

Regular Council Meeting
February 23, 2026

1. **Mayor Amanda Milne called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.** Present were Council members Justin Lohr, Randy Wieck, Larry Finley, David Butler and Robert Erskin. Also present were City Superintendent Dan Blair, Sheriff Cody Beeson and Assistant City Clerk/City Treasurer Jennifer Blair. City Attorney Lauren Reyelts was absent.
2. **Visitors/Audience:** Sheree Downs, Jacque Ewing-Hayes, Bob Ogden, Tom Keller, Jesse and Lynn Laten and Jenni Penka.
3. **Minutes** from the February 9, 2026, Special Council meeting were distributed and read. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Justin to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.
4. **Minutes** from the February 9, 2026, Council meeting were distributed and read. A motion was made by David and seconded by Randy to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.
5. **New Business:**
 - Michael Baxter joined the meeting via phone. **St. Francis Equity** is selling the scale house to Hi Plains COOP. Before the sale can be completed, they need a lease or easement from the City for the property to the north of the scale house, as part of the scale house is on City property. Michael suggested several options. He will contact Lynn to discuss options. Amanda will send Michael the survey.
 - ❖ *Jesse, Lynn and Jenni left the meeting*
 - Tom Keller was present to discuss the Keller Pond lease and the City responsibilities listed in the lease. For the years 2022 and 2023 the City contracted with Brock McAtee/St. Francis Redi Mix and Construction to provide the mowing services for Keller Pond. Keller Ranch donated \$5,000.00 each of those years to the City to help fund the mowing, spraying and watering expenses incurred. In December of 2023, Tom indicated that the Keller Family farm would pay Jim Keller's sons to provide the service in the future. Tom is now requesting the City pay his grandsons to mow moving forward. It was explained that if the City resumes responsibility for payment of the mowing services it will need to be put out for bids. Mr. Keller stated that if his family does not get the bid, they will not reimburse the City for the expense. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by David to put the mowing, spraying and maintaining of Keller Pond out for bid. Motion passed.
 - A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Justin to approve the **Itinerant Vendor License and Special Event Application** for the Spring Refresh Market to be held at 202 On Washington on April 25, 2026. Motion passed.
 - Jacque Ewing-Hayes presented a **complaint** regarding the condition of the property at 412 W. Webster. She would like the property cleaned up. The Council informed her that the property would be discussed.
6. **Sheriff Report:**
 - Sheriff Cody Beeson believes 412 W. Webster will get cleaned up due to new tenants moving in.
 - Cody reported there were 51 incidents inside the City limits in January. His department has changed some procedures in patrolling school zones at the request of the school district.
 - The camping trailer was removed from 703 S. Frances.
 - The Deputies have been contacting owners of trailers and letting them know to get the trailers off the street. Cody suggested putting cameras up at Keller's Pond due to previous damage.
 - Cody requested permission to order some dog catcher poles as the one they have is worn out. The Council approved of the purchase as it would be under the spending limit.
 - A motion was made by David and seconded by Justin to accept and file the Sheriff report. Motion passed.
 - ❖ *Cody left the meeting*

7. New Business, continued:

- The Council tabled the **Trash Waiver Renewal** for Chris Loyd, 1045 S. Quincy until next meeting.
- A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Justin to approve **Chicken Permit renewals** for Erin Guthmiller, 420 E. Whittier and Reid Kreigh and Liz Roberts, 425 E. North. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy to approve a **Chicken Permit application** for Alicyn and Jesse Baxter, 106 E. Jackson contingent upon the pallets being covered. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy to approve **Tree Trimming License renewal** for Mark Leitner. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Larry and seconded by David to approve a **Tree Trimming License application** for Reusel Construction, LLC. Motion passed.
- **Building Permits:** none.

8. Old Business:

- Bob Ogden was present to discuss the property on N. Quincy he would like to purchase. He clarified he wouldn't maintain the ditch. After discussion, the matter was tabled again as the Council needs to consult with Lauren on whether the property sale would need to be put out for bids. Property lines will also need to be clarified.
 - ❖ *Tom and Bob left the meeting*
- a. **Property Cleanup:** Dan presented pictures taken at 412 W. Webster and 703 S. Frances. The Council agreed letters need to be sent to both owners.
- b. **Projects Pending:** The Council briefly discussed the sound system that has been installed.
- c. **Streets Project:** B&H Paving will be here the week of March 16 to start crack sealing. The Street Committee will meet soon so they can discuss which streets need chip sealed. Dan met with Brock McAtee and they looked at problem areas on Spencer Street.

9. Visitors: none.

10. Theater Report: none.

11. Superintendent Report:

- Dan reported there was theft of electric service at 703 S. Frances. The Crew cut the power line at the pole on February 20 to prevent this from happening again at the residence. He has been in contact with the Sheriff's Department regarding the matter.
- Dan will have a list of supplies that need to be ordered for the next phase of electrical infrastructure upgrade at the March 9 meeting.
- Dan reported on the power plant and clarified that the 9-cylinder engine and 12-cylinder engine cannot run at the same time.
- Amanda reported the water tower will be at its 100-year life span in 2028.
- A motion was made by David and seconded by Larry to accept and file the Superintendent report. Motion passed.

12. Attorney Report: none.

13. Treasurer/Clerk Report:

- A motion was made by David and seconded by Robert to appoint Jamie Crable as City Clerk effective February 25, 2026. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by David and seconded by Robert to accept and file the Treasurer/Clerk Report. Motion passed.

14. Council Comments:

Robert: He will be going to Topeka in March and will be meeting with Adam Smith regarding the Access Road.

David: He will be meeting with the County Commissioners on February 27.

Larry: none.

Randy: none.

Justin: none.

15. Mayor Comments: None

16. Adjournment: It was moved by Randy and seconded by David to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.



Assistant City Clerk/City Treasurer