



City Council
February 10, 2026
Regular Session

Call to order

Mayor Chris Hoffman called the Tuesday, February 10, 2026, Regular Session of the North Liberty City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 360 N. Main Street. Councilors present: Brent Smith, Brian Wayson, Tonja Fortney, Paul Park and Brian Leibold.

Others present: Ryan Heiar, Stacey House, Grant Lientz, Ryan Rusnak, Josiah Bilskemper and other interested parties.

Approval of the Agenda

Wayson moved; Leibold seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was all ayes. Agenda approved.

Consent Agenda

Park moved, Smith seconded to approve the Consent Agenda including the City Council Minutes, Regular Session, January 27, 2026; Retail Tobacco Permit, The Leader Board Sports Bar-Bar Vending Solutions, LLC; Retail Tobacco Permit, Kwik Star; and the attached list of Claims. The vote was all ayes. Consent Agenda approved.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

City Engineer Report

The City Engineer had no report.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Heiar reported that staff is working on improvements to the agenda software system to make it more user-friendly for residents. The updates will enhance access to public notices and other materials, making it easier to search and navigate documents. The transition is expected to be introduced in March and should be seamless for Council members.

Heiar also announced that a press conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. the following day at the Hy-Vee Amphitheater to announce the first season of events. Members of the performing acts scheduled to appear at Centennial Park this summer are expected to attend. He encouraged those interested to attend or watch local news coverage for additional information.

Mayor Report

Mayor Hoffman reported he attended the Coffee connection that was hosted at City Hall and issued a reminder the Optimist Club's annual Pancake Breakfast is March 14, 2026, from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Council Reports

Councilor Wayson reported attending the Emergency Management Commission meeting. He shared that the budget has been finalized and that a public hearing is scheduled for the 26th regarding the proposed building redesign. The redesign is planned for a location on the edge of Tiffin. He also inquired whether the MPOJC meeting had taken place since the last council update. Councilor Smith shared appreciation for City staff who assisted with activities at Centennial Park, noting the event was well organized and a lot of fun. He also attended the annual Snuggie Bar Crawl. While he expressed appreciation for the significant amount of work that went into organizing the event and said it was still enjoyable, he noted that attendance numbers were down significantly compared to previous years. He mentioned this may be something for staff to review moving forward. Lastly, he thanked Ryan for implementing a new agenda notation – the addition of a star next to item number 10 – to designate council priorities established during last year's goal-setting session. He shared that he appreciates the visual reminder, as it helps keep Council priorities at the forefront of discussions and decision-making. Councilor Park thanked Ryan for the updated agenda format and reported attending the Greater IC Coffee Connections event held at City Hall. He noted that the mayor did an excellent job explaining the North Liberty property tax levy and highlighted that he will personally see a reduction in property taxes this coming year. He also shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming public art projects and expressed excitement about the positive impact they will have on the community. He was able to visit the Capitol to advocate for property rights and discuss property tax changes and various issues with our legislators. Councilor Leibold shared that applications for the North Liberty Grant Program, which provides economic assistance, are closing soon if they are not already wrapped up. He encouraged anyone interested in applying to visit the Greater Iowa City website for more information, noting that additional details are also available on the City's website. He expressed enthusiasm about the program and encouraged eligible applicants to submit their materials promptly. He also attended a recent legislative forum at Urban Acres. He thanked Urban Acres for hosting the event and Greater Iowa City, Inc. for coordinating it. He noted that the next legislative forum is expected to take place in early March. Regarding the Snuggie Crawl, he shared that while he did not attend every stop, he participated in several and described it as another successful event organized by City staff. Councilor Fortney reported attending the Coffee Connections event held in North Liberty, noting it was another well-attended and successful gathering. She also attended Manufactured Housing Day at the Iowa State Capitol, where homeowners met with legislators. She shared that she had the opportunity to connect with residents from North Liberty and communities across Iowa. During the visit, she met with several legislators to discuss property rights issues affecting residents in the community. She noted it was her first time attending the event and described it as a very positive and informative experience.

Art & Culture Plan

Park moved, Fortney seconded to approve Resolution Number 2026-12, A Resolution approving the Contract for the drafting of an Art and Culture Plan between Group Creative Services and the City of North Liberty. After discussion, the vote was: ayes – Wayson, Fortney, Leibold, Park, Smith; nays – none. Motion carried.

Civic Campus Right of Way Vacation

Fortney moved, Smith seconded to approve the third consideration and adoption of Ordinance Number 2026-01, An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Front and Dubuque Street Right of Way in North Liberty, Iowa. The vote was all: ayes- Park, Smith, Leibold, Wayson, Fortney; nays-none. Motion carried.

Animal Control Ordinance

Wayson moved, Leibold seconded to approve the second consideration of Ordinance Number 2026-02, An Ordinance amending Chapters 55, 56, and 57 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of North Liberty, Iowa concerning and reorganizing provision for Animal Control, Pet Licenses, and Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Animals. The vote was all ayes-Smith, Wayson, Fortney, Park, Leibold; nays-none. Motion carried.

SST Forevergreen Future Land Use Map Amendment and Zoning Map Amendment

Smith moved, Wayson seconded to approve the Second consideration of Ordinance Number 2026-03, An Ordinance amending the Zoning Map District designation for certain property located in North Liberty, Iowa from RS-6 Single-Unit Residence District, RM-8 Multi-Unit Residence District, and RM-12 Multi-Unit Residence District to RS-6 Single-Unit Residence District; from RS-6 Single-Unit Residence District, RM-8 Multi-Unit Residence District and RM-12 Multi-Unit Residence District to RD-10 Two-Unit Residence District; from RM-12 Multi-Unit Residence to RM-14 Multi-Unit Residence District; and from RM-8 Multi-Unit Residence District and RM-12 Multi-Unit Residence District to C-2 Highway Commercial District. The vote was all ayes-Fortney, Park, Wayson, Leibold, Smith; nays-none. Motion carried.

Zoning Code Ordinance Amendment

Wayson moved, Fortney seconded to approve the Second consideration of Ordinance Number 2026-04, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 167 of the North Liberty Code of Ordinances governing Definitions, Chapter 168 of the North Liberty Code of Ordinances governing Use Standards and Chapter 169 of the North Liberty Code of Ordinances governing Other Accessory Uses. The vote was all ayes-Leibold, Smith, Wayson, Park, Fortney; nays-none. Motion carried.

Old Business

Councilor Park expressed his excitement regarding the Murray Elite Sports Complex and Kwik Star progress being made.

New Business

No new business was presented.

Adjournment

Park moved; Wayson seconded to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. The vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTH LIBERTY

By: _____
Chris Hoffman, Mayor

Attest: _____
Stacey House, Deputy City Clerk