

City Council Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2026

Call to Order

Mayor Timothy Eldredge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Timothy Eldredge; Councilmembers Trent Clark, Scott Silknitter, Dan Ravenscraft & Grant Bowlin; Absent Kathryn Coleman (arrived at 7:30pm)

Staff/Guests Present: Anne Morrow, Jake Callstrom, Thelma Edris, Merrill Yoder of Nisly, Fire Chief Bob Bartlett, James Krstolich of IdeaTek, and Superintendent Joe Gerber of USD 206.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Motion by Bowlin, second by Ravenscraft, to approve the April meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (7:01 PM).

Motion by Silknitter, second by Clark, to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously (7:01 PM).

Public Comments:

Thelma “Jeep” Edris addressed the Council regarding mud and rocks in the alley behind her house. She confirmed that previous work has helped alleviate the water issue.

Merrill Yoder of Nisly, a full-service waste disposal company, expressed interest in bidding on the City’s waste contract when it expires. Council members asked questions about Nisly’s services and offerings.

New Business

- **IdeaTek – Franchise Agreement, Ordinance #645**

James Krstolich of IdeaTek discussed project timelines, noting that construction is planned to begin in June 2026 with a ribbon cutting tentatively scheduled for May 26th. The City will begin payments upon receipt of the first invoice in the amount of \$7,500.

Motion by Bowlin, seconded by Silknitter, to approve the Franchise Agreement with IdeaTek through Ordinance #645. Motion carried unanimously and signatures applied. (7:27 PM)

- **Public Storm Shelter Discussion**

Council discussed the need for a dedicated public storm shelter, as the school is currently the only option and availability cannot be guaranteed during storms. Superintendent Joe Gerber offered to share the Potwin school shelter guidelines to help identify a local “key holder.” No formal action was taken.

Superintendent Gerber also expressed his appreciation and thankfulness for the work the City has done for the schools, specifically mentioning snow removal, crosswalks, sidewalks, parking stalls, and ballfield improvements. He noted how fortunate Whitewater is to have such a wonderful Library.

Personnel Reports

Mayor's Report (7:37 PM) - Mayor Timothy Eldredge

- Summer hire applications were distributed for Council review. The Mayor requested Council participation in the interview process.
- Received clarification on increased property tax assessments for City locations (including water tower and library).
- Researching lease history with Wheat State Manor.
- Recommended appointment of Rob Lane as Municipal Judge following Judge Goossen's resignation.
- Upcoming Comprehensive County Plan meeting – interested Council members may attend.
- Working on updates to employee evaluation forms and requested Council input.
- Discussed grant writing services with Brett Wagnor of Lawrence, KS.
- City insurance renewed through Conrade Insurance with EMC.
- Plans to install the new scoreboard and lighting at the ballfield.
- Obtaining bids for Side-by-Sides.
- Beginning simple renovations at the Old Fire Station Shop for more efficient use.
- Distributed a handout to the Council concerning the **2027 Budget Calendar** for their awareness.

Animal Control Report (7:50 PM) - Jake Callstrom

ACO Callstrom presented the April report (full written report on file).

- Both court cases were animal related. One was resolved and the other has a trial set for June 23, 2026.

Clerk's Report (7:52 PM) - Anne Morrow

Clerk Morrow presented the April report (full written report on file). Highlights included:

- First round of new signage installed around town; second round of regulatory sign assessments underway.
- Wayfinder signs placed; one replacement still needed.
- Transitioned to Prairie Pots as the new port-a-potty provider — three units now at the ballfields.
- Attended Court Clerk training conference March 26–27 in Wichita.
- Municipal Court held April 21 with Judge Pro Tempore Rob Lane (Judge Goossen resigned).
- Two utility shut-offs occurred; both paid in full plus reinstatement fee.
- New food truck (BUrgerCO from El Dorado) approved for annual permit.
- Santa House facelift assigned to an area Eagle Scout.
- Scout House rented twice this month and already reserved for two events in May.
- Area Wide Garage Sales scheduled for June 12 & 13.

Motion by Clark, second by Ravenscraft, to accept the appointment of Rob Lane as the new Municipal Judge. Motion carried unanimously (7:53pm)

Treasurer's Report (7:53 PM)

Treasurer Ullum provided the Treasurer's Report and full Financial Report Packet for January–March 2026 (unaudited). Key highlights:

- Beginning Cash (12/31/2025): \$653,919
- Total Receipts: \$340,080
- Total Expenditures: \$213,178
- Ending Cash (3/31/2026): \$780,821
- Net Increase: \$126,902
- General Fund ending balance: \$236,076
- Strong liquidity with diversified cash holdings (including >\$350,000 in CDs).
- Approximately 9 months of operational coverage at current spending levels.
- All activity within budget; no concerns noted.

Motion by Coleman, second by Silkmitter, to approve the April Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7:56 PM).

City Superintendent's Report (8:02 PM)

Superintendent Hanna provided the April report (full written report on file), which included:

- Butler County painted parking stalls on Main Street.
- Equipment trade (leaf sucker for Bush Hog Rotary Mower).
- New signage installation throughout town.
- Crack sealing completed on N. Poplar, Cottonwood, and Cottonwood Ct.
- Mowing in full swing; still seeking a summer helper.
- No water leaks reported.

Council requested revisiting the current purchasing policy.

At 8:14 PM, Fire Chief Bob Bartlett requested future discussion regarding the storm siren system.

Unfinished Business

- **Charter Ordinance No. 16**

Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Silkmitter, approve the Charter Ordinance #16 concerning Parks and Recreation. Motion carried unanimously and signatures applied (8:25 PM).

Future Agenda Items – Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 – 7:00 PM

- Codification of Ordinances – Ordinance #646 (Approval)
- Possible Charter Ordinance for Library
- Revisit Purchasing Policy – Non-Emergency Amounts
- Side-by-Side Bids

Adjournment

Motion by Bowlin, second by Silkmitter, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.