order was placed a couple of months ago.

Mayor Perry went to the Potter Shop to see what is there and found that it was extremely cluttered and dirty. Maintenance have been instructed to get a dumpster and start cleaning up. The city can auction the items with value.

Cm, Parsons stated that this has been discussed previously and some of the vehicles and equipment just need attention and some can be auctioned off or salvaged. The dump truck needs a transmission and the ford truck just needs a battery. The post office has a box to dispose of the old flags. Cm, Parsons stated that a lot of the items were moved to this shop from the other one and most of the items just need to go to the dump. Potter shop has a leak that needs addressed in the spring and a door has been taken off completely. The city needs to put some hand lift rails on it. Cm, Parsons informed Mayor Perry that the shop doesn't currently lock. Cp, Vawser stated that she caught a couple and teenagers and adults going in the shop. Eric Christensen suggested putting up a camera sign. Cm, Mike Ackerman commented that it is illegal to put a camera sign up with no actual cameras.

Mayor Perry stated that they will get it locked up as soon as possible and he has instructed maintenance to clean up the yard at the main shop.

Mayor Perry is concerned about the frequent battery purchases. The batteries are being drained in cold weather and the city does not have enough battery tenders. When Mayor Perry stopped by the shop recently the equipment wouldn't start due to dead batteries.

Mayor Perry would like to install cameras at the shop for multiple reasons and for protection.

The dumping and separating junk during spring cleanup needs to be monitored.

Resident James Ackerman commented that the roof on the Main Shop is in bad shape.

Cm, Jessie Vawser made a motion to adjourn.

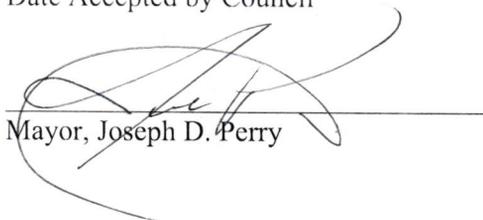
Cm, Trevor Parsons 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 4-0.



Recorded by: ds  
City Clerk /Debbie Swensen

2-9-26

Date Accepted by Council



Mayor, Joseph D. Perry