

Council Meeting

August 12th 2025

Mayor Pat Walden called the meeting to order

Pledge

Roll Call: TJ Duncan, Ken Collins, and Lindy Rhodes (via telephone) were present. Debra Rice was absent.

Attorney Marshall Blinzler was present to conduct the hearings on the house condemnations for 107 E 4th and 110 E 5th Mulberry, Kansas. Certified Notices were sent out to all owners on record for both properties and no one appeared.

TJ motioned to adopt Resolutions 2025-09 and 2025-10 to condemn 107 E 4th and 110 E 5th, Lindy 2nd, motion carried.

Marshall asked if any bids had been turned in yet. Bids from Foxwell Holdings had been turned in already. Pat asked City Clerk Amy Tucker if there were others. She stated that Jones Land Services would also be turning in a bid.

Pat asked Marshall about the city property that had been sold with the condition that the buyer construct or install a residence within a certain time frame or the property reverts back to the city. Marshall stated they would have to file suit. It would all depend on if they think it is worth it to spend the legal fees in order to get it back.

TJ asks Marshall about the individual that was accused of stealing utilities. Marshall said they can cite him and seek jail time, but the city would have to pay for a court appointed attorney and jail fees.

Approval of the bills in the amount of \$125,120.43: Ken motions to approve the bills, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the minutes from the July regular and special meetings: TJ motions to approve the minutes, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Brenda Howard

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

Accountant Liz Hart handed out her monthly budget report. They made money again this month in water which is good. They did spend a lot of money this month

but the biggest part was the sewer bond payment. All funds are under budget though. They are sitting really well. Ken asked how much longer is on the sewer bond. Amy said it will mature August of 2030. Liz presented the budget summary with the Notice of the Hearings to exceed the RNR and the Budget hearing. They will need to publish it. The hearings will be held at the September meeting. The auditors came for a couple days. No problems.

Agenda: No one

Unfinished business: The gas discount program is still a work in progress. Ron Ragan from UGM said there are over 100 towns so far signing up. Pat said he has about given up on getting the lean too. No one will give the city a bid. Ernie looked at a dump trailer, but Pat says they may need to hold off on that until they get the water taken care of. Lindy said she thinks all departments need to look at the requests for what they want to spend and stick to what they really need, and cut back the “wish list” a little.

They had reviewed the Policy Handbook multiple times and have made all the changes. Ken motioned to adopt the new handbook, Lindy 2nd, motion carried.

Amy stated that she will have one marked the official copy and it will be the one with all the signatures. It will be kept in the City Office in a binder. Lindy and Debra will have to sign at a later date. Amy asks everyone to destroy all the old copies and drafts so that there is no confusion later.

Ernie still has not made it to Springfield to get the fire hose and masks.

City Office: Amy Tucker reported that Gus Brunetti will be coming over to help apply for a grant from the State Water Office. It could pay for the new meters, and pay to hire a contractor to install the new water line out South if they get it. The antique tractors will be stopping by the Museum Saturday, August 16th. They hope to arrive by 10 or 10:30 that morning. The Museum will be open for visitors. The award from the Community Foundation of SEK for youth activities arrived. It will go towards playground equipment at the North park. Pat says they need to give Amy a pat on the back for getting all the

grants. Ken says they should give her a round of applause. Amy thanked everyone.

Fire Dept: Ernie Chase said they had one medical call. They have decided that they will no longer be doing the tractor pull. It is too much work and they do not make any money. Becky Walden stated that the Homecoming Committee can help them do a fundraiser.

City Plant: They got all the poles and wire replaced that were knocked down on July 3rd. They have a water leak on E 3rd. He ordered some electrical supplies to restock his inventory. He is trying to coordinate with Jake Jones to get the new poles picked up and delivered. The new retractable awning is installed at the cemetery chapel. It looks nice. The sickle mower broke. It is too old to find parts for. He will see if there is a rental company with one that attaches to the excavator. They could rent a week at a time when they need it. He will try to figure out some sort of storage since they aren't getting a lean too. He is still talking with different suppliers about the water meters. He wants them to come present it to the council.

Police Dept: Joey Adelman passed out his monthly report. He picked up a dog on 3rd street and took it to Girard Animal Hospital. It escaped somehow, but Girard PD was able to catch it and take it back. He passed out an email he received from a disgruntled former resident, to see how he should respond. TJ stated if it's no longer that individual property it's not her concern. Ken said they should appreciate that a warning was sent and not a Notice to Appear in court. Joey stated that he did misread the warning letter on the timeframe given, and will honor the 14 days. Ken stated that the individual is putting the new homeowner in a bind by not moving her junk car out. Lindy asks Joey if he has been taking the patrol vehicle home. He said no, and that he has also gotten all his unaccounted Visa receipts caught up. Amy stated that he had reimbursed the city. Joey said he spoke with the city attorney about the 3rd street problem.

Council remarks: Lindy nothing else. TJ said he and Pat looked around town and the alley ways need cleaned up. Ken nothing else.

Mayor remarks: Pat stated that it was disgusting riding around town and seeing all the trash and junk. Everyone needs to do better. They need to prepare better and make it harder for some of these people to keep coming back. They couldn't even drive up and down some of the alleys in a UTV. There needs to be more weed eating done. It's bad when even a city employee has high weeds. Pat says they all need to work together and do better. Amy needs to remind Ernie to pull meters. Pat says they may need to raise deposits and reconnect fees. Joey says revising some of the Ordinances has helped tremendously. Pat says the company that knocked down the poles and lines should have to pay for it, not the city. Lindy said the house condemnations is a prime example of costs and what the city tries to do to keep the town like they want it. It's a big expense.

Becky Walden stated that Homecoming will hold a chicken and noodle dinner along with a car and motorcycle show October 12th.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32PM

