

City Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Denise Hartman, Sean Honer, Nathan Adams and Sharon Haun also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones, Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest and City Attorney Brian Henderson. Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Karen Exon, Ryan McDonald, Cody Catlin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

INVOCATION: Denise Hartman

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sean Honer seconded the motion. Motion Carried 6 – 0 The consent agenda consisted of:

- January 7, 2025, Minutes
- December 7, 2025, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfers: N/A

OLD BUSINESS

• **Riverwalk Park/Amphitheater Fence Quote – Tim King**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented the Council with 4 different options for fence at Riverwalk Park/Amphitheater from Tim King. After discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to go with option 1 at a cost of \$25,708.33 to come from Infrastructure. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 1 with Councilperson Nathan Adams voting against Option 1.

- **Option 1:**
 - 683ft Black Chain Link 6' Tall
 - 149ft Black Steel 3 Rail 5' Tall
 - COST: Materials \$13,708.33 + Labor \$12,000 Total = \$25,708.33
- **Option 2:**
 - 832ft Black Chain Link 6' Tall
 - COST: Materials \$12,505.76 + Labor \$12,000 Total = \$24,505.76
- **Option 3:**
 - 683ft Black Chain Link 6' Tall – No Fence in front of John White Memorial Pavilion
 - COST: Materials \$10,016.15 + Labor \$10,000 Total = \$20,016.1
- **Option 4:**
 - 149ft Black Steel 3 Rail 5' Tall – Fence only in front of John White Memorial Pavilion
 - COST: Materials \$3,692.18 + Labor \$2,007.82 Total = \$5,700

• **4th of July Discussion:**

Discussion was held regarding the 4th of July Celebration. Councilperson Sean Honer presented the Council with examples of how Peabody raises funds for their 4th of July events. Councilperson Sharon Haun suggested getting a cost to have the show and letting the community know so that could contribute to it. Councilperson Jason Booker said we would have to see if anyone is available and get a cost and get it funded rather quickly. A motion was made by Councilperson Denise Hartman to pursue the ideal of finding a way to have fireworks. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 6 – 0

• **Downtown Streetscape: Update**

City Administrator Nick Jones told the Council that Request for Qualifications was placed in the Council Grove Republican on January 8, 2025, and sent to 5 KDOT approved Engineering Companies. (BG Consultants, Swab Eaton, Kaw Valley Engineering, Barlett & West, and Alfred Benesch & Company) Administrator Jones said the technical proposals are due on or before January 23, 2025, and evaluations and ranking shall take place on or about January 27, 2025, with negotiations with the highest ranked firm to commence on or about January 30, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Sales Tax Grant Committee Recommendations:**

City Administrator Nick Jones presented the recommendations from the Sales Tax Grant Committee for the Council to approve the request for Sales Tax Grant Funding for the following.

- Friends of Kaw Heritage: \$1,000
 - The Friends of the Kaw Heritage request \$1,000 in Sales Tax Grant funding for continuation of the Kaw Council Series. Councilperson Jason Booker said the between 40 – 70 have attending the monthly series.
- Friends of Kaw Heritage: \$2,000
 - The Friends of the Kaw Heritage request \$2,000 in Sales Tax Grant funding for assisting with the Intertribal Powwow that takes place during Washunga Days.
- Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association: \$10,000
 - Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association requests \$10,000 in Sales Tax Grant funding for the cost associated with the Sante Fe Trail Association Symposium in September of 2025.
- Council Grove CVB – Washunga Days: \$25,000
 - The Council Grove CVB requested \$25,000 in Sales Tax Grant funding for Washunga Days marketing and promotions. The committee voted to give the remaining Sales Tax Grant Funds to Washunga Days in the amount of \$29,900.

After discussion Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read through the request to be voted on all together. A motion was made by Councilperson Sean Honer to approve the requests. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Denise Hartman. Motion Carried 5 – 1 with Councilperson Nathan Adams voting against the motion. City Attorney Brian Henderson advised the Council that since there was a non-consensus that the Council could vote on each individual request one at a time instead of them all in total. Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked the Council if that is what they wished to do, and the Council agreed.

- Friends of Kaw Heritage: \$1,000
 - A motion was made by Councilperson Denise Hartman to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion Carried 5 – 0 with 1 Abstention Councilperson Jason Booker.
- Friends of Kaw Heritage: \$2,000
 - A motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sharon Haun Motion Carried 5 – 0 with 1 Abstention Councilperson Jason Booker.
- Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association: \$10,000
 - A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 6 – 0
- Council Grove CVB – Washunga Days: \$25,000
 - A motion was made by Councilperson Jason Booker to approve the remaining funds in the Sales Tax Grant in the amount of \$29,900 to the Council Grove CVB to be used for Washunga Days promotion. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sean Honer. Motion carried 5 – 1 with Councilperson Nathan Adams voting against the motion.

- **Appointment of 2025 City Committees:**

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read through the list of the 2025 City Committees appointments and asked for a motion to confirm the appointments. City Attorney Brian Henderson advised the Council that the list was open to discussion and if there were any particular committee that someone wants to discuss separately or vote on separately it can be removed and vote on everything else and then vote on that one. Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked the Council if there was anyone who had a desire to pull one out. Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the appointments as read. The motion was seconded Sharon Haun. Motion carried 6 – 0

- **Council Grove Fire Department 2025 Officers Appointments:**

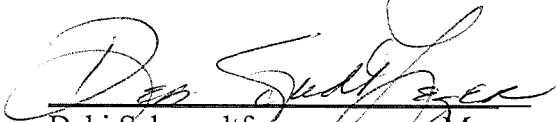
Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger read the 2025 Officers Appointments and asked for a motion to confirm the appointments. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded Councilperson Denise Hartman. Motion carried 6 – 0

- Fire Department Chief: Tyson Stevenson
- Treasurer/Assistant Fire Station: Steve Crichton
- Captain: Neil Julian
- Captain: Jesse Blosser
- Lieutenant: Zach Tyner
- Lieutenant: John Scarce
- Secretary: Colby Patnode
- Trustees: Jimmie Blackburn, Neil Julian, Zach Tyner, John Scarce, Travis Kopf

- **GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**

- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – said she spent some time in Kansas City last week and it is better here then there for sure and that our crews did a great job.
- **Councilperson Denise Hartman** – N/A.
- **Councilperson Sean Honer** – N/A
- **Councilperson Nathan Adams** – N/A
- **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Blessed the Street Department took care of the snow.
- **Councilperson Jason Booker** – Ditto to what Councilperson Sharon said and getting the roads put back together, it was a mess. Councilperson Booker also said Luther Pepper passed away last week and said the Friends of Kaw Heritage has been trying to decide a memorial and asked about planting a memorial tree and if the city would want to participate.
- **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – N/A
- **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – N/A
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – said he would be attending the Kansas Association of Trail Stewards in Topeka on Friday, January 24, 2025 from 8:45am to around 3pm.

- Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Nathan Adams made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6 – 0



Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:

Nick Jones



City Administrator

