Regular Council Meeting
August 24, 2026

1. **Mayor Amanda Milne called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council members Larry Finley, David Butler, Justin Lohr, and Randy Wieck. Also present were City Attorney Lauren Reyelts, City Superintendent Dan Blair, Assistant City Clerk/City Treasurer Jennifer Blair, and City Clerk Jamie Crable. Council Member Robert Erskin and Sheriff Cody Beeson were absent.**
   - **Visitors/Audience:** Lisa Phillips, John Bays, Kyle Buffington, Bob Ochsner, Patrick Cress, Robert Martinez and Dara Carmichael.
   - **Public Comment:** None.
   - **A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Larry to approve and adopt the City's 2027 budget as presented, with maximum expenditures of $4,756,657.00 and an ad valorem tax levy of $445,089.00. Roll-call vote: Justin—yes; Randy—yes; Larry—yes; David—yes. Motion passed.**
   - **A motion was made by David and seconded by Larry to close the budget hearing. Motion passed.**
2. **Mayor Amanda Milne called the regular Council meeting to order.**
   - **Minutes** from the August 10th, 2026, Council meeting were distributed and read. A motion was made by Randy and seconded by David to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.
3. **Sheriff Report: None.**
4. **New Business:**
   - **Theater Renovation Project:** John Hathaway of Architectural Design Associates joined the meeting by phone and reviewed plans prepared for the Theater Board approximately four years ago. The Council discussed estimated costs, the potential scope of the project, and options for continued planning. No decisions were made. After the call ended, John Hathaway, Robert Martinez, Dara Carmichael, and Patrick Cress left the meeting.
   - **Suicide Prevention Walk:** Lisa Phillips presented plans for a Suicide Prevention Walk at Sawhill Park on September 15th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Council had no objections. Lisa Phillips and John Bays then left the meeting.
   - **Equity Board:** Kyle Buffington and Bob Ochsner asked the Council to state their position on right-of-way issues delaying the sale of a property. Amanda explained that the City, through legal counsel, had presented options to the buyers who were requesting fee-simple ownership. Amanda stated that the City was willing to continue discussions through legal counsel. No decisions were made. Kyle and Bob then left the meeting.
   - **Building Permits:** A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Larry to approve the following building permits: Michael Larrea—305 East Fourth Street, playhouse; Kathy Korf—321 West First Street, metal carport; Cazadores Restaurant—105A East U.S. Highway 36, awning addition; Jose Rodriguez—120 West Emerson Street, garage addition; Vicki Killingsworth—214 West Whittier Street, carport; and Trevor and Michelle Britton—403 South River Street, fence, contingent upon approval by the City Superintendent. Motion passed.

- **Resolution 2026-4:** A motion was made by Larry and seconded by David to approve Resolution 2026-4: A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS, AUTHORIZING CERTAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING BOND RESOLUTION NO. 2023-3 OF THE CITY, ADDING STREET IMPROVEMENTS TO THE IMPROVEMENTS DESCRIBED THEREIN AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF BONDS ISSUED THEREUNDER TO FINANCE SUCH ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS. Roll-call vote: Justin—yes; Randy—yes; Larry—yes; David—yes. Motion passed.

5. **Old Business:**
   - **Property Cleanup:** Amanda requested that Jamie contact the owners of 703 South Francis for an update on clean-up progress.
   - **Shipping Containers:** The Council discussed shipping containers within the city and agreed that the owners should receive letters directing them to remove the containers by December 31, 2026, to avoid citations. City Hall staff will prepare and mail the letters.
6. **Projects Pending:**
   - The Council reviewed the items listed under Projects Pending on each agenda. Members discussed consolidating projects, the timing of specific projects, and the appearance of Main Street. They also discussed ideas for improvements, but no decisions were made.
   - The Council discussed curb and gutter on Main Street. Lauren stated that, as elsewhere in the city, adjacent property owners are responsible for curb and gutter on Main Street. The Council discussed whether the City should assume responsibility to ensure uniformity. No decisions were made.
7. **Visitors:** None.
8. **Theater Report:** None.
9. **Pool Report:**
   - Larry reported that the final day of open swimming for 2026 was Saturday, August 22nd. Lap swim and aquacise will continue through August 27th.
   - The Council discussed ways to keep the pool open later next year, but no decisions were made.
   - A motion was made by Randy and seconded by Justin to accept and file the Pool Report. Motion passed.
10. **Superintendent Report:**
    - Dan reported that water main parts should be delivered next week for Emerson Street repairs.
    - Dan reported the water valve for the High School is now operational.
    - Dan stated that the Amusement Authority is keeping the benches it borrowed until Labor Day, after which the benches will be returned to the City Park.
    - Amanda asked if the Council had decided to repair the engines at the Power Plant. Jen checked the previous meeting minutes and noted that while Council agreed they would like to make repairs, no motion was made. Dan was going to investigate all the options before a final vote is taken.
    - Dan requested authorization to purchase a bell fitting. A motion was made by David and seconded by Larry to purchase a bell fitting for $1,895.08. Motion passed.
    - Dan requested authorization to purchase a bucket truck from Altec. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy to authorize an out-of-cycle purchase from the equipment reserve fund in an amount not to exceed $129,900.00. Motion passed.
    - Amanda stated that the owners of Cazadores have requested a streetlight on the street between their business and the EMS building. Dan will have a streetlight installed.
    - The Council discussed electric-vehicle charging at the camping area in the roadside park. Council decided to wait on any decisions until the topic is discussed with the Sheriff. Lauren will update the City Code to reflect appropriate fines for non-payment of camping site fees.
    - A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Randy to approve and file the Superintendent Report. Motion passed.

11. **Attorney Report:**
    - Lauren reported that the City's application for a property-tax exemption for City-owned property in the industrial park had been denied. The Council agreed that Lauren should challenge the denial in district court.
    - Lauren reported the Fire Hazard case in Municipal Court is closed and all fines have been paid.
    - Lauren was asked about the special-use permit for property within the city limits that allows cattle. She stated that she was waiting for the owner or the owner's representative to confirm that a permit would be acceptable before drafting the document. Amanda asked Jamie to follow up with the landowner.
    - Lauren reported that due to changes with the District Court schedule, Municipal Court dates will probably change next year.
    - A motion was made by Randy and seconded by David to approve and file the Attorney's report. Motion passed.
12. **Treasurer Report:** None.
13. **Clerk Report:**
    - Jamie presented three transient vendor permit applications. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Larry to approve the following **Transient Vendor Permits:** Bumpkin Babes, Tiffany Morris; The Cooking Mouse, Mathew Hernadez; and The Filling Station, Shara Liming. Motion passed.
    - Jamie presented newsletters from Kansas Municipal Utilities and Grace Team.
    - A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Larry to approve and file the Clerk Report. Motion passed.
15. **Council Comments:**
    Robert: Absent.
    David: Stated that he knows a local business that does concrete work and would like the City to work with them if possible.
    Larry: Stated that the Concert in the Park on September 12^{th} could use assistance with setup if anyone is available.
    Randy: None.
    Justin: Requested a five-minute executive session.
15. **Mayor's Comments:** None.
16. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Randy to recess into executive session for five minutes with all persons then present to discuss employee status under the non-elected personnel exception. The regular meeting was scheduled to resume at 9:35 p.m. Motion passed. The meeting resumed in regular session, and no decisions were made.
17. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Justin and seconded by David to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Jamie Crafton

City Clerk