

Call to Order:

Mayor Timothy Eldredge called the meeting to order at **7:07 PM**.

Council Members Present: Trent Clark, Scott Silknitter, and Kathryn Coleman.

Absent: Dan Ravenscraft, in Orlando, Florida. Grant Bowlin resigned from the City Council effective September 14, 2026.

Also in Attendance: Thelma “Jeep” Edris, Mark Stiles, Faeya Hill, Terry Ullum, Andrew Hanna, Jake Callstrom, Anne Morrow, Deputy Tom Moore, and Tim Stanghor.

Approval of Agenda

Scott Silknitter moved to approve the agenda. Kathryn Coleman seconded. **All Ayes.** Motion approved at **7:08 PM**.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes

Scott Silknitter moved to approve the August meeting minutes. Trent Clark seconded. **All Ayes.** Motion approved at **7:09 PM**.

Public Comments

Faeya Hill addressed the Council regarding the mulch at Central Park. Ms. Hill, who plays at the park, expressed concerns about the pain, discomfort, and splinters caused by the mulch and stated that the surface may discourage children from comfortably using the playground equipment. She suggested possible alternatives including rubber mulch, rubber tiles, or removing the mulch and replanting grass. The Mayor thanked Ms. Hill for her comments.

Thelma “Jeep” Edris brought the Council's attention to the newsletter article regarding residents' responsibilities for maintaining the alley behind their property. Ms. Edris expressed continued concerns about the condition of her alley and water pooling near her shed and garage rather than draining through the existing channels. The Mayor stated that he would come out and look at the area again with Mrs. Edris.

NEW BUSINESS

Chicken Code Discussion — Public Input and Survey Results

Discussion began at **7:14 PM**. Jake Callstrom reviewed the results of the community chicken-code survey. The survey received **41 responses**, with responses divided on several of the proposed regulations.

Discussion included maintaining a limit of six chickens, the current \$20 registration fee, the appropriate distance from neighboring dwellings, and the need to add a clear definition of “**dwelling**” to the ordinance. The proposed definition is “A house, apartment, or any building or structure where a person lives.”

The terminology of “chicken” versus “fowl” was also discussed, including whether other types of birds, such as ducks, should be addressed by the ordinance.

Jake Callstrom will work on rewriting the Chicken/Fowl section of the City Code with updated definitions and language to improve understanding and enforcement. The Chicken Code Ordinance will return to the Council for further consideration.

Planning & Zoning — Bylaws

The Council reviewed the proposed Planning & Zoning Commission Bylaws. The Bylaws establish the Commission pursuant to K.S.A. 12-744 and provide for its authority and responsibilities.

Council requested that a **three-year term provision** be added to the Bylaws. With that addition, Trent Clark moved to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission Bylaws. Scott Silknitter seconded. **Ayes.** The Bylaws were approved and signed at **7:29 PM**. The Bylaws were adopted by the Planning & Zoning Commission September 8, 2026, and approved by the Governing Body September 28, 2026.

Ordinance No. 647 — Land Annexation

The Council considered Ordinance No. 647, concerning the annexation of an overlooked strip of land associated with **600 E. 1st Street** into the City limits. The approximately 3,125-square-foot tract is located in the Klaassen 2nd Addition. The ordinance also classifies the annexed property as **R-1 (Residential 1)**, consistent with the surrounding property.

Trent Clark moved to approve Ordinance No. 647. Scott Silknitter seconded. **Ayes.** Ordinance No. 647 was approved and signed at **7:30 PM**.

Resolution No. 2026-0928 — Policy Procedures and Revised Policy & Procedure Handbook

The Council reviewed three information-security and technology-management policies recommended for formal adoption and inclusion in the City's Policy & Procedure Handbook:

1. Access to Data, Assets, and Computer Programs;
2. Computer Password Policy and Procedures; and
3. Backup and Storage Procedures.

The resolution also approves the revised and reorganized City Policy & Procedure Handbook.

Scott Silknitter moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-0928. Trent Clark seconded. **All Ayes.** Resolution approved and signed at **7:33 PM**.

REPORTS OF CITY PERSONNEL

Treasurer's Report and Financial Report Packet

Terry Ullum presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Report Packet. The report noted that the City's financial position remains stable through August 31, 2026, with approximately **seven months of operating reserves**. Water and sewer operations continue to support operations, while the General Fund is being monitored due to expenditures exceeding revenues year-to-date.

Mr. Ullum also noted that the City paid a new insurance premium in August and received reimbursement from the previous insurance coverage in September, which will balance out between the two months.

Scott Silknitter moved to accept the Financial Report Packet. Kathryn Coleman seconded. **Ayes.** Motion approved at **7:38 PM.**

Mayor's Report

Mayor Eldredge presented a hydrant report from Chief Bartlett identifying **13 hydrants in need of replacement**. The plan is to replace four hydrants along Topeka Street this year, including isolation valves. The Mayor would like the City to return to its quarterly hydrant replacement plan to remain on schedule.

The Mayor discussed street sweeping in preparation for Fred Fest. A professional service would cost approximately **\$3,500**, while renting a street-sweeping machine from Andover Rental would cost approximately **\$375**. The Council favored the rental option, with the goal of completing the work before Fred Fest.

The Council also discussed ADA accessibility at City Hall and the Library. Bids have been received for ADA-compliant doors at both locations. The Maintenance Report confirms that multiple vendors have reviewed the buildings and provided quotes for the proposed work, which will require Council consideration before authorization.

The bids discussed were:

- **DHPace:** City Hall — \$7,200; Library — \$7,358
- **Cheney Doors:** Both locations — \$11,711

The Council discussed pursuing grants to improve ADA compliance in these and other areas.

Deputy's Report

Deputy Tom Moore reported four traffic stops resulting in warnings, along with school crosswalk and school checks. The DARE officer has taken over most of the school-related responsibilities.

A vandalism case is being resolved and involved juveniles. Deputy Moore also noted that many drivers are running stop signs.

Deputy Moore will participate in the Fred Fest Parade and expressed enthusiasm about the upcoming Fred Fest activities.

Animal Control Report

Jake Callstrom's September Animal Control Report revealed that Municipal Court was held September 15 regarding an animal-control case, resulting in a guilty finding and requirements including registration of all pets within 30 days.

The Animal Control Report also noted three September calls: involving armadillos near North Elm, kittens near the highway, and a dog running at large near 2nd and Oak.

City Clerk's Report

Anne Morrow presented the September City Clerk's Report.

The City has issued three annual food-truck permits for 2026. One business has gone out of business, and Tacos El Poderoso has informed the City that they will no longer maintain Whitewater on their regular schedule. Tacos El Poderoso remains permitted, and we hope to see them return if and when they want too. Burger Co. on the Go remains permitted and plans to be at Jerry Hill Memorial Ballfield during the WIBL games at Fred Fest on October 3.

Newsletter advertising is currently approximately **\$1,300 ahead of last year's sales**, and the October newsletter is underway.

One utility account was shut off during the month for non-payment, eight shut-off notices were sent, and three delinquent accounts were submitted to the Kansas Setoff Program. Continued property-maintenance and animal-control follow-up was also reported.

Preparation continues for Fred Fest and WIBL activities, including schedules, promotional materials, banners, parade information, and event coordination.

Maintenance Report

Andrew Hanna presented the September Maintenance Report.

Maintenance crews have been cleaning the creek bottoms, beginning at the south end of Elm Street near 196th Highway and continuing north toward Central Park. Mowing and weed control are continuing as conditions allow.

A new **4-inch water line** has been installed into the ballpark area from South Locust Street to provide water for future needs, including a future concession stand and restrooms and irrigation. The boring work was donated by Andreas, who was working with IdeaTek in the area.

Maintenance is also working with the Festival Committee in preparation for Fred Fest and continuing ballpark improvements, including plans to oversee the fields following the stress caused by the summer heat.

One water leak occurred during the month and was repaired with service restored.

Discussion followed regarding the Elm Street creek and whether the City should be maintaining property it does not own. It was discussed that the work is being done to help prevent flooding.

The Council also discussed potential flooding concerns near the Jensen Farm south of town. Mayor Eldredge reported that he has been communicating with the Corps of Engineers regarding this and other areas and will continue working toward possible solutions.

OPEN BRAINSTORMING SESSION

The brainstorming session began at **7:58 PM**.

Mayor Eldredge presented potential **2027–2028 goals and projects**, including:

- Replacing City streets and completing street projects properly.
- Seeking grants for infrastructure improvements.
- Replacing older water lines in the older portion of town, including lines installed in 1960–1961. Scott Silknitter suggested looking at the City of Burden's current water-line replacement project.
- Continuing to pursue the grant for the concession stand. No update has been received at this time.
- Addressing downtown buildings in need of repair.
- Installing new antique-style lighting downtown. The possibility of allowing individuals to donate toward lights and receive a plaque was discussed. Estimated cost is approximately \$3,200 per light, not including electrical work.
- Repairing and relocating existing playground equipment to the ballfield and determining a new playground surface.

- Developing a dog park at Ballfield No. 1.
- Pursuing USDA grant funding for the lift station.
- Determining future use and needed improvements for the Scout House, including repairs, split air conditioning, and ADA bathrooms.
- Identifying a location for Parks & Recreation practice fields, including the City-owned lot behind Wheat State Manor as a possible location.
- Discussion regarding the possibility of a Dollar General at the Wheat State Manor lot.
- Considering relocation of the Fire Station to the lagoon property for easier access to Butler Road.

Kathryn Coleman suggested a walking path around the ball diamonds and surrounding areas. She also suggested a sidewalk along Central Street, at least to Poplar Street, a crosswalk near the park, improved access around the bridge and pond, and additional lighting in that area.

Trent Clark recommended prioritizing the USDA grant for the lift station.

Appointment to City Council

The Council discussed filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Grant Bowlin.

Mayor Eldredge recommended **Mark Stiles** for appointment to the City Council, noting Mr. Stiles' involvement in the community and that he was next in line from the previous election. Mr. Stiles would serve the remainder of the current term, which expires in 2027.

Scott Silkknitter moved to approve the appointment of Mark Stiles to the City Council. Trent Clark seconded. **Ayes.** Motion approved at **8:26 PM.**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM.**

Items identified for the October agenda include:

- Chicken Code Ordinance
- Playground surface and cost breakdown

ADJOURNMENT

Scott Silkknitter moved to adjourn the meeting. Trent Clark seconded. The meeting was adjourned at **8:26 PM.**