

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
February 12th, 2026**

The special meeting of the Tyronza City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Woods. A roll call was taken, and the following council members were recorded as present: Willie Harris, Barbara Ross, Patty Barger, Daniel Brewington and Kristina Woods. Absent: Michael Hood. A quorum was declared. Also at the meeting was Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood. City Attorney Jimmy Gazaway was not present.

The special meeting was called to discuss a new police department position.

The council discussed establishing a new full-time position to handle VIN checks in the police department.

Melissa Rhinehart said she would like to move to that position from the water clerk position. She was currently doing the VIN checks along with her other duties.

The 2026 budget showed a \$70,799 surplus; the estimated cost for the new position was \$37,356 which included health insurance. The 2026 budget had an existing part-time PD budget line in the amount of \$17,717.00. The added cost to the 2026 budget was estimated to be \$19,639.

The amount collected for VIN fee is capped at \$25 statewide.

The revenue from VIN checks was reported as follows: \$285,725 to date; \$77,950 (2024); \$186,400 (2025 YTD); recent \$21,375 collected.

There was discussion about what would happen to the position if VIN verifications stopped. The position would be eliminated if VIN checks quit.

There was then discussion about the job duties of the new police department position.

The PD role would include completing VIN Verifications, Collect the fee for the VIN verifications, Balance the VIN fees collected to end of day VIN report, Take FIN fees to front office and get a receipt. dispatching, run any ACIC returns for officers, enter NIBRS reports, dispatch police and fire calls, daily officer log, maintain police citation issued log, keep citation issued log, keep and maintain warrant file, prepare monthly activity log for council meeting, validate warrants, quarterly juvenile jail report and death in custody report, create and maintain needed police forms, enter warrants, enter no contact

orders, enter any stolen vehicles and guns, copy and send requested accident reports, TAC officer, CLEST officer

There was then discussion on whether the water clerk needed full-time hours and whether to cut the hours the city hall would be open.

There was no decision made on adding a new police department position. Any further discussion was tabled until a future meeting.



Jeff Woods, Mayor



Donna D Wood, Recorder/Treasurer

Daily
VIN Verifications
Make copy of Owner Paper Work
Collect \$25.00 from Each Customer
Run VIN in ACIC
Log ACIC return into Spreadsheet
Print VIN Certificate
Save VIN Certificate to File
Balance VIN Money Received to Report
Take money and receipt report to Front Office, Get receipt from front office
Run any ACIC Returns for Officers
Enter NIBRS Reports
Dispatch Police Cass & Fire Calls
Daily Officer Log
Maintain Police Citation Issued Log
Keep Citation Issued Log
Keep and Maintian Warrant File
Monthly
Prepare Monthly Activity Log for Council Meeting
Validate Warrants
Quartlery Reports
Juvenile Jail Report
Death in Custody Report
As Needed
Create and Maintain Needed Police Forms
Enter Warrants
Enter No Contact Order
Enter any stolen vehicles, guns
Copy and send requested accident reports
TAC Officer -Maintain/Check Officer Certification
Make sure everything is ready for ACIC Audits
CLEST Administrator - Obtains copies of records from new hire police officers and enters into CLEST Portal. Delete officers when employment ends

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
February 19th, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Tyronza City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Woods. A roll call was taken, and the following council members were recorded as present: Willie Harris, Michael Hood, Daniel Brewington, Barbara Ross, Patty Barger, and Kristina Woods. A quorum was declared. City Attorney Jimmy Gazaway and Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood were also at the meeting.

Barbara Ross gave the invocation.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the January 22nd, 2026, regular council meeting minutes, February 5th, 2026, special called meeting and February 12th, 2026, special called meeting. Kristina Woods, seconded by Barbara Ross, moved to suspend the reading of the minutes. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to approve the January 22, 2026, regular council meeting minutes, February 5th, 2026, special called meeting and February 12th, 2026, special called meeting. Barbara Ross asked for the full job duties listed at the February 12th, 2026, meeting for the VIN/Dispatch clerk to be added to the minutes. The minutes for February 12th only had a partial list of the job duties. Patty Barger, seconded by Barbara Ross, moved to approve the minutes with additional information added. Upon a voice vote, the voting was as follows unanimous to approve.

The expenditure reports were next on the agenda.

Mayor Woods asked for a motion to approve the expenditure reports for January 2026.

Kristina Woods, seconded by Daniel Brewington, moved to approve the expenditure reports.

Mayor Woods then opened the floor for any discussion on the expenditure reports.

With there being no discussion, a voice vote was taken to approve the January 2026 expenses. The voting was unanimous to approve.

The meeting then moved to new business listed on the agenda.

First was discussion of the proposed Southern Tenant Farmers Union Museum's crosswalk plans for the grain bins.

Mayor Woods said those with the plans came to him and showed him the plans. and they wanted the council's blessing on what they were going to do. The plans showed installing some berms that would have grass planted in front of the grain bins. He said he had a copy of the plans emailed to the council members.

Barbara Ross said you really couldn't tell a lot from architectural drawing, and it looked like the berms were going go out into the state highway.

Mayor Woods said he was thinking they would unload in front of the museum to go into the museum first, then the kids will go across the street to the grain bins using the crosswalk area.

Mayor Woods then asked if there were any concerns or ideas that he needed to take back to museum and also asked if everyone was okay with the plans.

Barbara Ross suggested the Mayor might need to ask them if they had any future plans for parking.

Chris McCorkle asked if there would be any changes about trucks with trailers going around the turnaround pole.

Mayor Woods said, no, they said nothing was going to affect traffic going around the turn around pole. That was one of the first things they discussed about the plans, and they were like, "Yeah, we know about the pole."

Barbara Ross said City Attorney Gazaway might not know about the pole. She said the turnaround pole was a landmark. It was the route for teenagers who drove through the years. A date for teenagers was going around the pole and then going back to school.

Mayor Woods said he would ask about the parking. He asked other than the parking, was the council okay with the plans?

Barbara Ross said she thought it looked good and wondered if the City needed to look at grants or something to extend parking behind the grain bins in the area of the burn pile.

The meeting then moved to discussion on replacing the firewall that the city computers were connected too.

R/T Woods said the current firewall was installed over six years ago. An email was received saying that the firewall had reached its end of support. Once the firewall reached the end of support, critical services-including firmware updates, security patches, and technical support-would no longer be available. The firewall would need to be replaced. She went on to say a quote had been received from VC3, the city's current IT support to replace the firewall. The quote was for \$5,204.03 for a new firewall and labor to install the firewall.

Barbara Ross how much it the cost for the current firewall?

R/T Woods It was part of the bundle package when the city contracted with IT in the Box to set up the network and their monitoring system on the computers.

Barbara Ross asked if there was a yearly fee on the firewall.

R/T Woods when the firewall was installed it included three subscription, there was then a yearly subscription after the first three years.

Willie Harris asked if the fifty-two hundred dollars was a yearly amount? Or is that a one time?

R/T Woods said it would be a one-time amount which included a three-year subscription then after the three-year subscription, there would be a yearly subscription fee for \$1,000.00 a year.

Barbara Ross asked where the company would be coming from to set the firewall up. She said the quote had South Carolina at the top of the quote.

R/T Woods said they had people working for them in different cities. She said one that she had been working with lived in Memphis and had ties to a local family in Tyrone.

Daniel Brewington asked if IT in The Box was one of the companies that the municipal league recommended.

R/T Woods said yes.

Barbara Ross said that Daniel knew a little bit about firewalls. She asked him if he thought the price was reasonable.

Daniel Brewington yes, probably. He said there was a thousand dollars cost that was a reoccurring cost that had to be paid every two years, that was included in it.

Willie Harris asked if it would be every two years or every year?

R/T Woods said every year. It would be one thousand dollars for two years and after the two years, the cost would be every year.

Barbara Ross said VC3 didn't actually want a contract. She then asked how many years they were agreeing to those figures. She said she did not see a clause in the quote that said

R/T Woods Said it was a one-time purchase. The quote was for them to order a firewall, come in and install and set it up. The quote was not included in the monthly price.

Barbara Ross said the guaranteed price on the quote was just guaranteed for two years and they could raise the thousand dollars amount up after two years.

R/T Woods said she wasn't sure about that. She said VC3 had been paying the yearly subscription on the current firewall and the City would then pay them and if the firewall subscription was raised by the firewall company, then VC3 would raise what they billed the City.

Barbara Ross said she wished she knew more about tech, and as far as firewalls, she's never seen that large of a price for a firewall.

R/T Woods said she looked the quoted firewall up online; to compare the quoted price too, the price of just the firewall was eighteen hundred dollars.

Mayor Woods asked Daniel if that was the kind of work he did where he was employed along with installing phone services.

Daniel Brewington said yes, that was what they did. He said they worked with all kinds of networking equipment.

Barbara Ross asked Daniel if the quote sounded reasonable since he worked in that.

Daniel Brewington yes, He said they could also ask for more quotes.

City Atty Gazaway said he did not think so. He said he thought other cities he represented had council participation on various boards.

Barbara Ross asked if any council members wanted to sit on the planning board.

Michael Hood recommended Daniel Brewington.

Daniel declined the recommendation.

Mayor Woods then asked if there were any volunteers.

Michael Hood asked Willie Harris if she would like to serve on the board.

Willie Harris said her daughter Sandy was on the board, so she didn't want too.

Willie suggested Kristina or Patty.

Kristina or Patty declined.

Barbara Ross suggested the council think about someone and address it again at the next meeting.

Willie Harris asked when did board meet next?

Patty Barger suggested asking Eldron Gill.

Barbara Ross asked if anyone asked Sherry London.

Patty Barger said Sherry wasn't through working, she was working remote from her home, so she's not retired.

Mayor Woods said he would call Eldron Gill and ask him if he would like to serve on the board.

Mayor Woods then moved the meeting to the next item on the agenda.

City Atty Gazaway had prepared an ordinance to create a new position in the police department. He asked the R/T what the next ordinance number would be.

R/T Woods said the next ordinance number would be number two.

City Atty Gazaway then read the proposed ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-001(2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE) TO ELIMINATE THE POSITION OF PART-TIME PATROL OFFICER; TO CREATE AND FUND A NEW FULL-TIME DISPATCH/VIN CLERK POSITION WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES." In full thereby placing it upon its first reading.

Barbara Ross asked if it was appropriate to have a discussion before there was a motion?

City Atty Gazaway said there really needed to be a motion before any discussion.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to approve the proposed ordinance. Mayor Woods then clarified that the ordinance was to eliminate the part-time police job and create a full-time VIN check/dispatch position.

Barbara Ross said she would make a motion to accept the ordinance; except she thought there should be a statement saying, "at the mayor's discretion the hourly wage would be

Mayor Woods said, so, he could hire someone in, and if a current employee didn't take the position, he could hire someone at \$14.00 an hour or something like that.

City Atty Gazaway yes, and he did not need to go over what was in the budget.

Mayor Woods said he could as long as he stayed under the budget. He then said, okay, that answered his question.

City Atty Gazaway said and since it says" proposed," that made him feel a lot better.

Patty Barger asked if the proposed changes had been updated on the revenue minus expenses report? She asked if what was on the report was the new total now. She said the total just seemed higher.

The R/T Said the total was higher because part-time police officer's rate was higher than the new dispatch/Vin clerk rate.

Barbara Ross said another thing was that the water clerk was left at part time position. The water clerk position had been factored in as part time, and if it got readdressed in the future, it would change the figures again. So, that's why they were looking at about a twenty-five thousand dollars or so difference from what she last saw.

Barbara then showed Patty the differences and said that they would have to readdress that when the time came.

Mayor Woods then asked Barbara if she made a motion to approve the ordinance.

Barbara said that she did.

Mayor Wood asked did he have a second to the motion.

Kristina Woods seconded the motion.

Mayor Woods asked if there needed to be any other discussion.

Barbara Ross said since City Attorney Gazaway was comfortable with it.

Mayor Woods asked City Attorney Gazaway if he was comfortable with the ordinance.

City Attorney Gazaway said he was and whether the ordinance was passed, was up to the council.

Barbara Ross said she meant whether the mayor had discretion to go down but not up on the proposed pay rate in the ordinance.

City Atty Gazaway yes, he thought so.

Mayor Woods said to him it never seemed like a real issue going down, less money would be spent. But you know never know.

Barbara Ross said she just wanted to make sure that he needed that discretion. She said things might not work out like you would think and then someone that did not have the experience had to be hired and trained.

Mayor Woods then with a motion and second being made, and there being no further discussion, called for a vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.

Michael Hood said water stayed in the drainage ditch beside the post office all the time. He said it was not currently flowing and would not flow during the draught. He said if the city had to pay Chris McCorkle every week to go out and dig the ditch, then the city should.

Mayor Woods said he and Danny talked about the ditch before the rain came, but they couldn't get out there and do anything with the backhoe because the ground was just mushy.

Mayor Woods said He did go over to Blackwood Lane where the ditch drains to see how the water was running and the water was running pretty good there. He said the water was bowling up through there, and it was running back through. He said the ditch was draining. He also said the beavers do dam the ditch up sometimes and something needed to be done about the beavers.

Michael Hood suggested the city get with the county and see if they would dig the ditch out when it dried up. He said the drainage ditch goes out through the county to the Tyronza River. there.

He said when it rained that Saturday, the water backed up in Dad's yard and then got all in his yard, as well, all the houses back behind the school. He said water got into his shed that was ankle deep.

Mayor Woods said he would get with Poinsett County Judge JC Carter and see if there was anything the county could do to help.

Willie Harris said at the big pipe at the four way stop at Norcross and Beley was stopped up with debris when she went by there on the Sunday after the rain and nothing was going. She said it was boards and stuff, just debris.

Michael Hood said even during a dry spell the ditch was full of water, he said it stayed full of water, and it shouldn't be that way.

Chris McCorkle said when he dug that ditch, he dug it a little deeper than what it should have been, just so it would last longer and not seal. So, the ditch was going to hold a little bit of water, but not that much water.

Mayor Woods said with it being dug lower than the drain, the ditch was naturally going to hold water.

Mayor Woods said he would also get with the state, to see if they could dig a ditch down the highway draining in the river that way. It looks like it should drain that way.

Chris McCorkle said there was a pretty good ridge going that way.

Mayor Woods said he didn't know that and that was not going to be an option to do dig a ditch down the highway to the river.

Chris McCorkle said it could be; he could make it work.

Michael Hood said it looked like where Church Street hit the highway, it went up a little bit.

Chris McCorkle said there was a little ridge right there and going down from there, there was another one.