

RNR & BUDGET Hearings + Council Meeting Minutes Aug 24, 2026

Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing

Call to Order

Mayor Timothy Eldredge called to order the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing at 6:05 PM.

Present: Mayor Timothy Eldredge; Councilmembers Kathryn Coleman, Scott Silknitter, Dan Ravenscraft, and Trent Clark;

Absent: Grant Bowlin

Staff/Guests Present: Terry Ullum, Treasurer; Anne Morrow, City Clerk; Deputy Tom Moore; Gene Stanghor; and Katie Regier

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Resolution No. 0824-26

Resolution No. 0824-26, authorizing the City of Whitewater to levy a property tax exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate and establishing the City's tax rate at 57.807 mills, was read.

Motion by Clark to adopt Resolution No. 0824-26 as read, second by Ravenscraft. Motion carried unanimously. The present Councilmembers signed the roll call vote, all voting in favor. Grant Bowlin was absent and recorded as not voting.

The RNR Hearing was closed at 6:11 p.m.

2027 Budget Hearing

Call to Order

Mayor Timothy Eldredge called the 2027 Budget Hearing to order 6:11 PM.

Present: Mayor Timothy Eldredge; Councilmembers Kathryn Coleman, Scott Silknitter, Dan Ravenscraft, and Trent Clark

Absent: Grant Bowlin

Staff/Guests Present: Terry Ullum, Treasurer; Anne Morrow, City Clerk; Deputy Tom Moore; Gene Stanghor; and Katie Regier

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Motion by Silknitter to adopt the presented 2027 City of Whitewater Budget, second by Clark. Motion carried unanimously. Present council members signed the 2027 Budget Certificate.

The 2027 Budget Hearing was closed at 6:12 p.m. The Council recessed for five minutes before beginning the regular City Council Meeting.

August City Council Meeting

Call to Order

Mayor Timothy Eldredge called the August City Council Meeting to order 6:15 PM.

Present: Mayor Timothy Eldredge; Councilmembers Kathryn Coleman, Scott Silknitter, Dan Ravenscraft, and Trent Clark

Absent: Grant Bowlin

Staff/Guests Present: Terry Ullum, Treasurer; Anne Morrow, City Clerk; Deputy Tom Moore; Gene Stanghor; and Katie Regier

Late Arrivals: Andrew Hanna, City Superintendent, arrived at 6:50 p.m. Jake Callstrom, Animal Control Officer, arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Motion by Clark, second by Ravenscraft, to approve the August meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Silknitter, second by Coleman, to approve the July 2026 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

New Business

• **Chicken Ordinance Review**

The Council continued discussion regarding possible amendments to the City's Chicken Ordinance. Additional public input is needed before making any changes.

Topics discussed included:

- Increasing the number of chickens allowed, currently limited to six, potentially increasing the number to twelve.
- Establishing deadlines for registrations and possible late fees.
- Changing the required distance and wording regarding the location of chicken coops.

The Council discussed reaching out to the community for additional input through letters, surveys, and public participation at the next Council Meeting.

Personnel Reports

Treasurer's Report & Packet - Terry Ullum

Treasurer Terry Ullum presented the August Financial Report and Financial Packet for the period ending July 31, 2026. The complete written report is on file.

Highlights included:

- The City reported total bank accounts of \$620,077.22 as of July 31, 2026.
- The General Fund reported year-to-date income of \$388,362 and expenditures of \$351,545.

- The City's total income through July 31, 2026, was \$635,482, with total expenses of \$518,079, resulting in net income of \$117,403.
- The financial packet did not include the Parks & Recreation Bank Statement for the month.
- The financial packet now includes information regarding the Kansas Collateral Pool.

Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Coleman, to approve the August Financial Report Packet as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Timothy Eldredge

- Mayor Eldredge reported that he attended a League of Kansas Municipalities meeting regarding policies and priorities for upcoming legislation. A key topic of discussion was property taxes.
- The Mayor also traveled to Topeka to meet with the Department of Commerce regarding grant opportunities available in the area and programs that may fit the City's future needs. Potential grant opportunities for downtown improvements and lower-to-middle-income housing were discussed.
- Mayor Eldredge requested that the City reinstate matching funding for the fireworks display during Fred Fest. He had discussed the matter with Sharon Entz.

Motion by Silkitter, second by Clark, to provide matching funds from year to year for the fireworks display during Fred Fest. Motion carried unanimously.

- The Mayor also recapped the WIBL Opening Day held on August 22 and discussed future games to be hosted in Whitewater at Jerry Hill Memorial Park, including two games scheduled during Fred Fest.
- Councilmember Ravenscraft shared compliments received from attendees regarding the ballpark. Mayor Eldredge also noted that attendees had expressed interest in having T-Kingz BBQ return, stating that the food was excellent.
- Mayor Eldredge stated that he would like to use the next Council Meeting as more of a brainstorming session to generate ideas and discuss future opportunities for the City.

Sheriff Deputy Report – Tom Moore

Deputy Tom Moore reported the following activity:

- One warrant arrest.
- One domestic violence case.
- One arrest for violation of a court order.
- A juvenile case is currently being investigated.
- Several reports and complaints have been received concerning a man living at the apartments across the street.
- A case involving stolen copper and wiring from one of the downtown business properties is being investigated.
- Deputy Moore has been monitoring traffic near the school and reported no speeding concerns at this time. He reminded residents that children should not be driving golf carts or ATVs to school.

Animal Control Report - Jake Callstrom

Animal Control Officer Jake Callstrom presented the August Animal Control Report. The complete written report is on file.

- Officer Callstrom reported that court is scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The current docket includes the dog bite case from February 12 and two unpaid fines.

- Officer Callstrom also reported receiving a new Animal Control Officer ID badge and uniform. New vehicle magnets have been ordered, and he plans to participate in the Fred Fest Parade to display the new magnets. Animal Control is also sporting a new logo.
- Officer Callstrom reported on the successful capture of a small white Chihuahua that had been reported running at large in the North Walnut and Locust areas. The dog, Avery, was captured using a live trap, claimed by her owner, brought up to date on vaccinations, registered with the City of Whitewater, and returned home.

Clerk's Report - Anne Morrow

City Clerk Anne Morrow presented the August Clerk's Report. The complete written report is on file.

Highlights included:

- Planning & Zoning will meet again on September 8 to continue work on establishing updated Commission Bylaws and an Annexation Ordinance to help clean up the City limits.
- Permitting continues to be active, with more than 50 permits issued during 2026. Most of Which have been roofing permits following the hailstorm earlier this summer.
- The office continues to monitor yard violations, particularly repeat offenders. Overall, residents have responded well after receiving notices.
- One utility shutoff occurred last month due to non-payment, and service was restored after the bill was paid.
- WIBL held its season opener on August 22 with three games at Jerry Hill Memorial Ballfield. The ballfield will continue to host WIBL games on most Saturdays for the next several months.
- The City's summer employees have completed their seasonal employment. Grady Jones finished his work with Parks & Recreation on August 7, Nolan Sweazy completed his time in Maintenance on August 14, and Chloe Callstrom's final day in the City Office was scheduled for August 25.
- KOOP Painting completed painting and repairs on four City structures, including the Old Fire Shop, Library and City Building awnings, and the ballfield bathrooms. Repairs included crack repair, replacement of rotted wood around the Old Fire Shop garage doors, and additional metal siding and repairs at the ballfield bathrooms. Remaining paint was left with the City for future repairs and touch-ups as needed. *Note: The colors are not school colors but city colors. And if you want to make them school colors they can be a combo of Remington Grey and Berean Blue.
- Morrow also reported that one utility shutoff was scheduled for the following morning.
- She is registered to attend a webinar on Thursday regarding Ordinances and Home Rule.
- Mayor Eldredge also discussed concerns regarding the condition of the bricks on the Old Fire Shop, stating that they are beyond repair and need to be addressed or covered.

City Superintendent's Report - Andrew Hanna

City Superintendent Andrew Hanna presented the August Maintenance Report. The complete written report is on file. Highlights included:

- El Dorado has begun its annual burnout on the water supply, which is expected to last approximately one month.
- The new scoreboard at the baseball field has been completed and is "fully" functional for the WIBL baseball season.
- The Parks & Recreation and Maintenance Departments worked together to fertilize and prepare the baseball field for the upcoming WIBL games.
- Maintenance assisted the City of Potwin with water tower maintenance and several water leaks. City personnel helped shut down and repair the leaks, and Potwin also utilized some Whitewater resources, which have since been reordered.

- Due to reduced water flow from El Dorado and the leaks occurring in Potwin, Whitewater was not receiving enough water to keep the water tower filled. Residents were asked to conserve water during the weekend of August 14–16. The leaks have since been repaired, and water flow has returned to normal levels.
- The summer maintenance helpers have returned to school after assisting with mowing, painting, and other projects throughout the summer.
- KDHE provided the City's water system inspection report. Required updates include updating the Emergency Water Supply Plan and implementing annual inspection reporting for irrigation systems using City water. Property owners with irrigation systems are required to have backflow preventers inspected annually, with reports provided to the City for submission to KDHE.
- KDHE also provided several recommendations for the City to consider.
- No water leaks occurred in Whitewater during the month.
- Hanna also discussed the additional chlorine needed during the El Dorado burnout to maintain the proper water levels and reported that he would obtain pricing for a digital chlorine tester recommended during the inspection.

Unfinished Business

- **City Shop Roof Bids:**
 - **New Image: \$28,500**
 - **Premier: \$19,304 (plus Santa House Roof)**
 - **Whalen: \$11,694**

Motion by Silknitter, second by Ravenscraft, to accept the bid from Whalen Roofing in the amount of \$11,694 to remove the existing metal roof panels and install new 26-gauge metal roof panels, replacing insulation where needed and covering the current skylights at the City Shop located at 220 N. Main Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Council Meeting: September 28, 2026 – 7:00 PM

- Ordinances & Bylaws from Planning & Zoning
- Chicken Ordinance Review
- Updates to City Policies
- Brainstorming Session

Adjournment

Motion by Silknitter, second by Clark, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

- Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.