

Regular Council Meeting
April 27, 2026

1. **Council President Larry Finley called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.** Present were Council members Justin Lohr, Randy Wieck, and Robert "Bud" Erskin. Also present were City Superintendent Dan Blair, Assistant City Clerk/City Treasurer Jennifer Blair, and City Clerk Jamie Crable. Mayor Amanda Milne, Council Member David Butler and City Attorney Lauren Reyelts were absent.
2. **Visitors/Audience:** Bill Dungan, Kris Oldsen, Dave Mayer, Robbie Mayer, Jason Padget, Brett Poling, Mary Keller, Erika Wieck, Shannon Praete, Tim Burr, Robin Burr, Melinda Tedford, and Russ Christensen.
3. **Minutes** from the April 13, 2026, Council Meeting were distributed and read. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.
4. **Attorney Report:** none.
5. **New Business:**
 - **County Commissioner Brett Poling** notified the Council that the County is planning to hire a part-time Fire Chief. Brett stated that right now the City pays about 6.6% of the current Fire Chief's wage and the cost will increase significantly. Larry asked if this Chief position will be for both the City and County and Brett replied that it would. Brett stated details are still being worked out and he will have more information after the next County Commissioners' meeting.
 - **Attorney Michael Baxter** joined the meeting via telephone at 7:05 pm. Michael reported that he had been in contact with the St Francis Equity about a property sale between the Equity and High Plains. Michael advised he had prepared both an easement and a lease agreement in reference to the City's easement for the right-of-way at Jackson Street and Angle Rd. Per Michael, the title company involved in the sale did not agree to the easement. He advised that the matter would need to be worked out between the buyer and seller at this time. Michael updated the Council on the US 36 Access Road. Michael advised that there are no active agreements in place at this time. Larry asked if not owning the land on which the road sits would prevent the City from obtaining funding to make needed repairs. Michael stated he did not foresee issues and believes KDOT would work with the City. Bud asked if the medians would become the responsibility of the City. Michael said that the medians would be part of any connecting link agreement, and that connecting link agreements would be separate from the Access Road issue. Michael advised the Council on grant opportunities and other state funding and said the Council should develop a plan of what they would like to see and then look into funding. Larry thanked Michael for the information. Michael Baxter left the meeting with the call ending.
 - **Shannon Praete with Kansas Infrastructure Hub** presented information on grants and services that she could provide to assist the Council in locating funding for the US 36 Access Rd and the City Park as well as other potential areas. Shannon stated she had met with the Playground Renovation Committee earlier in the day and had advised them on grants and funding sources. Shannon stated that if the City cannot apply for certain grants at this time that Cheyenne County Economic Development could be the applicant and she would be willing to assist with that process. Shannon presented information on a planning grant program called Safe Streets for All (SS4A). Shannon explained this is a federally funded grant program that assists communities in obtaining an engineering assessment to determine community needs, and then developing a plan to apply for further grant funding for projects identified in the plan. Shannon advised she believed the City could ask for \$150,000 in planning grant funds from SS4A and the timeline for such work, if approved, would be twelve to eighteen months. The deadline to apply is the end of May 2026. Shannon provided her contact information and said she would send an email to the City Clerk. Bud asked who Shannon worked for and she advised she works for a consulting firm contracted with the State of Kansas and that her services are free of charge.

- **Park Renovation Committee:** Larry stated that the Park Committee had requested a consensus from the council asserting support for their project. Council all agreed that they supported the Committee in their goals. Mary Keller asked if a motion could be made. Larry explained that they could not make a motion at this time and that the City supports the activities of the Committee, but the City does not have funds to put towards the project at this time.

❖ *Shannon Praete, Bill Dungan, Kris Oldsen, Dave Mayer, Robbie Mayer, Brett Poling, Mary Keller, Erika Wieck, Tim Burr, Robin Burr, and Melinda Tedford left the meeting.*

- A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Randy to approve a **Special Event Permit:** Jason Padgett/Farmer's Market to be held each Saturday from June through September 2026. Motion passed.

❖ *Jason Padgett left the meeting.*

- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Bud to approve the following **Tree Trim License Renewal:** Mason's Tree Service. Motion passed.

- A Motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy to appoint Cheyenne Linde and Kevin Lampe to the Library Board. Motion passed.

- Russ Christensen asked questions about how a potential fence is allowed to be installed. Dan explained how the fence would be situated. Council had no problems with how the fence would appear. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Justin to approve the following **Building Permit:** Travis Howard/ Russ Christensen – 519 W. Webster St., metal fence. Motion Passed.

❖ *Russ Christensen left the meeting.*

- A motion was made by Randy and seconded by Justin to approve the following **Building Permit:** Travis Howard/Diana Stasser – 302 E. Whittier St., metal fence. Motion Passed.

6. Old Business:

- a. **Property Cleanup:** Jen reported that there have been recent reports of burning at 616 S. Denison and photographs of large piles of debris and unsightly conditions have been obtained by the City. Larry stated he will speak to Sheriff Beeson about the property and the recent report of burning.
- b. **Projects Pending:** None.
- c. **Streets Project:** Justin asked Dan how much asphalt was used during recent street repairs. Dan stated he thought around four to six truckloads. Justin asked if the contractors will be moving forward with chip sealing. Dan stated they are trying. Larry reported that the Housing Authority was appreciative of the work done on their street.
- d. Council reviewed and approved a letter regarding curb and gutter repair at 502 S. Scott and had no issues. Jamie will mail the letter to the homeowners.

7. Pool Report:

- A motion was made by Bud and seconded by Justin approving Molly Gilliland as Swim Lessons Instructor for two sessions, one in June and one in July at \$1,100.00 per session. Motion passed.
- Larry reported he will be meeting with the pool board on Wednesday to work out wages, hours, and training for the lifeguards.
- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy for the City to cover the cost of free swimming for the Alumni event on Saturday, June 19th. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy to approve and file the Pool Report. Motion passed.

8. Superintendent Report:

- Dan reported he had been in contact with Ward Electric about Sub-Station and Switch Gear work. Ward does work on those types of equipment and will provide an estimate when they are able to come out. Dan stated he will report back when he has more information on costs.
- Dan reported he received a form from KMEA requesting that the City decide how they want Renewable Energy Credits to be handled. According to the email sent with the form, the City can decide to sell or retire the credits. Dan said he called KMEA and they advised that it would be a small

amount of money and they advised that the City sell the credits. Larry stated he did not recall seeing this before. Dan explained this is the first time the City has been eligible to earn the credits. Bud stated he wanted to know if the credits can build up before deciding if they should sell them. Dan stated it did not sound like they could build up, and the only options appeared to be to sell or retire but he would see if he could find out more information. Council agreed to wait for more information before deciding.

- Dan presented a thank you card from recent visitors to the Roadside Park.
- Dan reported on pool chemical costs: a total of twenty-four drums, fifty-four gallons each, of sodium methyl chloride and eighteen drums at fifteen gallons each of hydrochloric acid at a total cost of \$7,983.69. A motion was made by Bud and seconded by Randy to approve of purchase of pool chemicals in the amount of \$7,983.69. Motion passed.
- Dan reported that he had also purchased chlorine for the town water supply at a cost of \$820.00.
- Dan reported that he ordered the poles for the electric work that he is trying to get Ward Electric out to complete.
- Dan reported that the Recycle Center brought in about \$600.00 in the first quarter of 2026 before cost of wages and expenses and just wanted the Council to be aware. Bud asked why the County is not sharing in the costs. Jen reminded the Council that, according to the agreement with the County in 2025, the City receives all funds for the cardboard recycling and the County is no longer involved.
- Dan stated that he wanted to get the Council thinking about future purchases of a bucket truck and trash truck. Dan explained that the trucks are aging and heavily used and will need to be replaced at some point soon.
- Dan reported on the water valve at the high school. Dan said that he was able to get the valve turned on and that any leaks are on the school's side.
- Dan requested ten minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel employment status.
- Justin made a motion and Bud seconded to approve the Superintendent's report. Motion passed.

9. Treasurer Report:

- Jen reported that notices were printed to add to this month's bills to remind residents about property cleanup. Council approved of the notices.
- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Larry to accept and file the Treasurer Report. Motion passed.

10. Clerk Report:

- Jamie reported that Frewen Insurance had located a potential insurer for the power plant who requested that the City complete an application. Bud asked what they would cover and how much it would cost. Jamie advised we would not know that until we applied and they provide a quote. Council saw no issues with Jamie and Dan completing and returning the application.
- Jamie reported on a response on the Clerk link regarding Council Appointments to committees. The responding City only required one Council Member per each of their committees. Jamie will forward the email response to Council members.
- Jamie reported on a sample EV charging station ordinance and will forward the email to Council.
- Jen reported that she and Jamie spoke with the auditors and should be receiving a draft audit report in the next few days. Jen stated that the audit should be wrapped up and the auditors will be ready to present their report to the council at the next regular meeting.
- Randy made a motion and Bud seconded to approve and file the Clerk Report. Motion Passed.

11. Council Comments:

Robert: None

David: Absent

Larry: Requested 5 minutes of executive session for non-elected personnel for performance review.

Randy: None

Justin: None

12. Mayor Comments: Absent.

13. Executive Sessions:

- A motion was made by Randy and seconded by Justin to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel for employment status with everyone present at the regular meeting remaining to resume regular session at 8:56 pm. Motion passed. Open meeting resumed with no decisions made.
- A motion was made by Randy and seconded by Bud to recess into executive session for 5 minutes for non-elected personnel performance review with only Council present, to resume at 9:02 pm. Motion passed. Open meeting resumed with no decisions made.

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


City Clerk