

MINUTES
Goshen City Council
January 13, 2026 at 6:30PM
Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street

A meeting of the Goshen City Council was held on January 13, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Goshen Community Center.

City Council

Call to Order: Mayor Stroud @ 6:30pm

Roll Call: PRESENT - Paula Anderson, John Vaillancourt, Birch Wright, Shawn Mayfield, Curtis Vaughan
City Attorney Brian Hogue in attendance

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stroud requested to add agenda item: Arbor Board as Item G (reports); Under New Business, remove items E & F (no resolutions needed for re-appointments); Executive Session needed to discuss HR/personnel matter.

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Input: None

All in Favor; None opposed

Mayor Stroud made a motion to go into an executive session to discuss an on-going HR issue; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: None

All in Favor; None opposed

6:31-6:42pm - Council departed behind doors for executive session

Determined From Executive Session - No Action To Be Taken

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes:

December 9, 2025 - Paula Anderson provided grammatical changes and additions to verbiage that were missing.

Birch Wright made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Financial Report (16:03)

Reports for December, 2025

General Fund - \$883,178.23; Street Fund \$375,326.24; Police Act 988 \$12,257.38; HUD ARDOT \$101.75; Farmers Market \$4,417.02;

Per Jerry Jackson, these numbers have not been reconciled so there will be an adjustment to these numbers in the February 2026 meeting.

Paula Anderson made a motion to **TABLE** until the accounts can be reconciled; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Police Department

144 Call for Service; 16 charges (6 Criminal, 4 PCS/PDP, 0 Warrants, 10 Moving, 1 DWI/DUI, 54 Warning Citations); 1 Alarm; 6 Animal Complaints; 1 Assist LEO agency; 1 Assist CEMS; 2 MVA; 1 Disturbance; 2 Forger/fraud; 4 Reckless Driver; 1 Motor assist; 1 Criminal Mischief; 2 Checking Persons; 1 Checking Vehicles; 6 Follow Up Investigations; 86 Traffic stops; 2 Structure fires; 1 Drunk/Impaired Driver Call; 2 Traffic Hazards; 1 Trespassing in Progress; 1 Shouting unsafe; 2 City Ordinance Violations; 7 Suspicious Activity; 1 Theft; 2 Traffic Hazard Livestock; 6 Welfare concerns; 1 Indecent Exposure; 1 Threat; 1 Deceased Person; 1 Harassment; 3+ Jake Brak Warnings.

Public Comment: Neighbor to park asked about a patrol around the park in the evening (10:00-midnight) as there has been some activity over there when the park closes at dusk. Nathan (Police) advised that they would get extra patrols over there.

Infrastructure and Facilities Management Report (21:00)

CITY PARK

Added chocolate gravel by the Spring House; Completed main phase of clearing around the pond; Planted a maple tree behind City Hall.

ROADS MAINTENANCE

Installed street sign at Polo Dr and W. Bowen Blvd; Cut up and removed fallen tree on N. Wyman Rd; Cut up and removed fallen trees on Blue Springs Rd; Road grading with box blade on S. Sharp Rd and Spring Park Lane.

MAINTENANCE

Cleared brush from trees at the field entrance by the community building; Fixed light diffuser at the community building; Touch-up paint on walls, doors, and trim at City Hall

FUTURE PROJECTS

Patch the edge of the pavement on Wyman Rd (completed in January); Continue installing new street signs for all streets in Goshen; Remove piles of brush in the park; Seal cleaned concrete on Oxford Bend bridge and Blue Springs Rd bridge; Remove outdated/unnecessary fence sections in the park; Spot-treat invasive tree-of-heaven with herbicide (Completed in January)

M&M Construction has finished all of their culvert work.

Goshen Fire District Report

Total reported incidents 59 - Building fire 1, Passenger Vehicle Fire 1, Brush/Grass Mix Fire 2, Grass Fire 2, Medical Assist 32, Motor Vehicle accident with injuries 1, Assist Police 1, Public service 1, Dispatch and cancel enroute 11, Smoke/Odor Scare 3, Smoke detector activation 1, Alarm system activation unintentional 1.

Planning Commission Report (25:27)

No change from last month; Potential variance request for a person that did not pull a permit and put a culvert in - does not meet the requirements for a variance request; he can make an adjustment, which Planning/City Hall will recommend. A maximum width of a driveway is currently missing from the ordinance and this will be discussed and worked through via the Planning Commission and addressed.

Building Inspection Report

27 Field Inspections for December includes - 2 Final Inspections, 1 Deck, 3 Slab, 3 4-way, 3 Insulation, 3 Electrical, 1 Driveway and Sidewalk, 2 Pool, 4 Mechanical, 1 Framing, 1 Plumbing, 2 Yard Line Electric, 1 Footing

Parks and Recreation Report (27:59)

No December Meeting. North entrance improvements (grass cleared away along Hwy 45) by Mike Nimmo. 3 dead trees near the creek were removed (on north side). Large tree was removed from future archery range and Mike Nimmo was able to split that wood and provide to a local family. Power and wifi lines have been buried at the south entrance. Clean up efforts - old barbed wire fencing and posts are continuing to be worked on. We are accepting donations for books.

Goshen Arbor Board (30:05)

Volunteers planted a Loblolly Pine next to the playground; Replaced dead Chikapin tree behind City Hall with Red Maple; 2026 Tree City application was submitted by the 12/31/25 deadline (165 trees/shrubs added; 48 total trees removed; 47 total trees lost in flood); 2026 Projects being planned are - free tree Friday tree giveaway, Planting of trees to replace dead ones, Planting of trees along new trail at the North park entrance, Planting more trees near playground, Installing new identification tags on new trees planted and educational events at the Farmers Market.

Old City Business

Ordinance Repealing Ord 168 (Schedule of Fees) - 3rd Reading & Emergency Clause (33:00)

Paula Anderson made a motion to read and title only for 3rd and final reading; Birch Wright seconded
Public Comment: None

Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: ***"An ordinance repealing ordinance #168 and adopting new procedures for adopting new procedures for approval of permit fees in the City of Goshen to declare an emergency and for other purposes."***

Paula Anderson made a motion to adopt the ordinance; John Vaillancourt seconded.

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

Paula Anderson made a motion to enact the emergency clause; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

Resolution Adopting Revised Schedule of Fees (After Item A is approved) (35:41)

Paula Anderson made a motion to read the resolution in title only; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

All in favor: None opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud: *“A resolution adopting permit fee schedule”*

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve the resolution with the changes of 2026 and including the new ordinance number; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Ordinance Adopting Accessory Dwelling/Structure Policy - 3rd Reading

Paragraph 4 has been amended to ‘more than one but not all of the following must apply’

Paula Anderson made a motion to suspend the rules to read and title only for the 3rd reading; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: Mark Sugg (Goshen resident) sought clarification on gross floor area - is that heated/cooled space only? Mayor confirmed that it has to be ‘under roof’.

If you have a lot that met all of the qualifications and you built a small structure, does that become the secondary dwelling unit if you build a bigger structure in the future to become the primary? Mayor says, yes, if it fulfilled all of the requirements.

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: *“An ordinance regulating accessory dwelling units, secondary dwellings, secondary structures, and accessory structures in the city of Goshen, Arkansas and for other purposes”*

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve the ordinance; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

Paula Anderson made a motion to enact the emergency clause to be w/in state regulations currently; Birch Wright seconded

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

2026 Budget (42:00)

Clarification from previous meeting - can Mayor vote? Per Brian Hogue (attorney) he has determined the Mayor is allowed to vote to pass any resolution and any ordinance; as of December, 2025 meeting the 2026 budget was approved.

Audit is complete and the next one won't be for another 2 years.

Open Employee Position filled - Mr. Eddie Mashburn (start date pending)

Split position between infrastructure and permitting and zoning. Will start in March, 2026. Per Jerry Jackson, there will be some residual expenses for Mr. Mashburn that will cover his training.

New City Business (47:00)

Annual Procedural Rules - Ordinance(s) 181 and 225

Birch Wright made a motion to continue utilizing both ordinances; Paula Anderson seconded

Public Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Branch Park South Entrance Pavilion Bid Openings

John McGowan Bid - Total \$549,491.84

ABC Creative Bid - Total \$590,091.00

Bookout Construction - Total \$239,000.00

Origins Construction - Total \$499,328.00

Jeff Fitzgerald (Southern Brothers) - Total \$593,546.35

Masonry Only Bids:

John McGowan - \$99,333.00

Stack Stones LLC - \$144,740.00

Exterior of Pavilion is supposed to be Cypress, thus ABC Creative priced it with Cedar instead

Abby Bryan has requested a meeting with the Walton Foundation to inquire about them covering our 'match'.

Our budget is \$414,000 (includes \$207K city match)

Is it worth it to sit down with the low bid offer (Bookout Construction)? All agree, yes, for Mayor to discuss in further detail with Bookout Construction.

Will hold off accepting any bids until conversation/meeting with Bookout.

Resolution Appointing Dean DeVincenzi to the Planning Commission

Background of Dean DeVincenzi read/presented; Mr. DeVincenzi will fulfill the remaining time on Liz Mashie's term.

Birch Wright made a motion to read and title only the resolution to appoint Mr. DeVincenzi; John Vaillancourt seconded.

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud: ***"Resolution confirming appointment of Dean DeVincenzi to the Planning Commission"***

Birch Wright made a motion to approve; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None
All in favor; None opposed

Ordinance Amending Ord 124 - 1st Reading (Emergency Clause) (1:08:25)

Phillips 66 station does not want us posting over there any longer, so we will be moving our posting to Ponchos.

Birch Wright made a motion to suspend the rules, waiving and 2nd and 3rd reading; John Vaillancourt seconded
Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: ***“An ordinance amending ordinance #24, which was previously amended by ordinance #124 and to declare an emergency and for other purposes”***

Birch Wright made a motion to adopt; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

Birch Wright made a motion to enact the emergency clause; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote: Paula Anderson (yes), Birch Wright (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes)

GoshenAR.gov Updates & Council .gov email addresses (1:11:04)

.gov site has gone active for everything. Working through issue with .gov emails that are bouncing back.

2026 Capital Expenditures Discussion (1:13:48)

Per Mayor - shop will be done soon; behind shop (dirt work) needs to have a retaining wall added (pour concrete and do retaining wall off that concrete pad); anticipated cost is \$30K-\$40K - will eat up a big chunk of what we were under budget from last year for capital expenditures.

Washing of animal control products (blankets, towel, etc); suggests City hall helping the Fire Dept by sharing in costs with commercial washer and dryer (as suggested by Birch Wright); anticipated full cost \$30K needs to be allocated for capital expenditures.

More electric for the Farmers Market (lighting) - potential to add generator (in 2027)

Concern about Community Center and it's 'bending outward' walls; will have engineer take a look at it but it might be a cost concern moving forward.

City Project Updates (1:22:19)

ARDOT is finishing up Phase I of the trail at the park; continue to pour concrete and earthwork on south side of the creek; rock picnic tables will be installed after slabs poured; will put out for bid the second phase which would extend trail from there to pavilion.

4 Lot subdivision of Bowen Blvd - Abby (office staff) measured and it does meet all of our requirements within the ordinances that we have set.

ADA Parking at Post office will be done/updated (per owner)

M&M finished 15 culverts and asphalt repair; Work scheduled on other repairs to White Bridge, Paul Pray, Spring Park Lane Bridge, and City Hall culverts

Electric and Fiber Optic has been put in by Ozarks Electric (out of 2025 budget) at the park

\$400K state aid street grant has been received and the following roads will be repaved: Tuttle, Firetower, and a portion of Hale; doesn't include all of Firetower.

Locks at City Hall and the Community Center are being replaced with fobs (Robert Serrato); will allow for more control over comings and goings and can create an audit trail. Also getting bids for livestream video and the community center audio.

Public Comment:

Mike Nimmo shared concern about Firetower and Tuttle (sharp turn) and cars make that corner too tight and they fall off into the ditch. Would it be wise to see what we can do, while the other 'street work' is going on? Mayor will speak with M&M.

Mark Sugg - asked about his culvert (he's across from City Hall). Mayor says that will all be taken care of.

Dennis Kelly asked about bridge work near White Road; Mayor says the erosion will be addressed via shot-rock and shore it up on both sides and slurry underneath on each side. They will also do the same work on the Paul Pray bridge.

Chris Callahan - asked about the lighted sign on Hwy 45 in front of church; Mayor says the ordinance changed in September, 2025 which allows for the sign. Regulations on lumens and how often it can change - part of the sign ordinance that was passed. Mr. Callahan appeared to express concern about no restrictions as to what is written on the sign.

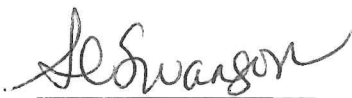
Regarding the development on Bowen Blvd (4 house subdivision); clarity that there is 1 main entrance/exit only and it meets all of the requirements.

Jaqueline Ryan - Running for JP in District 5; former Goshenite; appreciate everyone's support; growth is very much a concern for her (she lives in Sonora).

Comments (Alderman, Mayor, City Attorney, Recorder Treasurer) - None

John Vaillancourt made a motion to adjourn; Birch Wright seconded
All in favor; None opposed

Adjournment at 8:15pm



Gina Swanson
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud
Mayor