Town of Reardan
Council Special Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2026, 6:00PM
Reardan Town Hall - Moved to Reardan Community Hall
Due to Community Member Attendance

Call to Order: 6:00 PM
Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call:

- Mayor: Kathy Eastman
- Council members: Dan Graham, Wayne Terry, Rocky Kidder, and Leanne Merkel present. Pat Hogan was absent and excused.
- Clerk/Treasurer: Sam Mathis
- Police: Chief Werner, Reserve Steve Bolinger
- Town Attorney: David Bingaman
- Guests: Niki Sibley, Marian Foster, Tomi Gilbert, Jean Heinrichs, Sandy Hughes, Claudia Veltrie, Betty Grant, Jerry Schulz, Suzanne Schulz, Bill Kemp, Gretchen Neal, David Neal, Sharon Skipper, Gloria Palomino, Glenda Eastman, Josh Eastman, John Merkel, Chantel Nilles, Ricki Poitra, Whitney Poitra, Tina Hansen. Lincoln County Record-Times reporter Derek Bilodeauz.

Special Agenda Items:

- 2026 full-time Deputy Clerk with full benefits:
  Leanne asked if the Deputy Clerk is a full-time or a part-time position? Kathy reported that Deputy Clerk is hired as a full-time position at $19/hour, the employee has requested to work 30 hours a week and she has denied benefits. The new employee is Juliette Richards. Leanne asked when did it change to a part-time position? Kathy advised that it is a full-time position and Juliette has requested that we accommodate her request to work 30 hours per week. Leanne does not believe the Mayor can add a budget line item without Council approval. Kathy advised that the Mayor cannot change the bottom line of budget, but can move items based on needs of the town.

- Review current and previous Town attorney contracts:
  Council packets included prior attorney and current attorney contracts. Dan asked what the attorney amount is on our budget, Kathy advised $30,000 or $50,000. Dan asked for the Kathy to clarify the amount and report to the Council at the next meeting. Kathy reported that she has a price comparison of the prior and current attorney for council to review, Dan will stop by the office and review.

  Leanne asked where the attorney contract is in Town Hall, it is not in the contract book. Kathy advised the contract is now in the book.

  Leanne said she would like to go into Executive Session. Kathy asked what is the purpose of the Executive Session, Leanne said to talk about our attorney contract. Kathy asked for an OPMA reasoning of why we can go into Executive Session to discuss the attorney contract. Leanne said it is her understanding that we can go into Executive Session to discuss employees. Kathy advised he is not an employee, he is our attorney. Leanne then said she wants to fire attorney David Bingaman, Kathy advised Leanne that per RCW it is the Mayor's authority to hire/fire attorney.

Leanne has more questions, she wants to know how many people are working at town hall and what are the employee names. Kathy reported Town Hall has two employees Juliette Richards and Sam Mathis. Leanne wants to know why so many people are thumbing through the documents at town hall, everything in Town Hall is open to the public, but why are people going through documents.

David Bingaman advised Leanne that per OPMA we can only discuss what is on the Special Meeting Agenda.

Public Comment:

- Comments made by the following guests: Marian Foster, Tomi Gilbert, Suzanne Schulz, Whitney Poitra, Dan Graham, Gretchen Neal, Sandy Hughes, Sharon Skipper, Jean Heinrichs, Tina Hansen, Whitney Poitra, Town Attorney David Bingaman, Jackie Brinkley.

Adjourn:

- Rocky made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 PM. Dan seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVED: Kathy Eastman, Mayor ATTEST: Sam Mathis, Clerk/Treasurer