

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 3, 2025

CITY HALL

121 S. MERIDIAN

Mayor Truman called the budget presentation workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Matt Stamm, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter, Robert Wilson, Chris Evans and Ronald Colbert.

Members Absent: Ben Anderson

Staff Present: Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director
Kyle Fiedler, Community Development Director
Neal Owings, Parks and Public Buildings Director
Brent Clark, City Administrator
Clint Miller, Finance Director
Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk

PRESENTATIONS

City Administrator reported on the Public Works department in the absence of Director Eggleston. Heavy rain and flooding throughout the day required Eggleston and his department to continue working after hours. The public works department has 4 separate areas, streets, water, wastewater and stormwater. The streets division maintains 74.4 miles of streets and roads. Clark stated that departments have all worked to trim budgets. A decrease of \$2,478.00 is requested with the decrease made up of salaries and benefits and minor operational changes.

The water department is requesting additional funding. Clark explained that \$179,271 will be budgeted for a vacuum/jetter truck under Capital Outlay. This number includes a \$150,000 down payment which will be split 75% Water and 25% Sewer. The remaining \$66,771 are debt payments on the truck which total \$7,419 per month. Plans for a \$250,000 one-time transfer of 250k to employee benefits under Other/Misc. and \$200,000 increase in water purchases from Wichita due to the ongoing drought under contractual were also included.

A \$50,000 cleaning was removed from contractals this year with the purchase of the Vacuum/Jetter truck mentioned earlier. Capital Outlay increased with the one-time down payment + monthly payments for the Vacuum/Jetter truck. Salaries and benefits increased. Total decrease in budget request is \$20669.00.

Kyle Fiedler, Community Development Director, stated that his department processed 116 residential permits in 2024. Single family housing permits in 2025 total 28. The department is kept very busy with permits, inspections and utility locates. A change in the budget request for 2026 is \$20,000.00 designated for economic development housing advertising. This allows \$15,000.00 to be allocated to local partnerships to ensure investment back to the community. The \$29,602 increase is made up of salaries and benefits, telephone, travel, merchant services, IT, and restructuring of outside agency support.

Parks and Public Buildings Director Owings and his department consist of himself and 4 full-time employees. His staff are responsible for all things outdoors and in public buildings. Owings explained that an increase in contractual services such as mowing and custodial services will allow for minimal increase to the budget request as he will plan to leave one full-time position unfilled. An increase of \$6,258 is requested. Future budget items to keep in mind will be play equipment at both Lions and McLaughlin Parks and repair or replacement to the picnic pavilion and the gazebo.

Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director, requested an increase of \$35,825 for the police department. He stated 3 positions will be unfilled. Newman requested an increase of \$30,616 for the Fire Department. This will allow for larger wage increase to stay competitive with the area.

Kerstetter moved to adjourn the work session, seconded by Stamm. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried. Session adjourned at 6:54pm. Mayor Truman reminded everyone the regular Council meeting will begin at 7:00pm

Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk

City Clerk, Kristi Carrithers swore Amy Reid into the position of Ward 4 City Council Member. She was appointed to fill the remainder of Clint Bass's term following his resignation.

Mayor Truman called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Matt Stamm, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter, Robert Wilson, Amy Reid, Chris Evans and Ronald Colbert.

Members Absent: Ben Anderson

Staff Present: Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director
Neal Owings, Parks and Public Buildings Director
Kyle Fiedler, Community Development Director
Gage Scheer, City Engineer
Brent Clark, City Administrator
Clint Miller, Finance Director
Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk/HR Director

Press present: The Ark Valley News

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Truman requested the agenda be amended to include the final budget presentations. Added as New Business, item C. Gregory moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Stamm. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA –

Stamm moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025, regular City Council meeting as presented, seconded by Colbert. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS – NONE

PUBLIC FORUM – NONE

APPOINTMENTS –

Mayor Truman requested re-appointment of Travis Bryant to the Recreation Commission. This four-year term will go through June 2029. Kerstetter made a motion to approve the appointment of Travis Bryant to the Recreation Commission. Motion seconded by Gregory. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS –

A. ORDINANCE 1426-25; RIDGEFIELD SPEED LIMIT

Public Works Director Newman requested final approval of Ordinance 1426-25. This Ordinance will lower the maximum speed limit to 20-mph within the Ridgefield Development.

Stamm moved to approve Ordinance 1426-25 which establishes a maximum speed limit of 20 mph within the Ridgefield Development for 2nd reading. Motion seconded by Evan. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING WAG'EN TAIL RANCH SIGN

Mayor Truman opened discussion on Wag'en Tail Ranch sign. Jarrod West, 104 Northwind Dr., spoke in opposition to City funding of the sign. He stated that as a business owner within the city limits, he would love to have the city pay for a sign as would many other businesses within the city limits. Anything located within the City Right of Way has always been placed with the understanding that it is at your own risk. This is not the City responsibility. Councilmember Kerstetter stated he doesn't think the city has any obligation to pay for a replacement. Stacy Miles, owner of Wag'en Tail Ranch verified that the estimate of 1898.75 was just for the vinyl. She also stated that she contacted the city to ask if they should remove it. Administrator Clark stated Pearson damaged the posts and the roof when they removed the sign for the project. However, per minutes from the February 6, 2018 and November 5, 2019 Council meetings, there was no obligation from the City to notify Ms. Miles regarding removal of sign. Also the permits issued both showed the total value of the sign was \$400.00.

Kerstetter moved that no action be taken by Council or the City. Second, by Stamm. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

Gregory asked if any photos of the damage were provided. Administrator Clark stated that Councilmember Anderson had received some photos, but Ms. Miles hadn't ever provided any to staff. Miles stated she doesn't use her phone for email, so she wasn't able to send them to Clark.

NEW BUSINESS-

A. PBS KANSAS – CITY SPONSORSHIP

Administrator Clark presented the partnership request received from PBS-Kansas. Clark stated that the City did not take advantage of the commercial so they plan on getting 2 this year. Council had a discussion on the amount of the partnership and whether the funding would be better utilized by staying local with the limited dollars. Different ways to advertise our City and new developments were discussed with most expressing concern on the usefulness of billboard advertising. Evans stated that he would like to step down the partnership level not just cut it entirely. Amy Reid reported that we are the only city with this type of partnership and questioned whether anyone sees the promotions and advertisements. Gregory watches and supports the programing on PBS and feels it is beneficial.

Kerstetter moved to stop the partnership with PBS-Kansas. Motion seconded by Stamm. Vote yea: Kerstetter, Reid and Stamm. Opposed Colbert, Wilson, Gregory and Evans. Motion failed.

Evans asked staff to contact Victor Hogstrom with PBS and present a lower proposal at a future meeting.

Colbert moved to table the final decision pending lower amounts of partnerships options. Gregory seconded the motion. Vote aye: Colbert, Wilson, Reid, Gregory and Evans. Opposed: Stamm. Motion carried.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC DEDICATIONS FROM HIGH POINT ESTATES FINAL PLAT

Community Development Director Fiedler presented public dedications for acceptance as part of the Final Plat for High Point Estates. This subdivision is located northwest of the intersection of High Point Road and East Point Road. This 5 acres tract has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Board with public hearings held. Fiedler explained that part of the easements will clean up part of the road that cuts across the property. Kerstetter inquired whether the lots would be large enough for septic systems. Fiedler explained that all plats must meet current regulations but acknowledged that there has been opposition

from neighbors near the area. Kerstetter asked about the process but didn't like that this would not come back before Council.

Kerstetter moved to table any decision on acceptance of dedication pending consultation with City Attorney. Evans seconded the motion. Mayor Truman reminded the Council that the Planning and Zoning Board did everything by the book and within their authority. Vote aye: unanimous. Motion carried.

C. 2026 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Finance Director Miller and City Clerk Carrithers presented budget information from Admin. Carrithers presented information on increase to Court budget which includes increase to judge and attorney salaries. Carrithers presented the senior services budget. Senior service expenses have always been paid by admin and the parks department. Last year Sedgwick County requested details of expenses pertaining to the Senior Center. Funds are being re-allocated to track those expenses for future Sedgwick County funding requests. Miller presented other Administration budget requests. The Contractuals increased for two reasons: 1. Rec Center insurance was \$32,000 absorbed fully by Admin. 2. We are also transitioning to a cloud hosted environment from servers. Admin will be first to move in 2026 and we will have a one-time cost of \$34,615. This should be savings of 17-20k annually for Admin going forward once installed. Public Safety will be the next transition in 2027 at a similar one-time expense.

Other/Misc - The increase from 2025 was entirely from increases in Property Tax Rebates for houses and businesses from 2025 Budgeted to 2026 Requested.

Wilson questioned how the expenses for the community building were split between the City and the Library. Owings explained it has been split based on square foot in the building.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – JUNE 3, 2025

B. DELINQUENT ACCOUNT REPORT – MARCH 2025

C. PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MINUTES – MAY 27, 2025

Stamm moved, seconded by Kerstetter, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote Yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FIEDLER

Announced that the Farmer's Market will be this Thursday with plans for 22 vendors. He also reminded residents about Flood Insurance. Policy will not be in force for 30 days from purchase.

PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS DIRECTOR OWNINGS

Owings announced that William Dillman has received certification for Playground Safety Inspector.

CITY ENGINEER SCHEER

The plans for the Seneca Street project are being finalized with plans to begin construction early fall. Reported on progress on Meridian project. Due to the flooding, Sedgwick County and City of Wichita assisted with pumps to move the water over the floodway. The high water in the floodway held the flaps shut.

CITY CLERK/HR DIRECTOR CARRITHERS

City staff on the safety committee will meet for the annual workman's comp safety audit tomorrow. This audit determines the rating we receive from KMIT.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK

Shout out to Sedgwick County for their assistance today.

GOVERNING BODY REPORTS –

MAYOR TRUMAN

Thanked all the City crew that worked so hard today and this evening on the flooded streets. Welcome new Councilmember Amy Reid.

COUNCILMEMBER WILSON

Thanked the department heads for the budget presentations.

COUNCILMEMBER REID

Thanked Mayor Truman and the Council for appointing her to serve as Councilmember. She has filed with the County to run in the next election. As a 3rd generation resident, she is excited to serve her ward.

COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY

The date of the Local Emergency Preparedness meeting has been moved to September 13, 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER STAMM

Thanked the staff for working hard to maintain or lower budgets. Looking forward to final budget numbers.

Stamm moved to adjourn, second by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: Unanimous.

ADJOURN -

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk