

City Council Minutes  
November 18, 2025

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the City Council, at City Hall.  
Petersburg, Illinois

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Audio WS700791

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Members present were Aldermen Bruce Gorman, Megan Loberg-Simmering, Mike Allison, Rick Sonnemaker, Andrew Gain, and Neil Conklin. Also, present were Mayor Rick Snyder, Treasurer Melissa Riley, City Secretary Tracy Ciesler, Attorney Jason Brokaw(7:09pm), and City Clerk John Ramage.

B. Mayor Snyder led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

c. A motion was made by Alderman Gain and seconded by Alderman Gorman to approve the agenda. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

III. CITY CLERK

A. The City Clerk presented the Warrant List and Accounts Payable. After a review, a motion was made by Alderman Gain and seconded by Alderman Allison to accept the Warrant List and the Accounts Payable. VOTES: Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

B. The Regular City Council meeting minutes of November 4, 2025, were presented. A motion was made by Alderman Sonnemaker and seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve the November 4, 2025, regular City Council meeting minutes. VOTES: Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**City Council Minutes**  
**November 18, 2025**

**IV. HEARING OF CITIZENS**

1. Brie Allison, representing the Menard County Tourism Board, would like to do a circus days festival on June 20, 2026, on the square. The event would be child-oriented and provide a historic look at the circuses of the city. Sheridan and Douglas streets would be closed from 11:00am to 4:00pm. By a show of hands all aldermen approved of the event.

**V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**A. Water Department**

1. Water Department Monthly Report. The Water Collector Angela Henderson gave the October water collector's report along with a request for sewer adjustment and a payment agreement. A motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Gain to approve the Water Collectors Report with the adjustment and payment agreement. VOTES: Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

2. Water Superintendent's Monthly Report, oral and written, was presented by Mayor Snyder for the Water Superintendent. The department fixed seven different water leaks around the city. Also, the department performed five water shut on/off's and fixed a sewer backup. Additionally, the water treatment plant treated 8,851,400 gallons of water for the month.

-The dept. received water sample analysis results for Well#11 from Pace Labs and sent them to IEPA for review. This should be the last step before getting an operating permit for the new well.

-IEMA inspectors did some "radiation" (radon) testing at the water plant and results were almost zero, well below limits.

-The dept. mitigated all but one OSHA violation from an earlier inspection. The final violation should be mitigated December 1<sup>st</sup>. All OSHA items do not affect water quality.

-The dept. received a draft plan for sewer improvement options and will call a meeting soon.

**City Council Minutes**  
**November 18, 2025**

**B. Street Department**

1. Street Department Monthly Report was given by Supervisor Brian Whitehurst. The department did the usual bag and brush pickup, mowing, weed eating and spraying. Additionally, the department cleaned out drains and box-drains, removed graffiti from two stop signs, performed stump grinding, and garbage collection at Hurie P, South Park, Veterans Park, and around the square. Also,

- Provided backhoe maintenance by replacing bucket pins and rebuilding the hydro ram.
- Finished sidewalk project at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Jackson.
- the new Chevy truck is now equipped with salt box and snowplow.
- the dept. is using the leaf vac setup to collect leaves around the city.

**VI. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**A. Mayor**

1. Carrie Winkelmann and library board members to discuss health plans. Carrie and others spoke about their preferences for the selection of employee health insurance and the rising costs. It was noted that working with state affiliated insurance plans appeared to be less expensive.

2. Vote on Insurance Plan. After a lengthy discussion on insurance plans. A motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Conklin to go with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield OAP plan, which is through the state of Illinois, at the cost of approx. \$188,500.00 for a year. VOTES: Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

3. Revisit In-town Hunting. Mayor Snyder gave status on the effort to remove deer from within the city limits and would like some more hunters to be involved. The council had no objections.

4. New City Hall Cleaning Contract. The mayor suggested that the city open the city hall cleaning contract for rebid. The council had no objections.

**City Council Minutes**  
**November 18, 2025**

5.Tree Committee Chairman. Mayor Snyder noted that the chairman of the tree committee had a lot of responsibilities and the street department supervisor was handling these responsibilities in addition to their normal duties. Therefore, the mayor proposed making this position have a stipend of \$1000.00. Council will have this on the agenda for the next meeting

**B.Treasurer's Report**

1.Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Riley. A brief discussion was held on what all was included in the report, including the closure of the Jaycee Park Fund Account. A motion made by Alderman Gain seconded by Alderman Gorman to approve the Treasurer's Report including the closure of the Jaycee Park Fund Account. VOTES: Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

2.Mike Feriozzi - Auditor Exit Meeting. Auditor Feriozzi gave his assessment of the city noting that the city improved its position over the last audit he conducted, and this includes the library. Two items listed were resolved earlier. The first was repaying a loan from the sewer department by the water department. The second was to determine if the bank would guarantee all the money it had from the city. The auditor said the city is economically healthy and the city council and mayor are making good financial decisions.

**VII.OLD BUSINESS**

1.Loan for Demolition of Old School. Mayor Snyder went to the Alliance Community Bank to inquire about a loan to finance the demolition of the old grade school, and the bank promised a good rate. While there the mayor inquired as to how much of the money that the city had deposited there was guaranteed and the response was 100%.

2.The council reviewed a decision by the zoning board of appeals and after discussion a motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Gain to send the issue back to the board for reconsideration. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

City Council Minutes  
November 18, 2025

3. The Alderman Gain, Mayor Snyder and attorney Brokaw discussed items to be included in the RFP that would be used to demolish the old grade school.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Gain and seconded by Alderman Gorman to adjourn the meeting. VOTES: Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Gain, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED. Meeting Adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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John Ramage  
City Clerk

Approved December 2, 2025

Audio WS700791