

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS COUNCIL MINUTES

July 21, 2025

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

Those present at the meeting were Mayor, Buddy Sisson, Council Members Greg Campbell, Chris Carathers, Mike Hastings, Bill Kewley, Ryan Spinden. Utilities Supervisor, Scott Gumfory and Tina Andrews, City Clerk.

Mayor Sisson called meeting to order at 6:01pm.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bill Kewley, seconded by Chris Carathers, approved motion.

A motion was made by Greg Campbell, seconded by Ryan Spinden to approve of the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

GUEST: Jacob Welsh, Chase County Sheriff

Jacob Welsh requested an Executive Session. Ryan Spinden motion for Executive Session for non-elected personnel at 6:02 pm, seconded by Bill Kewley. Motion carried. Executive Session was called for five minutes. Executive Session was called out of order at 6:07 by Chris Carathers with no action at this time, seconded, motion carried.

Jacob Welsh informed the council about updating the gauge for tracking the river level.

Jacob proposed updating the city's traffic ordinance pertaining to Utility Terrain Vehicles / All-Terrain Vehicles – Side by Side (bench seat). The Sheriff Office would require a vehicle inspection to issue a permit (serialized sticker) for use in the city limits. The current STO Edition of 2023 has UTV's illegal to drive on the city streets. This does not include four-wheelers to be legal. He has a draft that he will send the city attorney and city office for review. The Sheriff's office will implement the procedure of the inspections and develop a triplicate form and send it to the office.

He explained the differences in Standard Traffic Ordinances for Kansas Cities and suggested adopting the new STO annually at the first meeting in January.

The Sheriff Office would like to start issuing citations for illegal parking, abandoned / junk vehicles, expired tags, and vehicles parking illegally on streets and personal property. He would like the city to update the city ordinance pertaining to these violations. Scott and the city personnel will inform the city office of the locations of these violations. He will send Tina a sample of an ordinance on motor vehicles nuisances. He cannot do anything for violators with vehicles on their property, only on the streets with the STO Edition 2023.

Chelsie Dieker and Janis Meyer (Wright C.P.A.) will be here on September 15, 2025, for the budget report. Tina delivered the papers to the courthouse on July 17th -Notice of Hearing to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate & Budget Hearing Report.

Mayor Sisson informed them to go ahead and exceed the RNR, and our proposed mill levy rate. – Date of hearing is September 15, 2025 @ 6 pm at the Municipal Building. Connie also requested to be sent the budget summary for the hearing. It was emailed on July 21.

Pool Update: The pool fund raising committee from Chase County Recreation and the community has put everything on hold.

Water rates will be reviewed and discussed in the future. Trash rates changes will be reviewed and contracts updated. Tabled until next meeting.

Core & Mann – Advantage Computers – Jayhawk (Iola, KS) – Estimate was discussed for new utility bill system. Cost increase will be starting next year. Core & Mann is researching other options according to their representative.

KDOT – Resolution: will need to be reviewed by the City Attorney. No action taken.

Chase County LHMP Actions: Scott Wiltse will be attending the next council meeting.

Cottonwood Fall Music Festival: Information presented on the ABC Temporary Permit and Location Zoning Map. The Council has approved the festival, has concerns on logistics. Permit will be sent to Jacob Welsh for his approval. Ryan Spinden motion to approve the Temporary Permit and Zoning map, it was seconded by Chris Carathers, motion passed. ** Side note: Jacob Welsh did not approve the zoning, and had concerns about parking, security and other details. ** Approval of permit is on hold.

City Clerk Report:

Updated on the Fireworks fund.

Job posting on the Public Works Laborer, in the newspaper, Facebook & cwfks.org.

Tina called Kurt & Sheila Steinkuhler on roof leak in office. He will repair it for free. Monday, July 21, Wray Roofing repaired roof.

Connie Baumgardner has asked for a dog waste station. The Council did not approve.

Strong City Water Program: Terri has called Yvonne, information on charges and costs.

Larry has mowed three overgrown properties. Two were repeats.

Council reviewed the information on the new council chairs. It was decided to order nine leather chairs.

Utilities Supervisor Report:

Scott has made copies of the information that Terri posted on Facebook on the trash requirements.

They are taping them on top of the lids of the poly carts if they have not followed the requirements.

Scott presented the Mayer – Sanitary Sewer Collection System renewal agreement for 2026 through 2028. There will be an annual increase as per discussion. The council will table discussion on the agreement.

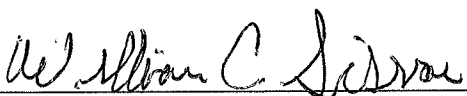
Water drainage tunnel repair was discussed and the repair procedure. A company reviewed the pictures that were sent to the office. Mayor Sisson would like an engineer to come out and investigate the tunnel before a decision is made.

Scott would like to order new poly carts. The city discussed the inventory, no decision made.


Mike Hastings presented the check numbers and voided checks; he motions to approve checks and voided checks; Chris Carathers seconded it. Motion passed unanimously, Mike presented the payroll, payroll overtime and EFTs for direct deposits and payment of withholding taxes. Mike motions to approve those transactions, seconded by Bill Kewley. Motion passed unanimously.

Tina made some mistakes on the information sheet. Adjustments were made motioned to approve, seconded and motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm by Mike Hastings, seconded by Bill Kewley. Motion carried.



William C. Sisson, Mayor



Tina Andrews, City Clerk