

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS COUNCIL MINUTES

February 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the City of Cottonwood Falls was called to order at 6:00 pm in the Municipal Meeting Room.

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

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

Previous Minutes Approval: Greg Campbell motioned to approve prior minutes, seconded by Mike Hastings, passed unanimously.

No Guests – No Unscheduled Visitors

City Attorney Report:

Mayors Report:

Advantage Computer Software – Sonic Wall – Quote.

The Council was interested in more details on the upgrade, and more information is needed before a decision is made. Tina will email Advantage Computers to answer some questions and investigate other options.

Uniform Public Offense Code:

The council reviewed the email and agreed to purchase the UPOC. Tina will prepare a resolution at the next meeting and purchase the booklets from Kansas League of Municipalities.

Old Business:

Water / Sewage Comparison Report was reviewed and discussed.

Mike Hastings noted that the base rate was at 1K, not what the report showed. Tina will correct the report's information. Scott also explained when they read the meters and how it will affect the water bill. The mayor is asking for the purchases of water information amounts. After reviewing the water rates chart, they are asking for a sewage rates charge. Tina will develop the chart and P&L for the next meeting. They also wanted to know when the sewage rates were last increased.

* February 17, 2020. Ordinance #785

4th of July / 250 Anniversary of America banners was discussed. The council wanted to discuss the options to be presented by the city to Chase County Chamber and Chase County offices. Tina will prepare the proposals and drop them off to the Chamber & Chase County for their board & council to discuss and decide on.

City Clerk Report:

Tina explained the costs of items that might be purchased for the 4th of July. Members of the community were discussed for a Leadership role for the July 4th / 250th Anniversary of America events. No decision was made.

BCBS Health Insurance information was discussed. No action taken.

Tina called Hadley Gillum (Freedom Choice) about other options, he will get back with her with the results.

Proof of cash report is in the council notebooks.

LEPC – FEMA - Emergency Support Functions meeting: Terri & Tina will attend.

Yard Sale was discussed: Toni Schneider gave Tina a postcard about “THE HWY 56 SALES SCRAMBLE”.

No information was received by the city or a phone call about this from them.

It was decided that the current yard sale date will stay the same: May 2, 2026.

Utilities Supervisor Report:

Scott called City of Emporia about a dumpster for a city wide free dump date was discussed. He is exploring the options.

They have been clearing areas and ditches by removing trees at Swope Park. They have been adding some rocks to certain areas for drainage.

He has been working on some projects at the pool.

They have kept the dump locked and will collaborate with the community if they need to make a weekend dump. He recommends that they call and talk to him beforehand.

Sterling truck sale: he has some calls, and someone is looking at it tomorrow. Truck is starting up; he is seeing no issues.

Tunnel has been looked at an estimate from Professional Stoney Masonry. To help fund the project Scott has spoken to Kansas Commerce about two bills that could help fund the project.

HB2302 – Storm Drainage: Grant money is available, must apply in September of 2026 for 2027. All the funds have been used for 2026, the bill sunsets in 2028, but HB2558 will extend that timeline.

These funds could be used for the sewage system and lagoons; he will be in contact with Kansas Rural Water Association for some measurements.

Scott is working on the culvert for Brendan Potter.

Parks & Recreation: Nick Rogers made some phone calls about benches for the park. The timeframe might be an issue; it may be until next year when the artist/designer would be collaborating with the school on this project.

Other Business:

A building permit for Plum Street was discussed. *Tina drove by the area and there was a permit issued on November 4, 2025 – Garage. Building Permit #2025-15.

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

Motion to adjourn by Mike Hastings & seconded by Nick Rogers @ 7:09 pm.