

# City Council Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2026

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## Call to Order

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

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

**Staff/Guests Present:** Andrew Hanna, Anne Morrow, Jake Callstrom, Terry Ullum, Thelma Edris, and Lee Archer.

## Approval of Agenda & Minutes

***Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Coleman, to approve the agenda with the addition of the Deputy's Report. Motion carried unanimously (7:02 PM).***

***Motion by Silknitter, second by Coleman, to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously (7:03 PM).***

## Open to Public:

**Thelma "Jeep" Edris** commended alley work but noted it did not meet her standards. She inquired about city ordinances regarding sidewalk removal. A local Boy Scout troop member attended to observe the meeting.

## Personnel Reports

### Mayor's Report (7:07 PM)

Mayor Eldredge reported:

- County property evaluations require appeals
- A camper placed and covenant violations at Whitewater Lakes addition are being addressed by the successor developer.
- The Loyd Group submitted budget questions and proposed a June 23, 2026 budget meeting at 5:30 PM.

### Animal Control Report (7:15 PM)

Jake Callstrom provided March report.

- Noting updates to intake procedures from recent training and preparation for court appearances.

### Treasurer's Report (7:17 PM)

Terry Ullum provided the February/March Treasurer & Financial Report and Bank Reconciliations.

- Recent major expenditures included a truck and annual sewer cleaning.
- Financial activities align with the budget.
- The city maintains approximately 8 months of operating reserves.

***Motion by Silkmitter, second by Coleman, to approve the March Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7:22 PM).***

## **Clerk's Report (7:23 PM)**

Anne Morrow provided March report:

- Noting two recent utility shut-offs (one reactivated after payment; one remains off).
- Permitting issues at Whitewater Lakes.
- Five accounts scheduled for shut-off on March 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM, unless payment is made. New utility bills will issue the same day.
- The Clerk will be absent March 26–27 for a court clerk conference in Wichita.

## **City Superintendent's Report (7:25 PM)**

Andrew Hanna provided March report:

- Reported on pursuing a KDOT Money Share Grant for road repairs (gathering community support letters)
- Work on the culvert at 2nd and Walnut
- No water leaks this month.

## **Deputy's Report (7:27 PM)**

Deputy Moore reported:

- On school checks, assisting with the student crosswalk.
- Locating a juvenile runaway.
- Issuing mostly warnings during recent traffic stops (primarily for out-of-town visitors to local businesses).

## **Unfinished Business**

- (7:31 PM) The City Attorney has provided a draft of Charter Ordinance No. 16 with some questions concerning the terms and membership for Parks & Rec.
  - The city council would like to have Parks & Rec look over the charter ordinance and provide edits and feedback on what would work best for them. We can provide their feedback to the city attorney who will then finalize the charter ordinance.

## **New Business**

### **• Water Drainage issues in Whitewater**

The governing body discussed drainage issues including Jeep's alley, Locust Street, storm drains, creek cleaning from Central to 196 using an excavator, flood mapping updates, coordination with Senator Marshall's staff and the railroad (possible bridge removal), and KDOT site visits (no work scheduled yet).

### **• City Summer Hiring**

The mayor proposed hiring three seasonal helpers for summer 2026 (one each for maintenance/public works, city office, and Parks & Rec) to provide opportunities for high school or college students.

***Motion by Bowlin, seconded by Coleman, to approve the hiring of three seasonal personnel for summer 2026. Motion carried with one nay (Silkmitter). (7:51 PM)***

**Motion by Coleman, seconded by Bowlin, to approve two full-time positions (Maintenance and Parks & Rec) and one part-time Office Assistant position (approximately three months) at a starting pay of \$12.00 per hour. Motion carried unanimously. (7:59 PM)**

Discussion of purchasing a tractor versus side-by-side for Parks & Rec and city use was tabled.

- **Aging Signage**

- **Regulatory Signs** (stop, dip, etc.) - a list of aging signs and their location was provided along with a cost breakdown to replace them.

**Motion by Coleman, second by Silknitter, to approve the purchase of replacement Regulatory Signs for around \$1500. Motion carried unanimously (8:05 PM).**

- **Wayfinder Signs** (direction signs) - a list of current signs, maps and a quote for replacement signs with the updated city logo was presented.

**Motion by Ravenscraft, second by Silknitter, to approve the purchase of replacement Wayfinder Signs for about \$500. Motion carried unanimously (8:07 PM).** - requested to add in the RMS to the directions and other improvements that might need to be made.

- **2026 Street Assessments**

A map of priority areas and bids from three companies were presented. Discussion included scout house road improvements and parking. Coleman requested to add year-over-year spending comparisons and budget allotment data to future financial reports.

**Motion by Bowlin, seconded by Silknitter, to approve the bid from South Central for crack sealing on Poplar, Cottonwood, and Cottonwood Court for approximately \$4,000. Motion carried unanimously (8:40 PM).**

**Next Meeting: April 27, 7:00 PM**

Charter Ordinance 16 – Parks & Rec

## **Adjournment**

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

- Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.