

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS COUNCIL MINUTES

April 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the City of Cottonwood Falls was called to order at 6:01 pm in the Municipal Meeting Room. * Meeting started late due to the work session meeting about the dog ordinances with Jacob Welsh, Strong City and Chase County.

Those present at the meeting were Mayor Buddy Sisson, Council Members: Ryan Spinden, Nick Rogers, and Grant Edwards. Scott Gumfory, Utilities Supervisor, and Tina Andrews, City Clerk. Greg Campbell and Mike Hasting were absent.

Agenda Approval: Nick Rogers motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ryan Spinden, passed unanimously.

Previous Minutes Approval: Nick Rogers motioned to approve prior minutes, seconded by Ryan Spinden, passed unanimously.

Guests: Lisa Vega, Aaron Doty, and Ray McGeorge

Lisa Vega asked the City Council if they would again be sponsors their Hot Dog Feed for the Strong City Rodeo. The sponsorship will include ads on the radio, banners, and flyers. Grant Edwards motioned to sponsor the Hot Dog Feed, seconded by Nick Rogers, motion carried. Lisa thanked the council. Scott asked if a dumpster would be needed at the hot dog feed where they are setting up, Lisa liked the idea. Scott will oversee this service.

Aaron Doty, Superintendent USD 284, talked about the garage that was donated to them by the Symphony. They are needing to put two – 14 foot garage doors on the east side of the building. USD 284 will need to add an approach to the new garage doors so they will be able to utilize the building. The concern is the drainage and the culvert on the street; the new driveway would interfere with this area. He explained the concrete work that would be required for the driveway. The council and Scott agreed that the driveway should not be a problem. Mayor Sisson suggested having someone to draw up a plan to have the design approved by the council.

Aaron talked about the need for two new No Parking signs on Friend Street between State & Cherry Street that would not allow any parking on this street between the hours of 3 – 4 pm. Aaron will reach out to Sheriff Welsh to see where the best area to post the signs and enforce them, he will meet with the bus supervisor, and the person who oversees the safety for the crosswalks before the final decision is made and will inform the council about this. He also talked about the upcoming football season if fireworks would still be all right to shoot off during the games. The fireworks would be after the national anthem, when the home team football players run onto the field, and after the Bulldogs score a touchdown. The council did not see a problem with this. No extra fireworks would be allowed, except for evaluating the fireworks. Nick Rogers motioned that fireworks could be used after the Bulldogs scored touchdown(s), before the game when the Bulldogs football team runs on the field, and after the national anthem. Ryan Spinden seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The council talked with Aaron about the drainage and the rain run-off from at the school and if a fuser could be added to the drainpipe. He would investigate it.

Ray McGeorge talked about the 250th America Anniversary / 4th of July event, he would like to have everything on Friday, July 3rd. for all the events. He wants to invite other municipalities and townships to participate, like Diamond Creek & Middle Creek with their antiques and horses. He would like to reach out to Annie Wilson and the Emma Chase Friday Night Music Group to perform at Swope Park instead of downtown, since the 3rd is the first Friday of the month. He believes a Steering Committee needs to be formed to get things done in a timely manner. He asked the City Council to help recruit people and post information on Facebook to get people interested. Some ideas he had were to invite a high school student, veteran, schoolteacher, business owner, 4-H member, and/or fair member, to be a representative on the Steering Committee. He hopes that other community members participate in other organizations such as Horse Clubs, Antique Car Club, Cruising Club, Chase County offices, and members from the other communities in the area. He would like the council to nominate a member of the community to be on the Steering Committee. Tina will email all the council members as a reminder.

MAYOR REPORT:

Building Permit:

Philip & Stephanie Williams – 415 Plum Street, CWF, KS – New Wood Fence – Pickets

Motion to approve permit was given by Nick Rogers, seconded by Ryan Spinden, motion carried.

Building Permit:

Nathan & Ashia Passmore – 505 Mill Street, CWF, KS – Residential Garage

Motion to approve permit was given by Ryan Spinden, seconded by Nick Rogers, motion carried.

Special Event Request:

Lee Anne Coester – Old School Development District – Logan Mize Concert – May 22, 2026 : 518 Third Street, CWF, KS

- Temporary Permit Location & Zoning (ABC-892) to be sent to the ABC by Lee Anne Coester.

Motion to approve permit was given by Grant Edwards, seconded by Ryan Spinden, motion carried.

Ordinance No. 1005 – Utility Task Vehicles

An Ordinance Amending the 52nd Edition – 2025 Kansas STO – Ordinance No. 1002 – Section 114-5 Unlawful Operation of Work-site Vehicle. Allowing the Operation of Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) within the City Limits of Cottonwood Falls, KS.

- Chase County Sheriff Office will need to conduct an inspection, registered with the CCSO & be issued a permit.

Nick Rogers motion to approve Ordinance No. 1005, seconded by Ryan Spinden, motion carried.

Mayor Sisson and Council member Mike Hastings will be attending a PWWSO No. 26 – Strong City meeting. A discussion on adjusting water rates is on the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Chase County Recreation Commission has asked the City of Cottonwood Falls to be a sponsor for the Chase County Kids Fishing Derby on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at the Chase County Lake. Nick Rogers motioned to sponsor the Chase County Kids Fishing Derby for the amount \$250.00, passed by consensus.

HB-2481- 2026 Amendments to Kansas Liquor Laws: FIFA World Cup 2026 – June 11, 2026 – through July 19, 2026.

23 Hour: 6:00 am to 5:00 am – no alcohol can be sold between 5:00 am – 6:00 am. The council decided to go ahead and proceed with HB-2481 amendments – Tina will type up an ordinance as required, the council will need to approve and vote on the ordinance at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 1005 – Utility Task Vehicles

An Ordinance Amending the 52nd Edition – 2025 Kansas STO – Ordinance No. 1002 – Section 114-5 Unlawful Operation of Work-site Vehicle. Allowing the Operation of Utility Task Vehicles (UTVS) within the city limits of Cottonwood Falls, KS.

- Chase County Sheriff Office will need to conduct an inspection, registered with the CCSO & be issued a permit.

Nick Rogers motion to approve Ordinance No. 1005, seconded by Ryan Spinden, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fair Building liability insurance was discussed. No action taken.

Cavalry Barn Museum Fund was discussed; it is recommended by our insurance agent to have the volunteers sign a waiver release form working on the project. Only city employees would be covered by the city's work comp policy. The council would believe it would be beneficial to the city and protect them.

As per the accountant they must vote on creating a new fund for the Cavalry Barn Museum Fund. Nick Rogers motioned to create the Cavalry Fund Museum Fund, seconded by Ryan Spinden, motion carried. Tina will prepare a new ordinance pertaining to this for the next meeting.

CITY CLERK:

Ordinance No. 956 was discussed. The ordinance does not seem to coordinate with an issue in town. Tina will type a letter to the person in violation.

Fireworks postcards and banners design are being prepared, no official decision has been approved on either design.

UTILITIES REPORT:

KDHE responded to the extension request for the Sludge Measurement Assessment and the Operation & Maintenance, erosion around the lagoons. The Sludge Measurement Assessment deadline request has been extended to December 1, 2026. Scott has contacted Kansas Rural Water Association / Charles Schwindaman to put on his schedule for the process, and it is free of charge, hopefully sometime this summer. KDHE will need a written statement that the city has a plan to

follow, and the issue will be addressed. Scott has called Harshman's for a quote and a few other businesses were recommended to contact for a quote. The city requested for extension until the end of 2027, KDHE wants documentation and information sent to them on progress of the process.

Spring Clean Up – Scott has contacted Dumpster Pro on the cost of the container. Matt Markley, Strong City & Jacob Welsh, Chase County, said they would help pay for the cost of the dumpster. Cost is \$400, each dump after would be an additional \$200. Saturday, April 25th through May 2nd, 2025. Scott said they would pick up the dumpster sometime on May 3rd. They also have been working on the courtyard at the Municipal Building. Replaced the broken up limestone edging with concrete & in the process of working on the landscaping.

Sidenote: Connie Baumgardner called Mayor Sisson and will start working on the planters on Broadway. This will be her last year, and we will have to find someone to replace her. Ryan suggested a floral organization from high school. Scott had someone look at replacing the edging around the playground equipment. This would replace the timber to keep the rubber mulch contained. Scott will purchase more mulch once the edging is finished. Scott had the swing sets repainted before the clean-up.

Staff Policy & Relations:

Economics, Tax & Finance:

Parks & Recreation: Nick talked about the benches for Swope Park he is talking to a designer and with Ron at the high school for a school project for next year. Grant and Nick helped organize the Swope Park Clean Up, they had the supplies and the power washer (donated by Scott) for the project. Both agreed everything looked much better.

Nick recommended making it an annual event and giving them a free pass to use the pool afterwards, later in the summer. Mayor Sisson asked if any of the other council would like to be an administrator on Facebook.

Community Relations: Ryan resolved the storm drainage tunnel with Pat Larkin when he explained the area on their tour.

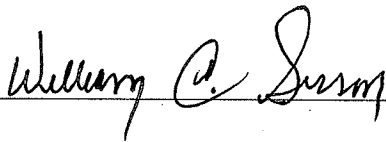
Capital Improvements:

APPROVAL OF: Payroll, Taxes, EFT's, and Bills:

Ryan Spinden presented the bill payment checks, EFT's, QuickBooks payroll figures, and overtime. Federal, Medicare & Social Security, and State Withholdings, KPERS . Motion to approve the information presented by Ryan Spinden seconded by Nick Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Ryan Spinden, seconded by Nick Rogers, motion carried: Time 7:47 pm.

Mayor William Sisson:



Attest:

Tina Andrews, City Clerk:



City Seal: