

City of Meservey Council Minutes
October 13, 2025

Council Persons Present: Mike McNutt, Jennifer Burke, Mike Gobeli, and Cyneva Myers.

Mayor Miller Called Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Gobeli to approve, 2nd by Burke. Approved unanimously.

Approval of September minutes – Motion to approve both by McNutt, 2nd by Myers. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Bills – Motion to approve and pay bills by Gobeli, 2nd by Myers. Approved unanimously.

October Expenditures – Absolute Waste Removal (Garbage) \$1,860.00; Alliant Energy (electric/nat gas) \$1,646.93; Cerro Gordo County (Sewer) \$3,626.26; Cerro Gordo Co Treas (drainage) \$28.00; Elon CC (office supply, FD exp) \$689.96; Clear Lake Sanitary District (water testing) \$308.00; Deano's Dust Control (dust control) \$2,464.00; Treas-State of IA (WET-Sept) \$286.14 (WH) \$45.00; Iowa DNR (use fee) \$115.00; Iowa One Call (locate serv) \$22.50; IPERS (pensions) \$159.27; Koenen Lawn Care (spraying) \$720.00; Menards (antifreeze) \$35.88; Meservey Library (apportion) \$3,875.00; Mosquito Control of Iowa (spraying) \$1,380.00; NEW Coop (fuel) \$1,007.50; Router12 (phones/internet) \$145.00; S&H Environmental (Water/Sewer Super) \$2,372.60; SEH (engineer) \$10,724.33; United LP (tank rent) \$174.73; US Treasury (payroll taxes) \$903.62; Aimee Frohling (Clerk wages) \$886.35; Jennifer Rembe (water assist) \$203.17; Michael McNutt (Maint) \$10.16; Richard Miller (Mayor Salary/maint) \$162.98; Cahoy Pump Service (partial payment well contract) \$23,509.51; JB Holland (partial payment well contract) \$125,697.47.

September Receipts – Property Tax \$5,090.40; LOST \$4,516.02; Rent/Interest \$245.28; Road Use \$2,684.98; Utilities \$11,154.82; Fire Dept Donation \$4,300.00; SRF Loan Proceeds \$65,719.27.

Public Input – Jester Umstead – complaint about house next door, not being mowed, harboring bugs, rodents, skunks. Thinks Rembe should be paid for mowing the right of way. Rembe is in attendance and states she didn't expect to be paid, just did it. The City and the County Health Department have both sent numerous certified letters with no response, it is a long and expensive process to deal with these properties, and the owner of this particular house won't sell. Umstead thinks the City isn't doing anything/doesn't care. Diggins from NIACOG in attendance helped explain the problem, it's not that the City doesn't care, there's just not much more they can do. Umstead willing to help with clean-up, asks if there is anything more we can do to please do so. | Aaron Gayhart would like to put in a farmers hydrant on his vacant lot, there is some other digging possibly happening in the same area by Lauen, will find out more before next meeting. | Rembe worried about electrical grounding attached to water lines, the new meters are plastic and break the ground, thinks meter installer should have put jumper wires around the meter before leaving. Doesn't think homeowner should have to pay an electrician because of a well project. Skalko talked to her firms electrical engineer and according to 2022 code, a home electrical service needs 2 grounds, one must be an outside rod, the other can be on the water service below the meter however is not commonly used practice anymore, most houses in town are likely installed prior to the current code. Skalko discussed with the State and the would allow expense to "bridge the gap", however DSG would have to hire a subcontractor electrician and they could refuse at this point, possibly JB Holland could add to their contract? Diggins explains the process we would have to go through to add the item to the current contract, it would be time consuming and expensive. Skalko gave the City options: 1. Do nothing 2. Add to the Project 3. Homeowner is Responsible. City would need to find out how many houses are even effected, only aware of one currently, discussed different options. If an electrician were to discover other problems with grounding not related to the meter installation, they wouldn't be able to leave the site without fixing it, council thinks ultimately it is home maintenance. We should make residents aware of the problem. Motion by Gobeli that it is the homeowner's responsibility and the clerk along with attorneys should compose a letter to send to residents, 2nd by McNutt. Approved unanimously. | Eric Bourdages from Vantage Geophysical Corp did geological testing through town last week, there was a disagreement with the Mayor and other residents. He did have a permit from the County Engineer. Took questions from council members and described the project. Some people were not notified in advance of them coming, his company was subcontracted by Twin Rivers who did all of the permitting, etc. Main concern was liability, gave City copies of permits and insurance/bond, which extends 2 years. There was lots of monitoring and care was taken in being a distance away from certain locations/utilities, vibration was only half of what an asphalt roller would put out.

Departmental Reports: Fire dept – none. Library – none. Streets – detour still in place. Wat/Sewer – none. Maint /Equip – none.

Trick-or-Treat – Motion by Burke to set it for October 31st from 5-7 PM, 2nd by Gobeli. Approved.

Lawn Mower – Starting to eat oil, on 8th year. Got estimates from Doug’s to trade in for \$7-8k. Council would like more estimates. Tabled to next meeting.

Meters not installed on project – Only one didn’t get installed where the water is on, it will be turned off on Friday, others where the water is off will not be turned on without a new meter installed.

SEH New Well Project

Change Order No. 2 – DSG – One Inch Meter Pricing – Was not originally bid because we didn’t know we had any of that size, there’s a big difference between the other 2 meter sizes in price. 1” meter priced at \$376.00.

Motion by Gobeli to approve, 2nd by Myers. Approved unanimously.

Pay Request No. 3 – Contract I Cahoy Pump – Skalko took questions from council about clean-up and seeding, substantial completion date is October 31st, this is not the final payment, we can withhold some retainage for seeding, etc. Motion by Myers to approve payment, 2nd by McNutt. Approved unanimously. Diggins had the Mayor sign a BABA waiver for a submersible pump.

Pay Request No. 2 – Contract II JB Holland – Road should be paved by the end of the week or beginning of next, they have been good to work with, no current reason to withhold. Motion by Burke to approve payment, 2nd by McNutt. Approved unanimously.

Pay Request No. 1 – Contract III – Meters, Dakota Supply – they were not able to issue a pay request application, they are waiting on approval of a BABA waiver, substantial completion was okay by October 1st.

Spare Meters – would like one of each of the smaller meters to have on hand, expense will be added at end of project.

Diggins explained some changes that have taken place recently, more paperwork requirements to the State. Clerk will add him to the Minutes email group.

Motion by Gobeli to adjourn, 2nd by Burke. Approved.

Next regular meeting of the Council: November 10, 2025, 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Aimee J Frohling

(Mayor)