

CITY OF COTTONWOOD FALLS COUNCIL MINUTES

September 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the City of Cottonwood Falls was called to order at 6:03 pm in the Municipal Meeting Room.

Those present at the meeting were Mayor Buddy Sisson, Council Members Greg Campbell, Mike Hastings, Bill Kewley, and Ryan Spinden. Utilities Supervisor, Scott Gumfory and Tina Andrews, City Clerk. Chris Carathers and Stuart Symmonds were not in attendance.

Agenda Approval: Mike Hastings motioned, Greg Campbell seconded, passed unanimously.

Previous Minutes Approval: Greg Campbell motioned, Ryan Spinden seconded, passed unanimously.

Toni Schneider of Chase County Chamber of Commerce and Steve Revare, Director of the Cottonwood Music Festival were checking in with the Council to see if there were any questions or concerns about the music festival on October 4th, 2025. Toni mentioned that Chelsea Harshman will be having an open door event at her clothing store & that boutique trailers would be there also. Toni informed the council that the Ranch Rodeo and the Fall Gathering event presented by Matfield Green Works, hosted by Tallgrass Artist Residency will also be happening on the 4th. Steve talked to Scott about the poly carts, trash dumpsters, barricades, and electricity needs. Resolution 2025-12 was presented and reviewed: the City Council of Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, hereby authorizes the Bluth Co., LLC (Representatives: Steve Revare & Polly Revare) to serve alcoholic liquor on Broadway Street (Common Consumption Area) on October 4th, 2025, provided said the Bluth Co., LLC (Representatives: Steve Revare & Polly Revare) obtains a temporary permit from the Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Resolution 2025-12 was passed by consensus.

Annie Wilson, Wade Coestner, Howard Taliaferro and a gentleman from Manhattan attended the meeting to talk about Friday's Night Music event which is located at the Prairie PastTimes. The event is free, funded by donations only. It is held on the first, third and sometimes fifth Friday of the month. They have Gospel, Bluegrass, Country, and Rock-n-Roll. Annie talked about the need for extra funding to help keep their music events going. She asked the council if they would discount their monthly bill instead of giving them funds. Council will discuss it. No action taken.

Janis Meyer and Chelsie Dieker, of Wright CPA, presented the 2026 Budget. The council talked about the expenses, the increase in healthcare services, insurance, vehicle needs, and the hiring of another employee.

The council voted on the 2026 Budget with a roll call vote. With the council members in attendance the 2026 budget was passed by quorum. As required Resolution 2025-11 was presented, the City of Cottonwood Falls to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate was calculated at 61.126 mills by the Chase County Clerk. Resolution 2025-11 was motioned by Ryan Spinden, seconded by Mike Hastings, passed unanimously.

The mayor and council members (governing body) that voted in favor of the 2026 budget signed the Certificate for the City of Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. City Clerk also signed certificate for validation.

Mayors Report:

The council reviewed the worksheets pertaining to the cost of trash rates. They all agreed to eliminate the single person rate with the city's trash service. No other decision was made.

Building permit for Kay Krause were reviewed. Mike Hastings motion to approve, seconded by Ryan Spinden, passed unanimously.

City Clerk Report:

Complaints about the cats roaming the business district, the odor of urine and feces problem. The council discussed the problem, and the solution was not specified. Laptop information was discussed including cost. No action taken.

Utilities Supervisor Report:

Scott explained that a local business has repeatedly left their trash and boxes outside the dumpsters. Their current dumpsters are completely full. Tina was asked to write a letter to the business.

The crosswalk company was unable to provide replacement batteries; they have discontinued the model of the crosswalk. Scott found a wholesaler and has placed an order for batteries.

They have worked on cleaning the brush around Swope Park for the disc golf tournament.

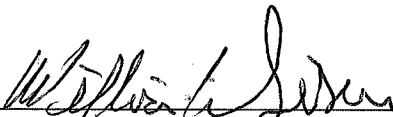
They will be doing some asphalt work, will need to get the hot mix to do this.

Because of the rain, they have had more than average mowing. They have been working on the meter pit covers. Scott will talk to Ron Albers about the work needed for the new meters, the school has a new plasma cutter that would help with a plate needed.

Scott has searched for another vehicle for the city's needs; he has found one. Bill Kewley said he would go with him to look at the vehicle. The city has sold the blade, and the county is interested in purchasing a vehicle from the city. No final decision was made until they went to Joplin and looked at the vehicle.

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 given by Mike Hastings at 8:10 pm. Bill Kewley seconded, passed unanimously.



William C. Sisson, Mayor



Tina Andrews, City Clerk