

## **CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS COUNCIL MINUTES**

**September 2, 2025**

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, Bill Kewley, Ryan Spinden. Utilities Supervisor, Scott Gumfory and Tina Andrews, City Clerk. Chris Carathers & Stuart Symmonds not in attendance.

Mayor Sisson made a request for an Executive Session for the time of ten minutes after the guests had left.

Bill Kewley motion to approve the agenda with amendment for Executive Session of ten minutes, seconded by Mike Hastings. Passed unanimously.

Bill Kewley motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Mike Hastings seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **GUESTS:**

Pat Larkin wanted to check out the progress on the storm drain repairs. Scott Gumfory was running a few minutes late, when he arrived he explained that the person who examined the tunnel suggested that it should be sprayed. Scott put a call to the company, and they do not have the report ready. Mayor Sisson explained the city cannot proceed until they hear back from the company.

Brenda Wessel talked about some plumbing issues, and that Ron Albers told Buddy that they would ask a local plumber to look at the restrooms at the pool. She had a list prepared with some issues at the pool. She forgot to add a roof leak in the concessions, from the roof damage a couple of years ago.

The nursing home is asking to use the pool, and the lift will need to be repaired before next pool season. The Chase County Recreation is creating a plan to fundraise for a new pool. Currently, everything is on hold. Scott explained the faucets are stripped, new plumbing parts are needed, and the showers would need to be replaced. New showerheads, valves, and a different type of toilet would help with the restroom's situation. Mayor Sisson would like to review the costs of the repairs, showers, and toilets before they start working on the restrooms. The Council reviewed the P&L and Brenda explained the Chase Recreation has been helping the concessions. The admission rates might have to increase to cover some of the costs. She explained that donations were given to have free swim days a few times in the week. She explained the recreation is willing to help with the restrooms.

### **Executive Session:**

Mike Hastings called for Executive Session at 6:26 pm for ten minutes, motion was seconded, passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 6:35 pm.

Bill Kewley motioned approving the hiring of Luke Wells at a rate discussed during Executive Session for a probation period of ninety days at the pay rate discussed in the Executive Session. Motion was seconded, passed unanimously.

### **Mayors Report:**

The city is interested in putting in a kiosk for the attractions and events in the area. There will be an interactive map which will take you to Pioneer Bluffs, Chase County Courthouse, etc. Maybe have an awning or roof over the monitor.

Scott wanted to talk about the sick leave and vacation time accruing over each pay period. The Employee Handbook was reviewed. It was determined that it is not allowed to accrue those hours unless the employee worked at least 35 hours per week on a regular basis. Physical presence is required.

#### Mayors Report:

Adam and Rebekah Green were invited to attend tonight's council meeting.

Adam and/or Rebekah Green was not present. Mayor said he received a phone call from Rebekah. Tina explained the phone call she received from Rebekah. She asked for documentation on the ordinances, and minutes to prior meetings. Tina emailed all the ordinances pertaining to zoning, documentation from the Planning & Zoning Committee of 1979 (all three parts), the council meeting minutes (that were not on the website at that time), documentation on their building, a property record showing that their property was zoned as commercial, and a Zoning Appeal Application. Tina also informed her the Council is governing body of City of Cottonwood Falls and decides on all zoning ordinances and regulations, emailed this information to her also.

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Mayor Sisson would like to discuss the water and trash rates with Janis and Chelsie at the next meeting. The trash agreement with Strong City will need to be reviewed.

Building permit Alan & Phipps are requesting a building permit for his car shed. A driveway is needed, with a culvert drainpipe. Scott will look at the property and discuss the culvert with Alan Phipps. Permit will be approved once Scott reviews the culvert.

Special Event Request: Christy Davis for Kansas Senate Campaign Kick-Off. The council reviewed the request. It was passed by consensus.

#### City Clerk Report:

CCR report updated due to the Lead Service Line information.

Website class attended at IM Design. Laptop request. Cottonwood Falls Music Update.

The Council approved the purchase of a laptop for the office. (On hold, specifications received from RVS). The Cottonwood Falls Music Festival has agreed to the terms of the agreement with security, insurance, etc. The Council approved the Special Request Event for the CWF Music Festival, passed by consensus. Ordinance No. 991 & the Common Consumption Permit regulations was sent to Steve Revare.

Tina explained the information on the short & long term disability and costs. Tina will check with BCBS about their short-term disability qualifications. The Council decided on the lettering on the new graphic design for the window and door film.

#### Utilities Supervisor Report:

They are preparing to stain the front doors of the municipal building. He is ordering parts for the state truck for winter use. Service repairs were discussed on the sterling truck, and the city will be able to sell the truck.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm by Bill Kewley, seconded by Mike Hastings. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Sisson", written over a horizontal line.

William C. Sisson, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Andrews", written over a horizontal line.

Tina Andrews, City Clerk