

**THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOVELOCK MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON JANUARY 21, 2026, AT LOVELOCK CITY HALL AT 5:30 P.M.**

Present:	Mayor	Rodney Wilcox
	Council members	Jordan McKinney
		Bonnie Skoglie
		Kirsten Hertz
	City Clerk	Nicole Reitz
	Legal Council	Sean Rowe
	Police Chief	Michael Mancebo

Visitors: Lee Ann Gallager, Frankie Graham, Galen Reese, Richard Wagner, Wendy Nelson  
Zoom: Peggy Jones

**PUBLIC COMMENT-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE :**

There were no comments, communications or correspondence.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

No economic development report.

**MINUTES REVIEW-APPROVAL:**

During the Minutes Review and Approval portion of the meeting, the Council considered approval of prior meeting minutes listed on the agenda as the “December 3, 2025, City Council meeting minutes.” While introducing the item, the Mayor noticed that the date on the minutes was incorrect, explaining that the minutes actually related to the January 7, 2026, meeting rather than December. The Council chose to table the item and consider at the next Council meeting indicating the correct date.

**SEWER-DISPOSAL ACCOUNT DELINQUENCIES-ADJUSTMENTS-REFUNDS:**

During the Sewer–Disposal Account Delinquencies–Adjustments–Refunds item, the Council reviewed a delinquent account list included in their packets. There were 16 delinquent accounts identified. All customers on the list had been contacted by staff. Those who made payment arrangements, notes were added next to their names on the list. Council member Skoglie asked for clarification about account listed as Number 12. Clerk Reitz explained this was a house on Western Avenue placed on a standby rate. The star indicated a reminder to monitor the account while staff continued efforts to contact the customer. There was no extended debate or change of policy; the Council accepted the report and moved on to the next agenda item.

**POOL/PACT AUDIT AND FINDINGS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS / PROCEDURES TO ADOPT;**

Clerk Reitz reported that there were no audit findings, corrective actions, or procedures to present at this time.

**POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF CITY REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO THE PERSHING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD**

Mayor Wilcox read a resignation letter from Sharon Montes from the Senior Center Advisory Board, thanking the Council for the opportunity to serve. Mayor Wilcox also read a resignation letter from Pershing County Planning Commission member Lu Lusardi (effective 1/26/2026), expressing appreciation for the chance to serve. Council member Skoglie moved to accept both resignations, and the motion was approved by the Council.

Pershing County Regional Planning Commission appointment:

Mayor Wilcox read an application from Jeffrey King seeking appointment as the City of Lovelock representative on the Pershing County Regional Planning Commission. The letter highlighted his 52 years in California, experience as a park maintenance supervisor for the City of Long Beach, and long service on multiple commissions and committees. Council member McKinney noted it was rare to have an applicant with such directly relevant advisory experience and expressed enthusiasm. A motion was made by Council member McKinney to appoint Jeffrey King to the commission seat.

Motion carried unanimously

Senior Center Advisory Board appointments

Mayor Wilcox presented an application from Virginia Rose, existing member, requesting continuation of service on the Senior Center Advisory Board. Council member Skoglie offered a motion to reappoint Virginia Rose.

Motion carried unanimously

Mayor Wilcox read an application from Willetta (SIS) Reed for a one-year term on the Senior Center Advisory Board, noting she is a long-time resident and regular attendee at the Senior Center. Council member McKinney offered a motion to appoint Willetta (Sis) Reed to the board for the one-year term, after which she would need to reapply.

Motion carried unanimously

**POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING LOVELOCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 29 SECTION 29.115 LICENSE FEES CHANGING THE BASIS FOR IMPOSING FEES:**

Legal Counsel Sean Rowe stated that this item was currently just a standing item and that there was nothing new to report.

**POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOVELOCK MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE THE NUMBER OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO ONE MEETING PER MONTH:**

Sean Rowe, Legal Counsel, explained that at the previous meeting, the Council discussed holding one meeting per month, rather than the current two meetings. At that earlier discussion, the Council decided not to pursue reducing the number of regular meetings. Instead, requested a policy allowing the Mayor to cancel a regular meeting when there insufficient business to conduct. Rowe presented that cancellation policy, detailing when and how the Mayor may cancel regular meetings, notice requirements, and limitations (doesn't apply to special/emergency/statutorily required meetings). Council member Skoglie offered a motion to adopt the policy.

Motion carried unanimously

**DISCUSSION ONLY OF A LEASE OF CITY PROPERTY BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) FOR ITS WILDFIRE:**

The Council held a discussion-only item about a potential lease of the City Firehouse space to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for its wildfire operations. Mayor Wilcox explained that, years earlier, when BLM considered building its own station outside town, the City offered space in the Firehouse. Since then, BLM has used about 1,700 square feet of the Firehouse plus an additional bay for vehicles and seasonal equipment. The city has been covering all utilities for that area. When the Mayor was still fire chief, BLM asked to formalize this arrangement with a lease agreement including rental payments. A draft lease was prepared over a year ago but was never completed. The Mayor and Legal Counsel now want to revive that effort. Legal Counsel clarified that staff does not need formal council action to begin negotiations with BLM, however, any input from the Council is welcome. As this would be a lease with another government entity, no appraisal is legally required. The city intends to negotiate terms that both recover utility costs, and provide reasonable revenue. Any negotiated lease will be brought back to the Council for review and possible approval.

**PROCLAMATIONS-AWARDS:**

None at this time

**BUSINESS LICENSES-BUILDING PERMITS-LIQUOR LICENSES-SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSES:**

Mayor Wilcox presented a regular liquor license application for the Longhorn Saloon under new ownership by Crystal Abel. There was some confusion from Council member McKinney as to why this bar would need a new license. Clerk Reitz clarified a new license was required due to the change in ownership. Council member McKinney offered a motion to approve the liquor license for Longhorn Saloon.

Motion carried unanimously

Next, Mayor Wilcox read a Special Events Liquor License application from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, submitted by Michael Mancebo, for the Crab Feed scheduled for March 7, 2026, at the Community Center. The application proposed serving mixed drinks, beer, and wine. Council member McKinney offered a motion to approve the Special Events Liquor License for that occasion.

Motion carried unanimously

**MAYOR-COUNCIL-STAFF REPORTS-PROPOSALS:**

Council member Hertz had no report at this time.

Council member Skoglie reported on a recent tourism and economic development meeting, noting routine discussions about upcoming events and work with Travel Nevada, including a tour by bus operators who visited the museum and gave positive feedback. They are pursuing grants and partnerships to stimulate visitation and intend to keep working with Travel Nevada and other grant sources. Lee Ann Gallagher and Frankie Graham also gave a detailed update on the Music and Murals event. They reported that permission and donations have been secured for murals on at least two buildings, with more sites under consideration and a goal of eventually installing around five murals in Lovelock. The Community will be asked for input on mural themes, and the City is being added to an I-80 Mural Corridor that attracts visitors traveling to view public art. They also described discussions with the Nevada Arts Council, tied to the America 250 project, which may fund at least one large mural and potentially support a three-day community event with music and other activities. The intent is to both enhance the community and draw additional tourism.

Council member McKinney reported on the Recreation Board, expressing concern that some outside boards particularly PCEDA (Pershing County Economic Development Authority) have been discussing the Recreation Board's structure and performance, which is outside their authority. McKinney talked about the Recreation Board's mission, especially regarding

responsibility for the city pool, which is a County facility, and questioned why City-generated tourism funds are funneled through the County for oversight. McKinney stressed the need to clarify roles, priorities, funding responsibilities, and to obtain better records of how Recreation funds have been allocated, especially with large projects such as pool bathroom upgrades and other high-cost ideas being discussed.

Mayor Wilcox provided a broad operational update. Wilcox described a site visit to the Sewer Plant with the engineer to prioritize needed improvements, noting costs appear significantly higher than initially thought and may need to be phased. Estimates are being developed for a grant application. Wilcox reported preparations for town cleanup, work starting soon on Amherst with hauling of materials and planned utility replacement. Wilcox met with County Commissioners which led to the extension of the current agreement with Pershing County continuing to conduct building inspections on City projects through the end of June while City staff continue to pursue certification. Wilcox mentioned continuing efforts to resolve defects in the pickleball court, there is difficulty finding specialized contractors to address the issue willing to travel to Lovelock. Wilcox also mentioned ongoing communication with the railroad about cleanup of railroad properties in the City.

Mayor Wilcox read a written report from Public Works Supervisor, Greg Reitz. The crew has fully cleaned and sanitized the animal control Conex due to heavy mouse infestation. They have sealed entry points; reorganized supplies on new heavy-duty shelving. Greg Reitz is preparing a prioritized repair list for the animal control building (structural/electrical). For streets and alleys, the crew is working on ongoing gutter cleanup, filling holes in alley roads, adding gravel, replacing faded/illegible "No Parking" and other signs. Sewer Plant routine maintenance checks and required samples for Nov–Dec completed and submitted. Replacing belts on actuator pumps. The Chlorine Room floor is repaired; chlorine tank is nearly ready to be set back and plumbed. Greg Reitz is developing a detailed maintenance schedule and work-order system (free program) for all sewer plant tasks (valves, greasing, oil changes, etc.), targeted to be implemented by end of January. Fleet & Equipment: there are 7 vehicles for maintenance, 6 for repairs. Garbage Truck #32: restarted and being brought back to CDL standard (leaks, lights, electrical, brakes). Garbage Truck #31: ECM replaced; engine runs rough and dies, evidence of prior incomplete work; may require a rebuilt engine (outside specialist from Winnemucca assisting). Garbage Truck #34 (new): ABS warning light—parts on order; windshield to be replaced in-house. Other tasks include dump trailer ramp(?) repaired; Christmas decorations removed and stored. Risk Management/Facilities working with Pool/PACT on possible GPS units for high-value equipment. Training stations in the shop set up for staff required safety courses. At the Flag Park, one flag light was vandalized: planning replacement with tempered glass fixture.

Chief of Police Mancebo reported that the Department recently lost an officer, who accepted a job with Owyhee Housing. Jim Loveless has been hired as a replacement. Loveless previously worked as a deputy in Pershing County, Humboldt County, and later served six years as a Justice of the Peace before retiring. He is returning to active law enforcement and is in the Field Training Officer (FTO) program, with a tentative goal to work solo in early February. Because his POST certification is older, he must complete certain online courses and recertify within 90 days, which the Department is coordinating with POST. The Chief said Loveless is a good fit and will help meet critical staffing needs(is he a critical rehire? If so, that should be noted).

Mancebo also reported on IT and Risk-Management work being done with POOL/PACT. All council members now have a city email address to separate public business from personal accounts and better handle public-records requests. Instructions were provided, and the Chief

offered assistance with setting up email on phones. A shared Google drive has been created for large files like recordings. In addition, the City has applied for a .gov domain and is working on related IT policy updates requested by POOL/PACT.

## Fire Department

New Fire Chief Rich Wagner introduced himself and outlined his approach and priorities. He emphasized the Department's mission to protect people and property through both response and public education. Wagner highlighted expectations for honesty, respect, clear communication, and decisive leadership. Wagner has about 25 years with the Department and succeeds prior Chiefs he praised as strong leaders. For his first 90 days, he has three main goals:

1. A full cleanup and organization project in the old firehouse (and later the new one), has begun with help from local high school students seeking service hours.
2. Ensuring all equipment is in good repair, including ongoing pump repairs on the Drummond fire engine and inhouse completion of a rescue truck build-out that carries extrication tools like the Jaws of Life. The in-house approach allows customization and cost savings; the Mayor noted the rescue unit is expected back in service around early February.
3. Strengthening leadership and training, including designating Lauren Bianchi as Training Officer and pushing toward Firefighter I-level training for members.

Since the presumed last report date (around January 7), the Department has answered seven fire calls and five rescue calls. Membership has grown to 18 volunteers, with three new members, Ashley Mills, Joe George, and Manuel Romero. Wagner publicly thanked firefighters and law enforcement for their work during several recent difficult incidents. The Chief also raised a growing concern about carbon monoxide (CO) incidents in the Community, including a recent fatality. Wagner plans a public education campaign on CO dangers and prevention, preparing bilingual (English and Spanish) materials for distribution on the City's website and in public spaces. He may later propose community sessions and possibly provide CO detectors. He asked whom to coordinate with for publication and was encouraged to work with Clerk Reitz to distribute the materials. Council members thanked both chiefs and expressed support for their efforts.

Clerk Reitz reported that all quarterly reports have been completed and submitted, and W-2s were issued on time and correctly, with prior City Clerk Lisa Booth assisting in the process. Reitz and City Auditor, Teri Gauge, met, along with Deputy Clerk Stewart to review audit requirements and begin preparations for the upcoming budget. Reitz also outlined a new sewer billing review project in which staff printed a full customer list (residential and commercial) and are each reviewing five accounts per day to verify correct rates. This effort has already identified a commercial account that was incorrectly billed at the standby rate back to at least 2012, resulting in an estimated \$10,000 revenue loss; the business was notified that its rate will be corrected going forward, and the City has chosen not to back-bill, erring on the side of the customer. The review will continue to ensure all accounts are billed accurately and the City is receiving appropriate revenue.

### **VOUCHERS, CLAIMS AND PAYROLL:**

Council member Skoglie offered a motion to approve the Vouchers, Claims and Payroll.

Motion carried unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lee Ann Gallagher asked about the downtown bench that had been struck and damaged by a driver. The tree survived, however, the bench was damaged beyond repair and removed. Gallagher inquired whether there was insurance or restitution from the driver that could fund a replacement. The Mayor said he would follow up with the City's attorney and/or insurer to determine whether an insurance claim existed and whether it could cover a new bench. Gallagher also spoke more broadly about tourism and community coordination, observing that various entities such as PCEDA and the Recreation Board are working on separate projects, but Lovelock still needs stronger, more unified efforts to attract visitors, emphasizing the importance of clarifying roles and collaborating so tourism, recreation, and economic development work together effectively.

Wendy Nelson addressed concerns raised earlier about PCEDA agenda referencing the Recreation Board. She explained that, to her understanding as a PCEDA board member, the Recreation Board item had been inadvertently carried over from a previous agenda inadvertently, and that she did not recall any substantive discussion about changing the Recreation Board's structure. Nelson emphasized that the wording and placement of the item were likely a clerical or agenda-prep error, not an intentional attempt by PCEDA to intervene in or restructure the Recreation Board.

Councilmember McKinney addressed concerns about PCEDA board having an item on its agenda regarding the Recreation Board's restructuring. McKinney stated she had requested the recording of PCEDA's November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting but had not yet received a response. McKinney emphasized that a PCEDA agenda item titled "restructure plan" for the Recreation Board was overreach and outside PCEDA's authority, comparing it to the Recreation Board trying to restructure PCEDA, something she said would clearly be inappropriate. She stressed that PCEDA and the Recreation Board have very different missions, and that the Recreation Board's structure should not be discussed or altered by another board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm until the next scheduled City Council meeting on February 4, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

Rodney Wilcox  
Rodney J. Wilcox, Mayor

Nicole Reitz  
Nicole Reitz, City Clerk