

Council Meeting

March 10th 2026

Mayor Randy Jones called the meeting to order

Pledge

Roll Call: TJ Duncan, Ken Collins, Allan Adelman were present Debra Rice was absent

Ken motioned to approve the bills in the amount of \$98,709.94, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to approve the minutes of the February meetings, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Randy stated they had talked about the vacancy of the treasurer's position last month. A few different people reached out about it, but had decided their schedules were too busy. Toni Duncan was present and had also expressed interest in becoming the treasurer. She had made time to make it to the meeting.

Allan motioned to appoint Toni Duncan as the new treasurer, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

City Clerk Amy Tucker gave Toni the Oath of office.

Treasurer Report: Liz Hart read the report so that Toni can get familiar with it.

TJ motioned to approve the report, Allan 2nd, motion carried.

Liz Hart gave out her monthly budget report. Everything running as it should be, nothing is over. She is glad that the water fund is supporting itself. She and Allan went through the cities investments and broke them down. They have good rates, and do not think they can do much better.

Greg baker was present about his property on Clemens that he tore the old church down. He said he is in the process of selling it to his sister Kim Meeks and she is aware that it needs to be cleaned up.

They have been discussing the gas discount program for quite some time and they have finally received the Resolution to pass in order to join. The program has a lot of benefits and they will get a rebate check at the end of the year. It will give them great savings.

TJ motioned to pass Resolution 2026-08, Allan 2nd, motion carried.

Amy said the gas bill they will be paying in March is almost \$30,000. The traders ran the prices up. It is out of the cities control. They will be in talks with Utility Gas Management and USDI to see what the price for the customers calculates at. If it is extremely high, they

will try and figure a way to spread it out to make it easier for the customers to pay over time instead of all at once.

Unfinished business: Amy presented the quotes for tires for the police truck. Allan motioned to get the tires from Arma Sales and Service, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Pay for the fire dept. was discussed., currently if a fire fighter is paged out and comes out and then it is cancelled, they do not get paid. Allan motions to pay fire the fire fighters if they get paged out, regardless of if it is cancelled after they are out, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Ernie still needs quotes for fire dept. gloves.

They are still working on grants for the water dept. Ernie has another quote from Strukel electric for an enclosure at the plant.

Randy says they have been trying to replace some signs that resident Matthew Harrison pointed out as needing replaced. Ernie said they are trying to order a few a month.

Amy presented 3 bids for the cemetery mowing. S&B was \$950, Vance was \$1,800, and Reeves was \$1,600. Randy says S&B and Vance have mowed it years ago. Amy does not know if Reeves has mowed a cemetery before. Randy said they did have to file a claim before when S&B mowed. Allan said there is a big difference between S&B's bid and the others. It would save a lot of money, but he is concerned about the previous damage that was done. He is also concerned that Reeves may not have mowed a cemetery before. Randy says he is about giving second chances.

Ken motioned to hire Reeves, there was no second and the motion died.

Allan hopes S& B would do better this time. Randy and Allan agree to meet with Leroy of S&B and talk with him. Allan says if they do not meet their requirements they could find someone else, and they need to check for damage beforehand.

Allan motions to hire S&B, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Police dept: Joey was away at training but he had left a monthly report for the council. Randy stated that Joey had a new Ride along Policy, application and waiver. They had time to look it over since it was in their packets. TJ motions to adopt the ride along policy, Ken, 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motions to start the condemnation process on 205 E. 3rd street, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Amy presented Ordinance 2026-02 that amends Ordinance 797 regarding grass, weeds, trash, and rubbish. They are adding language that states that agricultural ground is exempt

from the grass height of more than 10 inches so that it can be used for the production of hay.

Allan motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-02, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Fire Dept: Ernie took more air bottles to Joplin for testing. The Easter egg hunt will be at 10am, April 5th at the ballpark. Homecoming committee has helped by purchasing baskets and other items. The fire dept, stuffed 1,100 eggs with candy. If anyone else wants to donate they can.

They had storm watch over the weekend and 1 fire call on 3rd street.

Plant: Foxwell Holdings LLC came and looked at the trees that needed removed at the ball park. He gave a bid of \$4,000 but knocked off \$2,000 as a donation to help the city. He has cleaned up a lot of trees and brush. He is not quite done. Nancy Christian and her daughter Melissa saw what they were doing and began cleaning up their side as well.

They have a culvert that needs replaced at the park. It will widen it and help with parking. He needs 2- 12 inch tubes and a load of rock. The pipe is about \$500, and whatever the price of rock is now. Allan motions to buy the pipes and rock, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

They are also going to work on using some tube leftover from a job on Sycamore to close off the area between the 2 pits to make it more accessible on foot.

The play set that was purchased with the grant money is in. He has it stored with the gazebo that was donated until they figure out when to get it put up.

The need to get the concrete pad done for the gazebo.

He also needs to order more electric poles and wire. He handed out the quotes. He needs 6- 30 foot poles and 2- 40 foot poles. Allan motions to purchase the poles and wire, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

The funeral cart broke down. He took it to Joplin to get repaired. It will cost \$1,270.96. he will go pick it back up tomorrow. He is starting on getting a new service to an empty lot on East 4th. Arma came and helped set the pole.

Josh Dickey decided the job wasn't for him and has resigned.

Mowing season is going to start soon. He will be bringing Greg and Dwayne back. Brandon will come in to help read meters.

Jerry Portwood has put in his application to help out part time. He can mow, read meters, and be on call if Ernie needs him for an outage or leak.

Allan motioned to hire Jerry Portwood part time for \$12.25 per hour, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Liz asked if we had heard anything on the grant for water meters that Gus at county submitted for us. Ernie said they haven't heard anything yet.

Agenda: Lisa Rhodes and Jan Falletti were present to give updates on the grants they are working on for the city for the ball park.

Lisa also had a packet with information about other types of grants that could be used for water and other infrastructure.

Lisa suggested putting out a signup sheet for volunteers. They will also need letters of support for the projects.

Allan motioned to go into executive session at 8:13 and to return to regular session at 8:18 to discuss the wages of nonelected personnel, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to go out of executive session and back into regular session, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to give Amy Tucker and Ernie Chase both a \$2.50 per hour raise, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Ken would like to hire the city to trim some of his trees. The city will keep track of the time and he will pay it.

TJ asks for updates on the storm siren grant county was getting for Mulberry. Ernie said the money is tied up. The grant was approved but the county is waiting on the funds to be dispersed.

Randy said they are looking into changing the Ordinance for the minimum requirements for dwellings. They need to have one for all buildings. He and Amy are doing more research.

All of properties that were Larry Johnsons are under contract except the house on Military and East 4th and the one on South Military that the city is condemning. He did speak to the realtor about the other lots of Jerry Rasnic.

He spoke with Conner from Kansas Parks and Wildlife about holding another family fishing night at the park.

Amy and Randy met with the city insurance agent about the renewal. It will increase, but that increase is off set by the dividend check they send out. The council agreed to the proposal and decided not to increase their cyber security coverage.

Randy spoke wit Kim Meeks and she has the ball rolling on getting Greg's property and getting it cleaned up.

TJ motioned to adjourn, Allan 2nd, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM