

**City of Martensdale  
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2025**

Mayor Prichard called the meeting to order.

Members present: Scott Henson, Deb Hutchison, Matt Gideon and Peggy Halterman.

Members absent: Travis Berger arrive late.

City Attorney, Robert Stuyvesant present.

The agenda was approved by Henson and seconded by Gideon. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Comments: The mayor thanked everyone for being present at the meeting.

Citizens Comments: None.

The consent agenda was presented: the February 3, 2025 and February 24, 2025, minutes, the February 2025 payables and receipts, and the January 2025 financials. Hutchison made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Halterman. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk had spoken with Warren County Treasurer Office regarding a property in Martensdale that was in a tax sale due to delinquent taxes. The county stated that the proceedings for the tax sale did begin in June of 2022 and the owner had 18 months to bring the delinquent taxes plus interest up to date. In February the owner did pay all back taxes plus interest, and the property is back in the owner's possession. There was discussion with the city attorney on whether the city can have that property mowed since the owner does not live in town and does not take care of the yard. The attorney stated if a certified letter is sent to the owner regarding her yard and giving her 10 days to clean it up, if nothing is done the city can hire someone and then place a lien on the property. There was also discussion regarding the property not having anyone living there for around 15 years. The attorney did state it is difficult to make the owner sell the property or cite it as an abandoned building, Iowa Code 657A if the property is presentable and not falling apart.

Zach Wood stated he has spoken with Viking Industries, and we will keep the current contract with them for the water tower, but it does not need to be painted every year. Zach had prices for a new roof at city hall, shingles cost \$4,200 and metal \$4,900.00. The roof will be placed on the April agenda for approval.

Chief Henson stated there were 14 EMS calls and 6 fire calls in February 2025.

Mayor Chuck Gehringer from St. Mary's, Iowa was present to discuss signing a contract with the City of Martensdale to have Zach Wood to do their water chlorine testing and to read water meters. There was discussion that it would 15-20 hours per month. The city attorney had some problems with a full-time employee leaving for 15-20 hours a month and would rather have Zach do this on his own time. The attorney said we could not do anything until the insurance company was called to make sure they didn't have any problems with this. It was decided that Zach Wood would help St. Mary's on his own time after leaving the City of Martensdale for the day, that way he's not employed by City of Martensdale.

The city clerk informed the city council that the ordinance book needs to be updated. The cost will be \$8,000 to \$9,000 to have it completed and it will take up to a year. Iowa Codification stated we could start it in the current budget and give them \$1,500 to start, the city clerk said there are funds left in the city hall budget to pay that amount. Iowa Codification also has a new program where they updated ordinances and state codes once a year instead of every 5 years which would be cheaper and keep our ordinance book up to date. Hutchison made a motion to pay the \$1,500.00 now to get the process started; seconded by Halterman. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk explained to the city council that the existing SRF loan is around \$80,000 for the sewer lagoon pump project. She has spoken to the State of Iowa regarding the \$500,000 grant that was awarded to the city for the project and talked to the bond attorneys, they recommended pulling funds from the grant money for all work done on the project now and then if there are any funds left over the grant would pay off the SRF loan balance. Gideon made a motion to use the grant funds moving forward for any work done on the sewer lagoon pump project; seconded by Henson. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 03.11.2025 A Resolution Approving An Investment Policy for the City of Martinsdale was presented. Halterman made a motion to approved Resolution 03.11.2025; seconded by Hutchison. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

The 2025-2026 budget was presented and discussed to the mayor and city council. The city clerk stated all items discussed for the budget have been included. The budget public hearing date will be set at the April 7, 2025 meeting.

There was discussion regarding the city purchasing the building at 395 Iowa Ave, the Lions Hall., price \$110,000.00 Peggy stated she would like to go through the building. The realtor was called and can show it Tuesday, March 12 at 5:00 pm., the mayor and city council will go through the building. If they want to proceed a meeting will be posted and a closed session will be held for the city council to discuss it further. Mayor Prichard asked the attorney how the city can change the zoning on this building to just commercial. Robert Stuyvesant said Jason should be able to help with this and then it will need to put in the new ordinance book. The comprehensive plan zoning was also discussed and how to approve their changes. Robert Stuyvesant said the planning and zoning committee will need to be involved in this and then residents notified, and ordinances done.

Open Forum: There was discussion on the Omni-Tel signs for the internet being placed in town. No representative has contacted city hall.

City Clean-up was set for May 3-4, 2025, all items must be out by noon May 4.

Berger arrives to meeting at 7:30 pm.

Gideon made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss Iowa Code 21.5(i), city clerk performance; seconded by Henson. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Berger, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

Peggy Halterman left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Henson made a motion to come out of the closed session; seconded by Gideon. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Berger, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

Henson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Gideon. On a roll call vote: Henson, Aye; Berger, Aye; Gideon, Aye; Hutchison, Aye; and Halterman, Aye. Mayor Prichard declared the motion carried unanimously.

The next regular city council meeting will be April 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Brad Prichard

Donna Bahun, City Clerk

**City of Martensdale****February 2025 Disbursements**

Brad Prichard (phone reimburse), 50.00  
Zach Wood (phone reimburse), 50.00  
Donna Bahun (phone reimburse), 50.00  
Donna Bahun (salary)2,058.51  
Zach Wood (salary)2,171.03  
Zach Wood (salary)2,171.03  
US Postmaster (stamps), 538.00  
Iowa Pest Control (city, fire dept.), 130.00  
Hamco Walker Paper (copy paper), 109.90  
Cappel's Ace Hardware (supplies), 53.72  
Veenstra & Kimm (235 Walnut), 56.25  
Iowa One Call (notification fees), 7.20  
Independent Advocate (publication fees), 176.67  
Menards (supplies), 90.50  
Cashier Office, Iowa DOT (salt, sand), 1,003.68  
Chris Allen (extra help, Christmas lights), 90.00  
City of Norwalk (EMS charges, 2024-4th quarter), 5,000.00  
John Deere Financial (Zach clothing allowance), 250.00  
Elan Financial Services (Zach water class), 470.00  
Windstream (city hall), 284.07  
Windstream (pump), 73.94  
AT&T (pump), 43.01  
O'Reilly Auto (supplies), 34.99  
Independent Advocate (publication fees), 224.91  
Windstream (fire), 263.76  
Des Moines Water Works (lab analysis), 11.00  
Mid-American Energy (utilities), 933.27

**Auto Payments**

IRS (Donna, Zach fedl taxes), 2,660.88  
IPERS (Donna, Donna), 1,513.09  
IA Dept. of Rev (Jan. sales tax, 474.73  
IA Dept. of Rev (Jan. WET tax), 406.91  
Wex Bank (city), 214.11  
Warren Water (water purchase), 5,780.25  
City State Bank (automatic water payments), 25.00  
USDA (sewer loan payment), 2,780.00

**Sewer Lagoon Project**

SEH Engineering (sewer pumps project), 1,400.00  
Ahlers Law Firm (sewer pumps project), 12,100.00

**Martensdale Rescue Dept.****February 2025 Disbursements**

Unplugged Wireless Communication (radio), 92.09  
Verizon (ipad), 35.01

**Auto payments**

Linde Gas (oxygen), 133.09

**City of Martendale****February 2025 Revenues**

Water-sewer collections, 3,192.40; 160.00  
Water-sewer collections (auto payments), 1,409.90; 104.09  
Water machine sales, 127.75  
Jefferson Twp. (fire), 198.84  
Water-sewer collections 3,164.81  
Warren Co. (property taxes), 261.54  
Water-sewer collections (DOT garage), 109.99; 659.34  
State of Iowa (Road Use Tax funds), 4,247.76  
Water-sewer collections (auto payments), 1,581.91  
Water-sewer collections, 4,787.11  
State of Iowa (1 cent tax), 4,112.28  
Water-sewer collections, 3,014.77