

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS COUNCIL MINUTES January 19, 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, and Grant Edwards. Utilities Supervisor Scott Gumfory, and Tina Andrews, City Clerk. Stuart Symmonds was absent.

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

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

Guests:

Wade Coester of Prairie Pasttimes LLC presented a document to Mayor Sisson. He explained they are leaving the municipal building by March 31st; they will be moving to 331 Broadway. They have been renting the building for ten years. The council wished them luck in their new location. His document said: *"This is to give written notice that Prairie Pasttimes LLC will be terminating its lease of space in the City Building at 220 1/2 Broadway as of the end of March 2026. We will pay our final monthly rent to cover the month of March 2026, and will be vacating the building during that month, our last month of occupancy. We are providing advance notice in an effort to help provide the City more time to find a new occupant for the space."*

Scott Wiltse wanted the council to review the Kansas Homeland Security Region I Hazard Mitigation Plan that was sent to the city office and then forwarded to the council members. The council will review the information and vote on a later date on the resolution. He asked the council to review and discuss the plan and call if they have any questions. The storm sirens are all online, and Tina has ended the service with AT&T.

They talked about the dam and options they have with funding if there is repair needed. He will be reaching out to Senator Moran and if funding can be added to a legislative bill and/or federal level.

**Side note: Senate Bill 125 passed in early 2026 Water & Conservation / Page 6*

The Community Building will be used for a Storm Spotter meeting at no charge on March 11th.

Mayors Report:

The Council talked about the dam, and they believe the water is coming through. The costs should not be the City of Cottonwood Falls responsibility.

Ken & Lisa Rogler – 333 Broadway Street design plans were discussed. *(A drop ceiling would be in the apartment area, and they would keep the current ceiling above the drop ceiling and the retail / commercial space in front. The retail space would be 1265 sq feet, the studio apartment 500 sq feet, storage 600 sq feet and a patio area. The patio area does not have fencing but a low barrier around the boundary premises).* Ryan Spinden motioned to approve the design plans and the information presented to the council on January 5th, 2026, for 333 Broadway, Nick Rogers seconded, motion passed.

Tablets are in, they will be ready at the next meeting.

City Clerk Report:

Larkin request was sent to the new council members.

Nick Rogers asked and received the 2026 approved budget & the 2024 audit.

Terri has updated the trash rates for the 2026 trash rates increase.

Discussion on the ice machine request for the community building. It was decided not to purchase an ice machine due to costs and additional maintenance costs.

The resident request from Matfield Green for a poly cart was discussed. Greg Campbell will reach out to her and see if he has a solution for her request.

City Wide Yard Sale will be on May 2, 2026. Rain date will be May 23, 2026.

Tina talked about the new desks, filing cabinets and painting in the office. Everything looks amazing.

Terri and Tina would like to thank Brandon, Larry & Scott for all their hard work.

Jan Sciacia of the Council Grove Republican is asking for the council members to consider purchasing a subscription hard copy or online version. They are the City's official newspaper.

Proof of Cash report is in the notebooks.

Two bench catalogs arrived if they want to review.

Other Business:

Jean Fillmore requested a handicap ramp in front of the Chase County Pharmacy. The council talked about the handicap ramps that are already there in that area. Tina checked with the pharmacy & said they had one or two clients that were in wheelchairs. They usually use the one three parking spaces down from their business. No action taken.

Greg Campbell talked about the zoning regulations that were explained in the documents. His concerns were residence in a business district requiring approval. He is still reviewing all the information and will present a summarization of the zoning regulations.

Prairie Pasttimes utilities and rent were discussed since they announced their departure.

Mayor Sisson asked the council to think about what could be used with the space.

The council discussed putting up banners for the semi quincentennial for the July 4th Celebration.

Tina will check on pricing of the banners and talk to Toni Schneider (Chamber) & Chase County about sharing the costs of the banners. Scott will let Tina know of how many lights poles there are. Tina will reach out to Matt of Strong City to see if they want to participate with the banners for the light poles between the cities. The discussion on the Veteran's banners on their timeline. Ryan explained this is being reviewed by the veterans committee.

Boyce Baumgardner Annual Disc Golf Tournament was discussed. Tina will contact Dynamic Disc on the date planned in October. Uncertain about a spring event, she will ask them about this.

Utilities Supervisor:

Scott has called Reid-Weidman on the toilets and shower heads & valves for the pool.

He is looking for new benches for Swope Park. Carl Kop has looked at the tunnel and will present his suggestions in the future. They discussed the repair work they may be needed in the tunnel.

Scott had some information ready about the cameras they may want to install around the city shop, Swope park, and the river bridge. Mayor Sisson talked about a "repeater" to be used instead of a monthly internet bill for the community building and summer internet for the pool.

STAFF POLICY & RELATIONS: Hastings & Sisson

STREETS ALLEY & PROPERTIES: Hastings & Campbell

PARKS & RECREATION: Edwards & Rogers: Mayor Sisson suggested custom metal benches. Nick Rogers knew of a person and the high school was mentioned because they have a plasma cutter. Ryan Spinden knew of a person that could design the benches and another person that could build them. Grant Edwards knew of a person that could make stone benches.

SIDEWALKS: Edwards & Sisson: Ramp will be investigated in front of the pharmacy.

ECONOMICS, TAXATION & FINANCE: Rogers, Spinden, Campbell

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Spinden & Hastings

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Sisson, Spinden, Rogers

Mike Hastings presented the bill payment checks & voided check, 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 Nick Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn given by Mike Hastings at 6:51 pm, seconded by Nick Rogers, passed unanimously.