

Regular Council Meeting

September 22, 2025

1. **Mayor Amanda Milne called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.** Present were Council members Dara Carmichael, Kale Dankenbring, Justin Lohr and Robert (Bud) Erskin. Also present were City Superintendent Dan Blair, City Treasurer Jennifer Blair, and Attorney Lauren Reyelts. Council member Larry Finley was absent.
2. **Visitors/Audience:** Sheree Downs
3. **Minutes** from the September 8th Council meeting were distributed and read. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.
4. **Sheriff Report:** none
5. **New Business:**
 - A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin to adopt the following Proclamation. Motion passed.

PROCLAMATION BY THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS

To the People of St. Francis, Kansas, Greetings:

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a widespread, preventable, public health problem impacting all Kansas communities; and

WHEREAS, family and relationships are often counted among life's greatest gifts, and tragically, many Kansans' relationships are tarnished by violence and fear; and

WHEREAS, perpetrators of domestic violence use violence and fear to gain power and control over their victim(s) violating an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity with their intentional, systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, financial, and coercive control and abuse; and

WHEREAS, fleeing domestic violence has caused women and children to be the fastest growing homeless population; and

WHEREAS, in Kansas in 2023, one domestic violence incident was reported to law enforcement every 23 minutes, one domestic violence arrest was made every 46 minutes, and one domestic violence murder occurred every 11 days; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reports that domestic violence murders account for 20.4% of all homicides in Kansas in 2023; and

WHEREAS, in Cheyenne County, 7 incidents of domestic violence were reported in 2023, and 6 arrests were made; and ***OPTIONS*** Domestic and Sexual Violence Services provided 47 services in Cheyenne County; and

WHEREAS, people who experience domestic violence should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is inconsistent with the values of our community and will not be excused or tolerated;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amanda Milne, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS, do hereby proclaim October 2025 as ***Domestic Violence Awareness Month*** in St. Francis and encourage all citizens to speak out against domestic violence, to provide support for survivors of these crimes, to encourage community leaders to hold perpetrators accountable, and to make domestic violence prevention efforts a priority by hosting events, by creating policies at school and work, and by working with your local domestic violence victim service providers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of St. Francis, Kansas, this 22nd Day of September 2025. S: Mayor Amanda Milne City of St. Francis

- A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to approve the following building permits: Mike Frewen – 102 W. Spencer, replace concrete driveway. Motion passed.
6. **Old Business:**
 - **Property Cleanup** – no updates

- **Projects Pending** – a 50-year agreement will need to be updated in 2029 regarding the duties and maintenance at the Airport. Amanda will forward the documents to Lauren for review with the possibility of taking care of it now rather than waiting until 2029.
 - **Streets Project** – Attorney Reyelts and Superintendent Blair stepped out to discuss a situation regarding the street project.
- 7. Theater Report** – an email was presented to the Council from Robert Grace regarding the website for the Theater. Jen was instructed to contact Elevation Design Company to inquire about them setting up a website for the Theater. Dara reported they have hired one employee and a special meeting will be held regarding hiring another employee. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to approve and file the Theater Report. Motion passed.
- 8. Pool Report** – The Pool Board has approved keeping Kelley Milliken on year-round as the Manager. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to approve the change in position to year-round employment. Motion passed.
- The pool painter has begun painting the pool.
 - A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin to accept and file the Pool Report. Motion passed.
 - *Attorney Reyelts and Superintendent Blair returned to the meeting.*
- 9. Streets Project** – More clarification is needed regarding the possibility of core sampling more streets.
- 10. Visitors** - none
- 11. Superintendent Report**
- All the repairs were completed on the Kawasaki Mule. The total cost was about \$36.00 as the rest was covered under warranty.
 - The Frances Street water main is installed and concrete is being poured.
 - Repairs are needed on the digger truck, the trash truck, and the street sweeper.
 - A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to accept and file the Superintendent Report. Motion passed.
- 12. Attorney Report**
- A motion was made by Robert and seconded by Kale to approve Ordinance No. 656: AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING INSPECTION FEE AND COPYING FEE OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 1-511 AND 1-512 OF ARTICLE 5 OF CHAPTER 1 OF THE 2015 CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS. Bud – yes; Kale – yes; Dara- yes; Justin – yes. Motion passed.
 - A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to approve Ordinance No. 657: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS FOR INSTALLATION AND PARALLEL OPERATION OF CUSTOMER-OWNED RENEWABLE ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEM RETAIL CUSTOMERS BY ADDING SECTIONS 15-305, 15-306, 15-307, AND 15-308 TO ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 15 OF THE 2015 CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS. Bud – yes; Kale – yes; Dara- yes; Justin – yes. Motion passed.
 - A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to accept and file the Attorney report. Motion passed.
- 13. Treasurer Report:** none
- 14. Clerk Report:** none
- 15. Council Comments:** Bud – won't be at the next meeting, Kale – none, Dara – was approached about the buzzards roosting on the water tower and wondered what could be done. Jen will reach out to Game Warden Hopper and also put something on the Clerk link for ideas on how to handle them. Justin – wanted to know the status of the street project.
- 16. Mayor Comments** – none
- 17. Executive Session:** A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin to recess into executive session for the non-elected personnel exception to discuss the City Clerk position/applicants with the open meeting to resume at 7:45. Motion passed. The meeting resumed. No decisions were made. Interviews will be scheduled with 2 of the applicants.

18. Adjournment: A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

City Treasurer