



Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, April 13, 2026 at 5:45 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Council President Sheri Parker called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.
Council Members Present: Ryan Durst, Jay Kessler, Dave Whitcomb via phone
Staff Present: City Administrator Jeremy Johnson, City Clerk Stephanie Lopez,
Assistant City Clerk Frances Sparks, Street/Sewer Supervisor Mike Strausz
Guests Present: Joe Allan and Betsy Davis
Absent: Mayor Jeremy Moore and council member Dr. James Ratzlaff

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Council President Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

City Clerk Stephanie Lopez noted that there are two claims reports due to there being two systems as of right now during the new software conversion.

Motion: Council Member Durst moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second: Council Member Kessler

Vote: Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstained: 0 Motion Passed.

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

- a. Approval of Minutes
- b. Approval of Bills
- c. Fund Balance

4. Public Comments

Minutes:

None

5. Proclamation -The Week of The Young Child

Betsy Davis

Minutes:

Every year the NAEYC, which is the National Association of Educators of Young Children, designates a day for celebrating the educators of young children. And that happens to be the week that we're currently in. So, I asked Jeremy if he'd be willing to support the Week of the Young Child as an initiative from the McPherson County Child Care Task Force. This is the Proclamation: Whereas McPherson County Child Care Task Force and other local organizations in conjunction with the National Association of the Educators of Young Children are celebrating the Week of the Young Child from April 11th through the 17th, 2016. 2026. Whereas children's cognitive, physical, socio-emotional, and language and literacy development are built on a foundation of children's positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment. And whereas participation in high-quality early childhood education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more economically secure, and prepares children to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and live healthier lives. And whereas high-quality early education deeply depends on early educators who ensure that children supported by families have early experiences that they need for a strong foundation. And whereas the McPherson and Marion County Head Start and other state-funded programs, success in improving early learning outcomes rests in the leadership of parents and the support of local businesses, municipalities, community members, and neighbors, as well as a skilled workforce. And whereas teachers and other helpers who make a difference in the lives of young children in Moundridge deserve thanks and recognition, and public policies that support early learning and for young children are crucial to the future well-being of our community. Now therefore, let it be proclaimed that the City Council of the City of Moundridge hereby recognizes the week of April 11th through the 17th, 2026 as Week of the Young Child and encourages our community to make investment in early childhood education because early years are learning years.

Motion: Council Member Durst moved to approve the Proclamation – The Week of the Young Child Second: Council Member Kessler

Vote: Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstained: 0 Motion Passed.

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

6. Support Letter for Cradle to Crayons

Betsy Davis

Minutes:

Council reviewed a request from Cradles to Crayons for a letter of support for its application to the Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP) through the Department of Commerce. The grant application would support the kitchen portion of their planned new facility, as a different part of the project was funded through the program in 2024. The proposed support letter highlights Cradles to Crayons' 15 years of service, supports their expansion plans, and emphasizes the importance of quality childcare, early learning, and family support in the community. Council was asked to endorse the project and authorize the signature on the letter.

7. AG360 Insurance Renewal Review

Joe Allen

Minutes:

Insurance Renewal Summary (2025–2026) • The city's insurance renewal saw about a \$5,000 increase (roughly 3–4%), largely due to inflation and increased property values,

including adding three well sites. There were no rate increases, just value-driven adjustments. • Property coverage remains the largest premium driver, based on about \$20 million in insured property values. • Equipment (inland marine) and general liability remained stable, with only minor changes. • Auto coverage premium decreased slightly due to removing two vehicles and adding one police pickup. • Law enforcement liability, cyber coverage, umbrella liability, airport liability, crime coverage, and directors/officers (Linebacker) coverage all remain in place, with only modest increases in some areas. • Workers' compensation premiums dropped about 11% due to improved claims history (experience mod improved from 1.47 to 1.20) and may continue to decrease next year. • Overall, when including workers' comp, total insurance costs increased only about 1%. • The city also received a \$12,882 dividend refund from EMC, which actually makes the net insurance cost about \$873 lower than last year. Insurance costs remained stable overall, inflation continues to be the main factor, workers' comp improved significantly, and the EMC dividend helped offset increases, resulting in a slight net savings.

8. Chill Trailer Discussion

Minutes:

Council discussed a request from the Chill trailer owner to move back onto the street after being relocated last year to a parking lot shared with Citizens State Bank. The trailer was moved due to current city ordinance prohibiting unattended trailers on public streets and concerns from the city attorney about liability if an accident occurred. Allowing the trailer back on the street could also set a precedent for other vendors. An alternate location near the pool had been suggested previously, but the owner felt it was too far off the main traffic area. The trailer will remain in the location in the parking lot where they were last year.

9. Greer Sewer Update

Mike Strausz Discussion

Minutes:

Staff provided an update on the Greer Auditorium sewer bypass project, which was approved in last year's budget. The project will reroute a critical 1920-era sewer main that currently runs under Greer Auditorium and has longstanding mineral buildup issues that restrict flow during heavy rains. The project was budgeted at \$200,000 but came in well under budget at \$151,000. Apex Excavating was selected for the work and could begin in about three weeks. Construction is expected to take less than two weeks, weather permitting. The bypass will improve reliability for a major portion of the city's sewer system while leaving the existing line under Greer to serve only the building itself.

10. Ordinance 1049 Backflow Cross Connection Device Repeal

Minutes:

Council reviewed Ordinance 1049 with corrections, primarily clarifying that all cross connection and backflow devices must be inspected every two years by a qualified inspector familiar with the Uniform Plumbing Code. Property owners must provide the city proof the inspection was completed and passed. Failure to provide verification could result in fines or termination of water service until corrected. Aside from these revisions, the ordinance remains unchanged, and council was asked to approve the

ordinance as corrected.

Motion: Council Member Durst moved to approve Ordinance 1049 Second: Council Member Kessler

Vote: Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstained: 0 Motion Passed.

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

11. Resolution 2026-07 City Real Estate

Minutes:

Council reviewed Resolution 2026-07 regarding the sale of the old substation site, a little over one acre property no longer needed by the city after the new substation was built. Keith and Shelly Allenbach, who have been using the property for haying, had previously requested first opportunity to purchase the land, which council approved last June. The property will be sold as-is, with remaining concrete and base rock still on site, as removing them would be costly. The resolution is needed to formalize the city's approval for the sale and move the transaction forward through the title company.

Motion: Council Member Kessler moved to approve Resolution 2026-07 City Real Estate Second: Council Member Durst

Vote: Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstained: 0 Motion Passed

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

12. Resolution 2026-08 Utility Easements

Minutes:

Council discussed renewing and expanding the Common Consumption Area permit for Black Kettle Festival due to more events being centered downtown this year, including the car show, cook-off, vendors, corn-hole tournament, community dinner, and street dance. The Black Kettle Committee requested expanding the permit to include the 100 blocks of West Cole and West Herschler, but after discussion, council leaned toward a more limited expansion by including the four-way intersection along with the existing 100 and 200 blocks of South Christian. Street closures and traffic diversion would be part of the event, and law enforcement expressed no issues with the proposal. Council was asked to support the permit renewal with the revised boundaries.

13. Common Consumption Area Renewal

Minutes:

- The school cleanup day (April 15) will include cleanup at the city pool, with the street department planning to repaint the pool for the first time since the new pool was built. Work will include leaf removal, power washing, and painting to help prevent concrete damage.
- Andrew Hermstein passed his Class 2 wastewater certification, giving the city three certified sewer operators.
- Citywide garage sales are scheduled for April 24–25, and city cleanup days with dumpsters will be May 1–3 across from the high school. Staff also discussed possibly adding a fall cleanup event.

14. Report of City Officers

a. City Administrator

Discussion Items

b. City Clerk

Minutes:

- The city's new financial software is now live for core financials and payables, with utility billing moving into the new system in May. Utility bills were delayed this month due to data conversion and setup.
- Staff reported the new software should improve reporting and efficiency.
- Introduced Tessa Young as the city's new utility biller, who started that day and brings prior utility billing experience from the City of Wichita airport utility.

15. Executive Session

Pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) to discuss non-elected personnel matters

Minutes:

Council entered into executive session for 15 minutes at 6:50pm. Motion: Council Member Kessler moved go into Executive Session Second: Council Member Durst
Vote: Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstained: 0 Motion Passed
No action taken in executive session.

16. Adjourn Meeting

Minutes:

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0