

Special Council Meeting  
June 30, 2025  
7:00 PM

Mayor Amanda Milne called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Council members Robert (Bud) Erskin, Kale Dankenbring, Larry Finley, Dara Carmichael, and Justin Lohr. Also Present were City Superintendent Dan Blair, Interim City Clerk Lila Whitmore, City Treasurer Jennifer Blair, Office Assistant Wyatt Landenberger, and Miller & Associates Engineer Tyler Hillmer were also present. Attorney Michael Baxter joined the meeting via phone.

The special meeting was called to discuss the Street Project, Phone Service Proposals, and to hold the Budget Workshop.

Visitors: none

**Street Project:** A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin for the Council and all those present to recess into executive session per the attorney client privilege exception to discuss the street project/access road, the open meeting to resume at 7:16. Motion passed. The open meeting resumed. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Justin to go back into executive session, the open meeting to resume at 7:41. Motion passed. The open meeting resumed. No decisions were made.

➤ *Attorney Michael Baxter left the meeting.*

Tyler Hillmer was present to talk about the City's plans for street improvements. He shared a map of the City showing the streets that the street committee had determined were of the highest priority for repairs. He discussed the differences in construction materials and shared the estimated costs of the repairs for each of the streets. The total costs are: Priority #1 streets - \$1,728,030; Priority #2 streets - \$723,360; Priority #3 streets - \$1,030,380. There would also be a \$65,000 mobilization fee each time a street or streets are repaired. Funding for street repairs was discussed and would include revenue from the 1% sales tax in the infrastructure improvement fund and issuing bonds.

**Phone Service Proposals:** Jen shared the quotes she had received for the phone updates. Vyve proposed a 60-month contract for five locations at a cost of \$401.79/month. Nex-tech proposed a 60-month contract for five locations at a cost of \$454.80/month. The Council discussed the pros and cons of both options. It is vital to ensure that the power plant fire alarm and the water control system communications are not negatively impacted and will continue to be supported. Dan obtained a quote from Atlas Automation for the equipment and maintenance agreement needed for the water control system to communicate with the internet phones. The initial cost would be \$2,463.90 and the annual subscription for online management of the device and data logging would be \$131.40. He also presented a quote of \$800/year from Fire Alarm Specialists for the radio communicator equipment, installation, and testing. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Justin and seconded by Larry to approve the quote from Nex-tech for the phone system. Motion passed. It was moved by Kale and seconded by Dara to approve the quote from Atlas Automation. Motion passed. It was moved by Kale and seconded by Justin to approve the quote from Fire Alarm Specialists. Motion passed.

**Budget Workshop:** Lila has worked with Danielle Hollingshead with AdamsBrown to prepare an initial draft budget. The Council reviewed all line items in the funds. Lila explained how the 2026 budget numbers

were determined based on a combination of previous years expenses, current budget, and anticipated increases/decreases. The Council reviewed the budget requests from community service organizations and set the following allocations: Cheyenne County Development Corporation - \$42,000; St. Francis Senior Center - \$10,000; Transportation Program - \$5,500; Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center - \$3,000; Options Domestic Violence - \$3,000; Cheyenne County Food Pantry - \$3,000. The total allocations for community services organizations will remain at \$10,000. Lila indicated that a citizen had asked if there were funds budgeted for tree replacement to replant trees that have been removed from the parks. After discussion, the Council decided to increase the budget for the Courthouse Park and Roadside Park line items to \$5,000 each. Keller Pond was also increased to \$5,000. The library mill levy will be 4.5 mills. The increase in ad valorem tax was kept at 3% per council request. Lila will send the draft budget back to Danielle who will calculate the mill levy and make any other necessary adjustments. The final proposed budget will be reviewed at the July 14 Council meeting.

It was moved by Larry and seconded by Kale to adjourn the special meeting, Motion passed.

  
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Interim City Clerk