

City of Ravenswood
Common Council Minutes
May 5, 2026

Call to Order

- Mayor Josh Miller called to order a meeting of the Common Council at 7:07 P.M. on May 5, 2026 in Ravenswood City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.

- Mayor Josh Miller led the pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- The following members were present, Mayor Josh Miller, Councilors, Dee Scritchfield, Todd Ritchie, Jeff Koon, Amanda Slaven and Attorney Steve Cogar,
Absent -Eric Cullen & Recorder Jared Bloxton

Approval of Prior Minutes 4/21/26

- With a technical change in the previous minutes, **Dee Scritchfield** moved to approve the prior minutes, second by **Jeff Koon All Approved**

Municipal Water/Wastewater Projects

- Bond Ordinance - **2nd Reading**

New Ordinance – Creation of Ravenswood Special Projects Fund Account, Purpose, and Qualifying Criteria – 2nd Reading

- **Todd Ritchie** asked **Mayor Josh Miller** to summarize the Ravenswood First Fund for the public. Ritchie stated the intent is to provide transparency, attempt to increase visibility of funds that are being spent with approval and communication with council and direction of the mayor. Fully supports Ravenswood First Fund.
- **Todd Ritchie** moved to approve, second by **Jeff Koon All Approved**

Public Forum

- Todd Ritchie- discussed new council procedures, quoted some of the public forum ordinances; thinks it was a good idea to recreate how to conduct the council meetings in an orderly fashion
- Josh Miller – **See attached**; also spoke about conversations with the City Attorney on matters including lease of Smokehouse Pavilion, prayers during council meetings, and Deputy Mayor position
- Buddy Jones – stated he brings facts to discuss; discussed FOIA Request that was sent in about Mayors credit card statements and reimbursements

- Mark Friend – stated he has not received FOIA Requests he submitted 6 days ago; spoke about council procedures; discussed previous audits; concerned about Recorder/Deputy Mayor not being present; spoke on bond rates; stated Mayor can't control our finances

Next Meeting Date May 19, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Adjournment

Mayor Josh Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm via a motion from Jeff Koon and second by Amanda Slaven **All Approved**

Submitted By

Megan Thompson

Megan Thompson, Acting City Clerk

Josh Miller

Mayor Josh Miller

Date: May 5, 2026

Dear Members of City Council & General Public:

I am writing to address a matter of growing concern regarding recent actions and rhetoric following the discovery that now two individuals (over the past several years) engaged in misconduct involving the misappropriation of city resources. While such behavior must be taken seriously and addressed appropriately, it is equally important that the response by city leadership reflects fairness, restraint, and a firm commitment to the principles of due process.

The actions of these individuals, however serious in nature, do not justify the presumption of guilt being cast broadly towards others within our city government. To suggest or imply that others may be complicit without evidence risks undermining morale, damaging reputations, and eroding trust within our municipal government. Public service depends on integrity, but also on the assurance that individuals will be treated justly and not subjected to speculation or unfounded accusations.

Due process is not merely a legal formality; it is a cornerstone of responsible government. It ensures that allegations are investigated thoroughly, evidence is evaluated objectively, and conclusions are reached based on facts rather than assumptions. When this standard is not upheld, the credibility of the governing body itself is called into question.

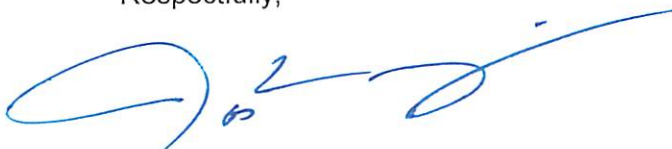
I urge this City Council to proceed with discipline and professionalism—holding those accountable who have violated public trust, while also safeguarding the rights and reputations of those who have not. A measured and lawful approach will demonstrate to both employees and citizens that Ravenswood operates with integrity, fairness, and respect for the rule of law.

Furthermore, I must be clear that if actions continue in a manner that disregards due process or results in unfounded accusations against individuals without probable cause, it may create exposure to civil liability. Continued conduct of this nature (slander, defamation, etc.), could necessitate the pursuit of appropriate legal remedies, including civil litigation, to protect the rights and reputations of those affected.

This is an opportunity to reinforce confidence in city government, not diminish it. By focusing on facts, adhering to established procedures, and avoiding broad generalizations, the Council can ensure that justice is served without compromising the principles that define good governance.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Josh Miller
Mayor, City of Ravenswood