

City Council Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2026

Call to Order

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

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

Staff/Guests Present: Jake Callstrom (Animal Control), Terry Ullum (Treasurer), Deputy Tom Moore, Scot Loyd (Loyd Group), Bob Bartlett and Christopher Hall

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Silknitter, to approve the July meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Comments:

Bob Bartlett requested the Council review the City's chicken ordinance, specifically the setback requirements for chicken coops. He also requested after hours contact numbers be listed of employees so the public can contact Animal Control and Maintenance and not have to submit an email.

Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Clark, to waive the required structure setback contained in the City's chicken ordinance and approve Bob Bartlett's chicken permit application if submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Christopher Hall requested that the Animal Control Officer have some form of identifier, so people know who he is when he is out working.

New Business

• Audit Report – Scot Loyd of the Loyd Group

Scot Loyd presented the City's 2025 Audit and provided copies of the audit report to the Governing Body. Loyd commended the City on the significant progress made since his firm's first audit in 2020, noting that numerous prior audit findings have been resolved through improved financial policies, procedures, and reporting practices. No new audit findings were reported for 2025.

• Agricultural Lease Agreement

Motion by Clark, second by Ravenscraft to sign lease agreement with Anthony McNeill to farm the land near the city Lagoons. Motion carried unanimously.

• Public Forum Review

Review handout in packet. Minimal discussion.

Personnel Reports

Treasurer's Report - Terry Ullum

Treasurer Ullum presented the July Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2026 (full written report on file). Highlights included:

- General Fund receipts of \$373,157 and expenditures of \$305,067.
- General Fund ending cash balance of \$249,077.
- City operating funds maintained approximately **nine months of operating reserves**.
- All bank accounts have been reconciled and remain in balance.
- Revenues and expenditures continue to remain within budget authority.

Motion by Silknitter, second by Coleman, to approve the July Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Timothy Eldredge

- Whitewater will host three Opening Night amateur baseball league games on August 22.
- The event coincides with Potwin's Watermelon Festival.
- Plans include concessions, completing electrical work to the new scoreboard, and possibly concluding the evening with fireworks.
- A \$500,000 grant application has been submitted and is currently under review.
- The City continues working with USDA regarding funding opportunities for the new lift station.
- Mayor Eldredge presented information comparing the City's current EMC insurance coverage with a proposal from CWG, noting lower premiums and increased liability coverage.

Motion by Clark, second by Coleman, to proceed with switching insurance from EMC to CWG. Motion carried unanimously.

- The Mayor also addressed items listed later under Unfinished Business.

Animal Control Report - Jake Callstrom

ACO Callstrom presented the July report (full written report on file). Highlights included ongoing animal control enforcement, permit administration, and response to citizen complaints. And noting that identifiable clothing or badge will become part of his ACO attire while working. Council discussed making a public contact number available for Animal Control after hours.

Clerk's Report - Anne Morrow

July Handout report (full written report on file). Highlights included preparations for the 2027 Budget Hearings, Planning & Zoning work, newsletter production, permitting activity, records management, and other ongoing administrative projects.

Councilmember Clark also acknowledged a generous donation that allowed the City to purchase ten additional American flags.

City Superintendent's Report - Andrew Hanna

July Handout report (full written report on file). Highlights included updates on current maintenance projects, utilities, equipment, and ongoing capital improvements throughout the city.

Sheriff Deputy Report – Tom Moore

- 2 Domestic Arrests
- 1 Drug Arrest
- 1 Warrant Arrest
- Will begin writing speeding tickets again due to excessive speeding reports on Main and Elm.

- One stolen gas can, trespassing, and owner of the dog that bit another dog were committed by the same individual.

Unfinished Business

• **Roof Insurance/Inspection Results**

Leaks at the City Shop (220 N. Main) require that roof be prioritized above others. Council discussed insurance inspection results and replacement priorities. Members agreed the City Shop roof should remain the highest priority. Council discussion continued regarding obtaining bids for a new metal roof. Item tabled.

• **ADA Ramp Bids**

The previous four bids were updated with the new locations requested by the council. The Council discussed and reviewed updated bids reflecting the additional locations requested during the June meeting. After discussion, bids for the ramps located near the school were tabled while proceeding with five downtown ADA ramp locations.

Motion by Coleman, second by Silknitter, to approve the bids presented by Pope Concrete to install ADA Ramps at five locations: Alleyway at the Meat Locker on Topeka, NE & SE corners of Main and Topeka and NW & SW corners of Topeka and Elm for the cost of about \$17,400, to be taken out of the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

• **KOOP Painting Update**

Work to paint the city building and library awnings, old fire shop and ballfield bathrooms will begin the first week of August.

RNR & BUDGET HEARINGS – August 24, 6:00pm at City Hall

Next Council Meeting: August 24, 2026 – 7:00 PM

- Ordinances & Bylaws from Planning & Zoning
- Chicken Ordinance Review
- New Roof Bids for City Shop

Adjournment

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

- Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.