

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS COUNCIL MINUTES

July 6, 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: Mike Hastings, Greg Campbell, Nick Rogers, Stuart Symmonds, City Attorney, Scott Gumfory, Utilities Supervisor, and Tina Andrews, City Clerk. Grant Edwards & Ryan Spinden were absent.

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

Guests: Felicia Sidler & Greg Davis, Chase County Recreation Board Members addressed a concern with the swimming pool project. The recreation has asked for an agreement between the City of Cottonwood Falls pertaining to the years following the completion of pool and services provided by the city. The recreation has asked the city to pay for the costs of the water when filling and maintaining the water level. Greg mentioned there would need to be training for the process of opening & closing the pool provided by the contractors. They do not have the staff for opening and closing the pool and "light" maintenance for the pool and restrooms. The city still pays for the equipment, chemicals, and concessions. The city also provides landline phone and internet for the pool. The city also pays for all the staff except for the pool manager. (The recreation started paying the pool manager salary in the 2026 pool season). The Chase County Recreation would be willing to take over all the payroll next year. Felicia mentioned they also pay for some of the concessions. Greg said the board wanted to go with the plans provided by the Carrothers Brothers and hand one copy in hand. They will discuss specifics with their board and provide the information to the council. The recreation would like to receive the swimming pool daily deposits for concessions, admissions, and sponsorships to be given to their organization. Stuart Symmonds will review this matter; he will need specifics for the agreement pertaining to both parties. After they left the meeting the council mentioned they would like more information on the plans and would like copies for review of the swimming pool project design and dimensions. Tina would send Cindy an email regarding their requests. * Received email with documentation & sent to council members July 14, 2026.

Dan Potter asked the city to help cover the costs of sidewalks for his property at the corner of Pine & Main Street. He presented a quote from Schlup Construction, and the council would like to review the quote and assess the sidewalk area before a decision is made. Dan asked when a decision would be made. Mayor Sisson replied it would take approximately a month to reach a decision; it would give them enough time to assess the sidewalk and receive information for grants for sidewalks.

Mayor Sisson asked Scott Gumfory if he would investigate the costs of the concrete.

MAYOR REPORT:

Cindy Jensen -2025 Audit Approval & Fee of \$7,900 was discussed. Nick Rogers motioned the approval of Cindy Jensen Audit Engagement letter & Fee of \$7,900, Mike Hastings seconded, motion carried.

As per agenda the council approved the extension dates for the Old School Fireworks Sales from June 29th to June 27th. Tina sent an email on June 16, 2026 & the council members individually sent emails back. The council approved the request for the extension.

As per agenda the council approved the request from Brenda Wessel for the city to sponsor a free swim day on July 3rd, 2026. Tina sent an email to all the council members on June 4, 2026 & the council members individually sent emails back. The council approved the request. (Due to staff obligations regarding family matters the pool had to close due to the shortage of lifeguards).

OTHER BUSINESS:

Crystal Hinnen – Grant Funding – Mayor Sisson has been communicating with Crystal Hinnen on grants for loan forgiveness for the Public Water Supply Revolving Loan Program, this grant would write-off 80% of the loan. Sisson discussed grant funding for the lagoon project. More information will be available after July 23; there have been updates and changes, the

online seminar will provide details. A grant may also be available for the county for the dam project. Mayor Sisson will meet with Steve Booettcher of BG Consultants about the lagoons.

250th Celebration Block Party & the Chase County / City of Cottonwood Falls fireworks display were both well attended. The kids enjoyed the glow wands & sticks. The commemorative coins and 250th flags were well received & appreciated. The 250th Banner with the children's handprints looked great. The council appreciated Scott and the other city employees who built the frame & hauled the frame to the Rogler courtyard. They put up the new 4th of July & 250th America Anniversary banners, 250th flags & US flags at Swope Park, barricades, and poly carts for the block party. Their work helped make the event a success.

Mayor suggested making this celebration / block party an annual event. He also recommended purchasing gift cards for those volunteers who prepare and discharged the fireworks display. The council discussed the fireworks funds and expenses.

Nick Rogers motioned to purchase the \$100 gift cards given to each of the individuals who volunteered on the firework display. Motion seconded by Mike Hastings, passed unanimously.

Mayor Sisson will inform Tina of the quantity needed.

Janet Ayers approached Mike Hastings to have a tree removed on the grounds of the library. Mayor Sisson asked Scott to get a quote of the tree removal.

CITY CLERK:

Dan Riggs called the office and wanted to thank "the guys" that picked up his limbs, they did an excellent job.

Tina & Janis Meyer are preparing for the audit.

Fern Blount asked for a deduction on her bill due to a leak. The council will follow precedence and allow adjustments to the sewer fees.

Mayor Sisson and Terri Davis (Utility Clerk) have been discussing the possibility of developing a new policy regarding a security deposit fee for all new accounts due to the water bills that have not been paid after leaving town, with no forwarding address. Timeline for security deposit refunds and procedures pertaining to all matters regarding a new policy was discussed. Stuart recommended consistency for all customers on the new process for setting up any procedures or regulations regarding the security deposit fee and shut off / reconnect fee. Mike & Stuart mentioned if a new policy is set up, it should state that other arrangements may be made through the City of Cottonwood Falls. The policy should be published in the newspaper, website, Facebook & public bulletin. The council discussed many options & would like Tina to research other municipalities' policies.

Mike Hastings suggested that if a letter is required for the new policy pertaining to the security deposit fee & reconnect fee he would like to remind city residents of city Ordinance No. 981, about debris litter, grass clippings, and such on the streets is a violation and can be fined. Tina will type something up and ask Terri to put it on the utility bill as a reminder.

UTILITIES REPORT:

Scott reported on the second treatment for the Australian pine trees in Swope Park. He has received a quote from Wellnitz. He explained the treatment would treat several types of insects. They can spray in early spring or fall. The council would like to review some issues regarding the trees before they decide. No action taken.

The 250th Flags & US Flags can be displayed for a little longer, per discussion.

Staff Policy & Relations:

Street Alleys & Properties: See above – continued discussion on debris & fireworks trash on the streets.

Economics, Tax & Finance:

Parks & Recreation: * Grant Edwards asked Tina to add the "Mosquito Information" to the city's website. It is a DIY mosquito control process that Grant will provide directions and some of the materials required.

Sidewalks:

Economics, Taxation & Finance:

Community Relations:

Capital Improvements:

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

Mike Hastings presented the bill payment checks, voided checks, EFT's, QuickBooks payroll figures, and overtime.

Federal, Medicare & Social Security, and State Withholdings, KPERS. Mike Hastings motioned to approve, seconded by Nick Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Nick Rogers, second by Mike Hastings, motion carried: Time 7:18pm.