

ALL PUBLIC NOTICES CAN BE FOUND AT
IOWAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

Cedar county claim

10/23/2025
General Basic Fund
1812.11-Access Systems Leasing-contract
100.00-Active Thermal Concepts, Inc- asbestos
30.00-Albaugh PHC Inc-plastic cover
1653.00-Altforer Inc-maint
223.27-Amazon Capital Services-surge protc
897.46-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-phone
776.70-Quest 8 Blue Lagoon Car Wash-wash
298.39-Brand New Engines-parts
29035.00-Champ Software Inc.-nightingale
191.34-Conservative Publishing-ad
11244.00-Consolidated Management Co-meals
200.00-Anthony Tatman Critical Hire-MMPI
400.00-Mike Dauber-mnthly svcs
802.47-Diamond Drugs, Inc-meds
576.42-Eastern IA Light&Power-util
116.00-Gordon Flesch Company-copies
175.00-Heartland Shredding Inc-shred
900.00-Heavy Excavating-pumping
806.40-Holiday Inn-hotel
48.70-Robin Housley-mil
48.70-Shelly Howsare-mil
50.00-Iowa Law Enforcement Academy-training
50.90-Bruce Jeffries-mil
181.13-Thiesen's-anchors
700.00-Latta Well & Pump Corp-winterize
299.11-Racheal Lilienthal-hotel
1510.98-Linn County Auditor-ME fees
2000.00-Johnson County Auditor-FY25/26
3726.00-Mainstay Systems of Iowa LLC-licenses
49.80-Michael Male-mil
112.36-McCloud Services-spray
1267.20-McKesson Medical - Surgical-modrn
93.75-ODP Business Solutions, LLC-card
6096.46-Zachary A Pedersen-dirt work
156.00-Progressive Rehabilitation-prework
600.00-Joshua Pruitt, MD-cause fee
4241.25-River Bend Transit-2nd Qtr FY26
5327.20-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
675.84-Sinclair Tractor-radiator
16.50-Spahn & Rose Lumber Co-plexiglass
723.00-State Hygienic Laboratory-testing
151.26-Vestis-mats/mops
1074.36-VISA/Bankers Bank-billing
1603.54-Wendling Quarries Inc-rock
632.41-West Branch Village HHM Commun-rent
1850.50-Workplace Learning Connection-FY25/26
General Supplemental Fund
168.90-Amazon Capital Services-binders
10056.59-Election Systems & Software-audio
309.00-Thomson Reuters-West Payment-info chrg
Pioneer Cemetery
210.00-Brandon Paul Keebsgrove-stump
2975.00-Eric Storjohann-resoration Rural Services Basic Fund
23.36-Amazon Capital Services-paper
500.00-Bow Tie Automotive-deduct
25.20-Conservative Publishing-legal
44.88-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
104.00-Spengler Auto Repair Inc-oil chg
27.84-Advocate News-legal
EMS-Essential Srv(Ambulance)
2000.00-DRSE, LLC-EMS contract
787.00-KS Statebank Government-Doc fee
29210.00-Legacy Emergency Vehicles-lease
219.12-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
2270.00-Station Automation Inc-subscrip
Secondary Road Fund
10225.80-Advantage FS, Inc-Gasoline
122.93-Alliant Energy-Utilities-Clarence
1637.77-Altforer Inc-Filter
314.50-American Radiator-Outside services
2648.00-Cedar County COOP-Diesel
20.00-Central Iowa Distributing-Sundry
585.00-CJ Cooper & Assoc-Safety testing
16.80-Conservative Publishing-Publications
167.62-Cove Equipment-Parts
111.18-Custom Hose & Supplies-Parts
356.24-Finkbner Equipment Co-Parts
997.14-Grainger Parts Inc. W.W-New equipment
131.00-H & H Auto-Outside services
1222.00-Harry's Farm Tire Inc-Tires
24096.00-Illowa Culvert & Supply-L-202506--73-16
159999.15-Iowa Bridge & Culvert-L-202203--73-16 / L
151.40-Iowa Prison Industries-Signs
181.95-J.J. Nitching Company-Parts
188001.90-Jim Schroeder Construction Inc-BROS-CO16(118)-8J-1
304.60-Thiesen's-Sundry
82.74-Lawson Products Inc-Parts
16896.20-Manatt's Inc-Credit
813.05-Genuine Parts Company Inc NAPA-Parts
50.00-Niles Chiropractic, Inc-Safety testing
25470.00-PSK, LLC dba/Overhead Door Com-Building upkeep
932.22-P&K Midwest, Inc-Filter
89.36-Phelps the Uniform Specialists-Sundry
3003.00-Powers' Seeds Bob Powers-Seed
19545.22-River Products Company-Rock
22.99-Spahn & Rose Lumber Co-Sundry
83.69-Storm Steel-Parts
44.26-Tipton Electric Motors, Inc-return freight
8722.60-Van Diest Supply Company-Herbicides
2807.64-Wendling Quarries Inc-Rock
Local Govt Opioid Abatement
213.92-VISA/Bankers Bank-hotel
Cedar Co Health Fund
6786.41-CEDAR COUNTY TREASURER ACH-sell funded med
9219.98-Delta Dental Plan of Iowa-ins
155407.11-Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue-ins
Debt Service Fund
45402.50-UMB Bank, N.A Attn: Trust Fees-interest
Early Childhood la-Cedar/Jones
244.00-Association of Early Childhood-dues
590.00-Bennett Comm. School-Scholarship
5800.00-Dollywood Foundation Finance-Cedar
500.00-Durant Community Schools-scholarships

6420.16-Grant Wood AEA-CART
5359.95-Hawkeye Area Community Action-Head Start
280.19-Sherri R. Hunt-mil
3176.76-Jones County Auditor-Salary
800.00-Little Panther Preschool-Scholarships
3166.79-Lutheran Services in Iowa-PAT-LSI
250.00-North Cedar CSD Lowden-Scholarships
50.00-North Cedar CSD Mechanicsville-Scholarships
600.00-Olin Community School-Scholarships
75.00-Sacred Heart Preschool-Scholarships
183.33-St. Patrick's Preschool-Scholarships
7145.08-Young Parents Network-PAT-YPN
Jnt Disaster Serv.Fund
207.03-AT&T Mobility-phone
75.50-Hawkeye Fire & Safety Accounts-inspec
52.58-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
E911
200.00-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-phone
340.08-Dubuque County 911-elec
35.04-CenturyLink Lumen-data Assessor
8.10-Quest 8 Blue Lagoon Car Wash-wash
255.00-IAAO-membership
145.25-Office Express-toner
54.30-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
3180.00-Vanguard Appraisals Inc-Archive
858533.41-Grand Total
WBT 46

Cedar county board

BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE--WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV)
TIPTON, IOWA
October 28, 2025
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. October 28, 2025 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present.
It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 10/24/2025 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #443978 for \$1,567.87-self funded medical claims. Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve agenda.
Ayes: All
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve Board Minutes of October 21, 2025.
Ayes: All
Moved by Gaul seconded by Kaufmann to approve Claim Disbursements #443862 - #443977 paid on 10/23/2025.
Ayes: All
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Gaul to approve a utility permit for Alliant Energy on Charles Avenue to bore along a new right of way and waive \$100 fee.
Ayes: All
Chief Judge Latham introduced District Court Administrator Dosland to Board. Latham thanked Board for great relationship.
Discussion held on Finance Director position. One employee other than Auditor Welch submitted interest in position. Barnhart said if current Auditor is willing to do it, he feels that is where position belongs. Welch said she will work with Dauber until June 30th and Dauber agreed to do so.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann appointed Auditor Welch as Finance July 1, 2026, during remaining timeframe Auditor Welch and Finance Director Dauber will work together.
Ayes: All
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Barnhart to approve and authorize chairperson Bell to sign obligor resolution.
Ayes: All
Moved by Gaul seconded by Kaufmann to approve proposed EMS Fee Schedule effective December 1, 2025.
Ayes: All
Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve 2025 Weed Commissioners Report presented by Weed Commissioner Foulks.
Ayes: All
Finance Director Dauber updated Board on remaining LATCF and ARPA funds. LATCF funds have no deadline although ARPA funds have a deadline to be expended by 12/31/2026.
Moved by Gaul seconded by Kaufmann to adjourn at 9:55 a.m., to November 4, 2025.
Ayes: All

West Branch city council

(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. A video recording is available for inspection at westbranchiowa.org. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)
West Branch, Iowa; City Council; November 3, 2025
Council Chambers; Regular Meeting; 7:00 p.m.
Mayor Roger Laughlin called the West Branch City Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Roll call: Council members present; Colton Miller, Mike Horihan, Jerry Sexton, Tom Dean and Jodee Stoolman. City Staff present: City Administrator Adam Kofeod, City Clerk Alycia Horras, Public Works Director Matt Goodale, City Lawyer Kevin Olsen, and City Engineer Eric Gould.
Attending via Zoom: Deputy Clerk Jessica Brown, Finance Officer Heidi Van Auken, and Library Director Jessie Schafer
APPROVE THE AGENDA
Motion to Approve the Agenda with item 9b discussing the possibility of city staff

regaining the Friday after Thanksgiving as a city department Holiday, under Discussion Items, stricken from the agenda made by Miller, second by Dean. Mayor Laughlin asked for clarification that the motion was to strike it from this agenda for this meeting, but clarified that it would still be up for consideration in a future meeting. It was agreed upon that it would be considered if a proposal was officially made, that allowed the council to vote on it and not just a discussion topic to debate. Motion carried on a voice vote.
APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA
Approve minutes from the October 20, 2025 City Council meeting.
Approve minutes from the October 22, 2025 Special City Council meeting.
Approve Liquor License Renewal for SILT.
Approve Liquor License Renewal for Herb & Lou's
Approve Special Event Request - Christmas Past by MSWB
Approve August Financial Report
Approve Claims for November 3, 2025 EXPENDITURES-11/3/2025
AMAZON.COM-BOOKS & BATTERIES - LIBRARY, PD -24.39
AT & T MOBILITY-WIRELESS SERVICE-210.07
DEMCO-CD CASES & LABELS - LIBRARY-122.74
GOERDT INSPECTION -BLDG INSPECTIONS-1,722.00
HOLIDAY INN DES MOINES-IMFOA LODGING - BROWN, FRIIS-474.88
IOWA CODIFICATION-ANNUAL WEB HOSTING-450.00
IOWA DNR-2026 ANNUAL WATER USE FEE-115.00
MEDIACOM-CABLE SERVICES -41.90
MENARDS-LHLM POSITIVE PEBBLES-P&R-10.99
QUILL-VACUUM FOR CITY OFFICE-99.89
STEEN, CATHERINE-IA WOMENS POLICE ASSOC-STEEN-183.40
TOTAL--3,455.26
PAYROLL-WAGES, TAXES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - 10/24/2025 - 69,496.65
PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS

AMAZON.COM-BOOKS & PROGRAM SUPPLIES LIBRARY-1,176.35
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY-SHOP SUPPLIES - PW-64.64
BARNHART'S CUSTOM SERVICES-ROCK FOR ELM & STORM WATER-PW-840.00
BOOMERANG CORP-CEDAR JOHNSON RD PAY EST 5--341,044.03
BROWN, JESSICA-IMFOA MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT-187.60
CEDAR COUNTY COOPERATIVE-FUEL - PW-916.07
CROELL-INTAKE REPAIR - PW-445.00
E. O. JOHNSON-COPIER MAINTENANCE-LIB-253.86
Eocene ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP-WIDENING WAPSI CREEK-1,213.89
FUSIONSITE MIDWEST-LHLM PORT-O-POTTY-126.50
HI-LINE-SHOP SUPPLIES - PW-819.33
IOWA ASSN. MUN. UTILITIES-QUARTLY SAFETY TRAINING DUES-978.00
IOWA DEPT OF INSPECTIONS-LIFT REINSPECTION FEE-465.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL-BUILDING REPAIR,CLOTHING-PW-1,511.38
MENARDS-W. PLANT & VEHICLE SUPPLIES-PW-201.24
MPEC-VEHICLE SUPPLIES - PW-983.26
OASIS ELECTRIC-ELECTRICAL REPAIR ON WATER PLANT-PW-125.00
OFFICE CONCEPTS-COUNCIL CHAIRS-2,559.28
OLSON, KEVIN D-LEGAL SERVICES - OCTOBER 2025-1,500.00
PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL-PEST CONTROL - TH, CLERK, LIBRARY-164.54
RELION-FY26 CRIME THEFT PREMIUM-150.00
ROOF, GERDES, ERLBACHER-AUDIT FY25-1ST PAYMENT-9,200.00
STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS-CHEMICALS-257.89
STERICYCLE-SHREDDING SERVICES-96.98
SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION-ANNUAL FIRE ALARM SERVICE- LIB-2,570.00
SURVEYING AND MAPPING-ANNUAL GIS WEBSITE MAINTENANCE -3,960.00
VERIZON WIRELESS-VERIZON WIRELESS-424.81
METLIFE-INSURANCE PREMIUM-2,324.12
SISCO-INSURANCE PREMIUM -15,517.61
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 10-14-2025-327.02
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 10-20-2025-1,938.69
VARIOUS VENDORS-UB REFUNDS-187.12
TOTAL--392,529.21
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES--465,481.12
FUND TOTALS
001 GENERAL FUND-46359.22
022 CIVIC CENTER-522.27
031 LIBRARY-8750.64
036 TORT LIABILITY-108
110 ROAD USE TAX-7496.03
112 TRUST AND AGENCY-31211.15
321 WIDENING WAPSI CREEK-1213.89
331 CEDAR JOHNSON RD-341044.03
600 WATER FUND-15968.73
610 SEWER FUND-11703.56
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-1103.6
GRAND FUND TOTAL--465481.12
Motion by Sexton, second by Miller to approve the Consent agenda. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Horihan, Stoolman, Dean. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
PRESENTATIONS / communications / open forum -
Sally Peck stated that the agenda was not posted on the bulletin board at the Post Office and objected to the meeting moving forward due to not being properly noticed for the residents. City Attorney Olsen read from the Iowa Code stating that what we do goes above and beyond what is required and shared that the agenda was properly posted at both entrances of City Hall (which is the only requirement), at the Library and Online. Typically, the Post Office is a posting location as well, but is not a required location.

PUBLIC HEARING / NON-CONSENT AGENDA
Second Reading Ordinance 833 - PROVIDING THAT GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED AND COLLECTED ON CERTAIN LOTS IN THE MEADOWS, PART 4A AND PART 4B AND PEDERSEN VALLEY, PART ONE, WEST BRANCH, IOWA, IN THE CITY OF WEST BRANCH, COUNTY OF CEDAR, STATE OF IOWA, BY AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STATE OF IOWA, CITY OF WEST BRANCH, COUNTY OF CEDAR, WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND OTHER TAXING DISTRICTS, BE PAID TO A SPECIAL FUND FOR PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON LOANS, MONIES ADVANCED TO AND INDEBTEDNESS, INCLUDING BONDS ISSUED OR TO BE ISSUED, INCURRED BY SAID CITY IN CONNECTION WITH SAID WEST BRANCH URBAN RENEWAL AREA / Move to Action.
Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 833. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Horihan, Stoolman. NAYS: None. Motion Carried.
Resolution 2025-117 Approval of a Settlement and Release Agreement with Robert and Lezlee Copeland / Move to Action.
Motion by Miller, second by Dean to approve Resolution 2025-117. AYES: Miller, Dean, Stoolman, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Resolution 2025-118 Approval of Site Plan for Nordex / Move to Action
Motion by Dean, second by Miller to approve Resolution 2025-118. AYES: Dean, Miller, Stoolman, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Resolution 2025-119 Approval of Agreement for Generator Maintenance at the Sewer Plant / Move to Action.
Motion by Miller, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2025-119. AYES: Miller, Sexton, Horihan, Stoolman, Dean. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Discussion/Move to Action -
Discussion on the Administration Recommendation of Abatement of Wastewater Fees, was had with the Council and Administration. This is a function that was put in place in 2020 and had not been utilized by the current staff. Council person Miller discussed the process and gave clarification on the intended process going forward.
CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT -
Thanks to Heidi for all of her work on the AFR and assisting Adam with the TIF Certification report. Kofeod recently attended the ICMA meeting in Florida. He shared a few key takeaways from the week with the council and attendees.
CITY ATTORNEY REPORT - None
CITY ENGINEER REPORT -
Cedar Johnson Road Project update-
The grading work has been finished and they are looking to wrap up this week with work and seed next week.
Wapsi Creek Widening Update- This is moving along well. Currently there

is a lot of dirt being moved and the contractor is looking to be through the Gaskill property by the time they have to shut down for the winter. There was further discussion by the Council, City Engineer and a member of Lark Land Inc on the Cedar Johnson Road side of the Meadows development and the setup, cost, and who is responsible for the curb cut and approach once the new homes have been built with the driveway location set.
STAFF REPORTS -None
COMMENTS from mayor and council members -
Mayor Laughlin shared that the final location for the pickleball courts at Cubby Park has been set and the site

plan should be coming soon. Forrest Brown with Brown's Auto is questioning the TIF amount that has been slated to Forza Development. The mayor will ask him to come to the Council to address them with his concerns and proposal.
adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Miller, second by Sexton. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Roger Laughlin, Mayor
ATTEST:

Alycia Friis, City Clerk
WBT 46



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IOWA CITY & CEDAR RAPIDS MLS

NEW LISTING

602 Orange St, Tipton, \$235,000

4 BR, 3 BA, This spacious zero-entry house has something for everyone. The house has a large living room and a main floor family room/sun room. The dining room is large enough for a family table. The main floor has 2 spacious bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. The primary bedroom has a walk-in closet and private bath. In the Lower level there is a third NON-conforming bedroom, family room, full bath and LOTS of storage. The LL is stubbed for an additional kitchen or bath. Outside, the lot has plenty of shade for the hot summer days and a fenced yard. The property has a garden shed for outdoor storage. This property is sold in AS-IS condition.

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Shutdown

From Page 1

was occurring, but those have been reactivated. ... Those are still (to be determined) for when the shutdown actually ends.”

The shutdown began on Oct. 1, despite the House passing a “clean” continuing resolution to keep the government open through Nov. 21.

The Senate voted 15 times on the clean C.R. but could not muster the 60 necessary votes. Then, on Sunday, a negotiated deal put them on track to pass a new C.R. That vote finally came on Monday night, the 41st day of the shutdown.

If the House approves the Senate bill on Wednesday, the 43rd day of the shutdown, it still may take a few days to get the Hoover complex reopened.

The shutdown tied the record for length on Nov. 4 when it reached the 35th day.

‘Welcome news’

Mayor Roger Laughlin said the possibility that the local federal agency may reopen “is welcome news.”

“It’s time to reopen,” he said. “I’m not sure this is the best way. Not everybody’s going to be happy about it, but, I hope everybody gets what they want in the end.”

Main Street West



U.S. Rep. Marianne Miller-Meeks addresses a crowd at a Town Hall event on Monday in Keosauqua.

Screen grab/Iowa’s News Now livestream

Branch Executive Director Jessi Simon said the organization is concerned that it may not get all necessary permits approved in time for A Christmas Past, set for Dec. 4-5.

“We’re definitely crossing our fingers that the shutdown comes to an end,” she said. “We’ve had to pivot our plans. If it is not open soon, there may not be time to get (permits approved).”

She said MSWB sends in applications in

September and they get reviewed in October.

“Usually it takes longer than (three weeks), but hopefully we can rush something through,” Simon said. “I’m sure there are a lot of things that will have to be rushed through.”

Laughlin called it “disappointing” to see shutdowns happening. This is the 11th shutdown since 1980 and fourth in the past decade, with three during Trump presidencies.

“Not everybody is happy about the final product. There’s so much work to do. Educated congresspeople can’t seem to figure out a process to do this in a better way to avoid shutdowns,” he said. “This is ridiculous.”

Simon said MSWB wanted to switch back to lighting the large evergreen on the northeast corner of the Village Green.

“We hoped to revisit lighting the big tree, but that’s definitely a no-go,” she said. “There’s no time. We need sponsors to buy the lights and arrange for the lift.”

Hoover Park normally decorates with wreaths and lights up Downey Trace with luminaries to the birthplace cottage. They also arrange carolers, special programming, and live blacksmithing demonstrations. MSWB also wanted to send the popular carriage rides through the federal park.

“That’s all up in the air,” Simon said.

Democrat objections

Several members of the audience in Miller-Meeks’ Town Hall discussion lost their tempers, shouted at her while she tried to answer questions, and disrupted the event.

Law enforcement and security removed two people at different times in the hourlong meeting.

While she tried to answer a question about health care funding — the primary issue behind the Democrats’ refusal to vote for the C.R. — a man yelled that the Republicans “are taking away poor people’s health care!”

Miller-Meeks said more than once that the Affordable Care Act funding that would expire does not relate to premium tax credits, but “Covid-era enhanced premium tax cuts, where that money goes directly to profitable insurance companies.”

Answering a question on whether Congress should get paid during a shutdown, Miller-Meeks held up a printout of her pay stub, showing she refused payment for October.

She noted that every member of Congress would need to request the government withhold their salary during a shutdown. She then invited people to ask each elected official if they did so.

Miller-Meeks noted that she pushed legislation that would withhold lawmaker pay during shutdowns and would continue to advocate for it after this shutdown ends.

Some in the audience called the legislator a “liar.”

Some members of the audience shouted back at the disrupters with “Give her a chance!”

After the event ended and Miller-Meeks left the

stage, one shouted “Bye, you Nazi f---!”

A number of the shouted objections were against President Trump and his policies.

Museum work

Back in West Branch, workers recently began installing the slate roof on the museum, with materials matching the original building.

McCarty said workers recently began pouring concrete from the new front stoop entrance to connect existing sidewalks, resculpting the approach.

“That will change the face of the museum,” she said.

Inside, workers began painting walls and ceilings. McCarty predicts that the construction phase of the work will finish Jan. 31. At that time, the design firm will arrive to begin installing the new displays.

She said strong relationships with the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration, architectural and engineering firm Shive-Hattery, general contractor Macomas-Lacina Construction, and “all the great (subcontractors)” kept the project moving smoothly.

“Let’s hope this all comes to fruition,” McCarty said of the House vote to reopen the government.

Democratic

From Page 3

didates for public office are rarely evil and nearly always just humans who have been called to public service in a very hostile and divided time in our nation.

No one has all the answers on how we can fix violent rhetoric, but it is obvious to me that each of us must start with our own reactions.

We must hold ourselves and our elected officials accountable when it comes to using divisive and violent rhetoric.

That is especially true

on social media, where it is so easy for anyone and everyone to react immediately and often without enough forethought and judgment. It is easy to hide behind a fake or private social media account and say things you wouldn’t normally say if you were speaking to someone in person.

Social media has become unbelievably powerful because it works. It impacts others. Words typed out of hate, desperation, or sadness can easily be picked up and shared thousands of times online.

Even if an account is private, it’s easy to copy and paste posts until they

are shared a million times or more.

There’s a reason we say it’s “gone viral”. The question is — is that virus making things better or worse?

Is it intended to inform and create positive change or is it designed to incite the hatred and violence that is threatening our very existence as a community, state, country, or nation?

When writing these social media posts, it’s important to remember that we are talking to real people, about other real people and about emotional issues that have real impacts on people’s lives.

I ask myself: “Would

you print that thought in your local newspaper with your name next to it? If not, don’t put it online. Share it with your best friend instead.”

In fact, let’s all make an effort to do more by talking to friends, family, and neighbors about the issues that are important to us.

One of the reasons divisive online rhetoric has become more acceptable is because we have stopped talking to people who disagree.

Let’s all work on our ability to listen and to be curious about someone else’s opinion.

Seek first to under-

stand before seeking to be understood.

Never use language that promotes political violence, and tell others that type of language is not acceptable.

We can hold elected officials accountable in so many ways that are so much more effective than violent talk or action.

Most elected officials have websites that include their contact information. Call their offices, send them an email, or a handwritten letter that details your concerns.

Contact your county political parties, join a protest, or show up to local political events and

make your voice heard.

Visit iwillvote.com and make a plan to vote on Election Day.

Don’t let yourself fall into that “us versus them” trap, and remember we aren’t at war with “the other side.”

We are all trying to make a safer and more prosperous nation for our children and our grandchildren.

The best patriotic and most American way we can build a better country is by negotiating, compromising when it makes sense, and standing up for our values and beliefs through the rights given to us by the Constitution.

Republican

From Page 3

“thoughtful discourse” on top of false equivalence.

A quick look at what’s recently been happening:

- In Virginia, a Democrat candidate for Attorney General openly threatened violence against his Republican opponent and his children.

- Sitting members of Congress on the left have flirted with or outright encouraged political violence.

- There have been two attempted assassinations of President Trump, an attempted mass shooting of Republican members of Congress that nearly killed Steve Scalise, the assassination of Charlie Kirk, and even the assassination of a major health-care

executive, all tied to left-wing extremists.

What’s worse, all of these have been celebrated by many on the left, after the fact.

That’s not just threats or talk.

Here’s how political leaders, particularly Democrats, should respond:

1. Call it out, directly and by name.

When violence or violent rhetoric comes from your own side, say so.

Don’t hide behind buzzwords like “both sides” or “extremists everywhere.”

That’s political cowardice.

Leadership means naming the problem even when it’s uncomfortable.

2. Stop glamorizing outrage.

Too many Democrats

treat the loudest, angriest activists as heroes.

Social media mobs are rewarded, not rebuked.

Political leaders should draw a clear line between passionate advocacy and violent threats, and stop pretending rage is a virtue.

3. Lead with example, not excuses.

You don’t de-escalate

violence by winking at it.

Too many political leaders, especially on the left, are afraid of offending the radicals in their own ranks.

They tiptoe around the problem instead of confronting it.

And every time they look the other way, the temperature rises a little higher.

Civility isn’t weakness, it’s strength. We can highlight the differences between candidates, records, and political party platforms, without calling for the utter demise of our opponents.

But it only works if both sides play by the same rules.

If Democrats truly want to discourage violence,

they need to start by cleaning up their own house.

They need to condemn their own radicals as forcefully as they condemn everyone else’s.

Otherwise, all the talk about “thoughtful discourse” is just that, talk.

Because thoughtful discourse doesn’t coexist with threats and intimidation.

STATE OF IOWA 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 CITY OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA DUE: December 1, 2025		1620160080000 CITY OF WEST BRANCH PO Box 218 WEST BRANCH IA 52358-0218 POPULATION: 2509		
NOTE - The information supplied in this report will be shared by the Iowa State Auditor's Office, the U.S. Census Bureau, various public interest groups, and State and federal agencies.				
ALL FUNDS				
	Governmental (a)	Proprietary (b)	Total Actual (c)	Budget (d)
Revenues and Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	2493327		2,493,327	2,485,744
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	0		0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	2,493,327		2,493,327	2,485,744
Delinquent Property Taxes	863		863	0
TIF Revenues	677,415		677,415	679,609
Other City Taxes	381,670	0	381,670	361,855
Licenses and Permits	95,188	0	95,188	76,500
Use of Money and Property	60,334	13,386	73,720	20,570
Intergovernmental	1,089,866	0	1,089,866	1,366,026
Charges for Fees and Service	313,309	1,996,131	2,309,440	2,342,586
Special Assessments	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	214,966	337	215,303	7,000
Other Financing Sources, Including Transfers in	1,932,766	771,052	2,703,818	4,229,322
Total Revenues and Other Sources	7,259,704	2,780,906	10,040,610	11,569,212
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	1,005,702		1,005,702	1,379,937
Public Works	717,528		717,528	820,671
Health and Social Services	0		0	0
Culture and Recreation	562,856		562,856	710,814
Community and Economic Development	257,864		257,864	284,461
General Government	278,260		278,260	307,798
Debt Service	1,326,090		1,326,090	1,326,991
Capital Projects	1,248,633		1,248,633	2,514,827
Total Governmental Activities Expenditures	5,396,933	0	5,396,933	7,345,499
Business type activities		1,751,008	1,751,008	3,047,843
Total All Expenditures	5,396,933	1,751,008	7,147,941	10,393,342
Other Financing Uses, Including Transfers Out	942,962	986,338	1,929,300	1,929,322
Total All Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses	6,339,895	2,737,346	9,077,241	12,322,664
Excess Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses	919,809	43,560	963,369	-753,452
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2024	5,346,352	0	5,346,352	1,287,138
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2025	6,266,161	43,560	6,309,721	533,686
NOTE - These balances do not include the following, which were not budgeted and are not available for city operations:				
Non-budgeted Internal Service Funds		Pension Trust Funds		
Private Purpose Trust Funds		Agency Funds		
Indebtedness at June 30, 2025		Indebtedness at June 30, 2025		
	Amount		Amount	
General Obligation Debt	9,280,000	Other Long-Term Debt	6,798	
Revenue Debt	10,298,000	Short-Term Debt	0	
TIF Revenue Debt	0			
		General Obligation Debt Limit	18,400,835	

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