

City Council Meeting Minutes

1/26/26

Call to Order

Mayor Timothy Eldredge called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Present: Mayor Timothy Eldredge; Councilmembers Dan Ravenscraft, Trent Clark, Grant Bowlin, Scott Silkmitter; Kathryn Coleman arrived at 7:13 PM.

Staff/Guests Present: Andrew Hanna, Anne Morrow, Deputy Tom Moore, Jake Callstrom, Terry Ullum.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Motion by Bowlin, second by Silkmitter, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (7:02 PM).

Motion by Clark, second by Bowlin, to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously (7:03 PM).

Open to Public: None

Personnel Reports

Mayor's Report (7:04 PM)

Mayor Eldredge reported:

- Ongoing review of the city budget to improve accountability and funding transparency, including Parks & Recreation and Library allocations.
- Attendance at Local Government Day in Topeka on January 28, with scheduled meeting with Avery Anderson and possible meeting with Ty Masterson.
- Planning & Zoning Board training coordination with Foster Design; previously approved \$3,400 may require supplementation.
- Boy Scouts request to place a Conex storage container north of the Scout House on a gravel pad; discussions ongoing.
- Review of 2026 project priorities, including lift station engineering and potential USDA grant funding opportunities.
- Encouraged council input on priority projects and increased community involvement.
- Plans to attend the next Parks & Recreation meeting.
- Councilwoman Coleman entered the meeting at 7:13 PM

Deputy Sheriff's Report (7:14 PM)

Deputy Moore reported:

- Vacation leave the past week and a half; returning Wednesday.
- Two tickets issued prior to leave.
- Suggested potential community improvement initiative similar to "Paint the Town" programs in neighboring communities.

Animal Control Report (7:21 PM)

Jake Callstrom provided January report.

- Liability insurance currently covered under city policy expiring April 1. Formation of LLC to be reflected in upcoming contract.

Treasurer's Report (7:22 PM)

Terry Ullum presented the January financial report.

- No special projects completed in 2025.
- No significant unexpected expenditures.
- Sewer Reserve Fund increased approximately \$7,000 from late fee allocations.
- Equipment Reserve Fund balance at \$10,000.
- Three estimated \$5,000 payments issued to Potwin due to delayed billing; final reconciliation payment made upon receipt of statements.
- Financial position improved from approximately negative \$30,000 last year to positive \$10,000 this year.

Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Coleman, to approve the January Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7:31 PM).

Clerk's Report (7:31 PM)

Clerk reported:

- Redex Shredding partnership delayed due to weather.
- January utility billing error affecting over 170 accounts; accounts corrected and \$14.19 credits issued or to be applied to next billing cycle. Public notice has been posted.

City Superintendent's Report (7:35 PM)

Andrew Hanna reported:

- Communication with KWRA regarding potential grant funding for lift station engineering.
- Sewer blockage on Maple Street cleared; root obstruction removed.
- No water leaks reported in past month.
- Tree located fully within alley easement; removal quotes obtained and all vendors insured.

Motion by Clark, second by Bowlin, to accept the bid from JD & Sons Tree Service to remove the tree located in the alley on Vine Street between Elm and Oak Streets, including stump grinding. Motion carried unanimously (7:41 PM).

Truck Purchase Discussion

- Council discussed replacement of the city truck.
- Current insurance proceeds total \$6,500; Equipment Reserve Fund balance is \$10,000. Council discussed potential General Fund supplementation.
- Council directed staff to begin searching for replacement vehicle within the \$25,000–\$30,000 price range.

Order of Business

1. Selection of Council President (7:45 PM)

- Nominations were made for Dan Ravenscraft and Trent Clark. Clark declined.
- Dan Ravenscraft elected Council President for 2026 (7:48 PM).

2. Mayor Appointments (7:48 PM)

Mayor presented the following appointments:

- Parks & Recreation: Lyndon Entz
- Cemetery Board: Jeff Artman
- Planning & Zoning: Mark Hill (replacing Mike Claassen)
- Library: Mayor to attend upcoming meeting
- Fire Board: Status reviewed

Motion by Bowlin, second by Ravenscraft, to approve contract between the City of Whitewater and Cold Stream LLC for contracted Animal Control Services. Motion carried unanimously (7:52 PM).

Unfinished Business

Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Silknitter, to adopt Ordinance No. 644 modifying and restating the Cemetery Code. Motion carried (7:53 PM).

Motion by Coleman, second by Clark, to adopt Ordinance No. 643 incorporating the 2025 Standard Traffic Ordinance and Uniform Public Offense Code by reference. Motion carried (7:54 PM).

Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Bowlin, to adopt Charter Ordinance No. 12 regarding designation of official city newspaper. Motion carried (7:54 PM).

Motion by Bowlin, second by Silknitter, to adopt Charter Ordinance No. 13 regarding governing body vacancies. Motion carried (7:55 PM).

Motion by Bowlin, second by Coleman, to adopt Charter Ordinance No. 14 regarding appointment of Municipal Court Clerk. Motion carried (7:56 PM).

- City Attorney to provide additional charter ordinances for next meeting.

New Business

- Council confirmed tree removal approval includes stump grinding.
- Discussion held regarding no additional speed signage on the north side of town.
- Agenda items for February 23, 2026: Charter Ordinances 15 & 16

Adjournment

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

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.