



CITY OF COUNCIL GROVE • 205 UNION STREET • PO BOX 313  
COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846 • 620-767-5417 • COUNCILGROVE.COM

**City Council Agenda**  
**May 20, 2025**  
**5:30 P.M. - City Hall**

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Items not already on the agenda may be brought before the Governing Body. People must sign in to be eligible. (**Three-minute maximum time limit**). After three minutes, items will then be voted on to see whether to place the item on the next agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Minutes from the Previous Meeting:
- Appropriations:
- Cabin Transfer: N/A

Pages 2 – 4

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Abstention:</b>	<b>Este. Cost:</b>
----------------	------------------	----------------	--------------------	--------------------

NEW BUSINESS:

- Employee Health Insurance Renewal: Rhonda Fernandez: Professional Insurance Consultants

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Abstention:</b>	<b>Este. Cost</b>
----------------	------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------------

- Every Franchise Fee – Ordinance 2273 Page 5 – 6

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Abstention:</b>	<b>Este. Cost</b>
----------------	------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------------

- Summer Seasonal Appointments: Recreation Department Page 7 – 8

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Abstention:</b>	<b>Este. Cost</b>
----------------	------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------------

- Summer Seasonal Appointments: Streets and Parks Department Page 9

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Abstention:</b>	<b>Este. Cost</b>
----------------	------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------------

- Summer Seasonal Appointments: Utilities Department Page 10

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Abstention:</b>	<b>Este. Cost</b>
----------------	------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------------

- Appointment of City Inspector: James Masters Page 11

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Abstention:</b>	<b>Este. Cost</b>
----------------	------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------------

Governing Body Comments:

Adjournment:

City Council Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2025

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Schwerdtfeger

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Shelley Dunham with the Morris County Democrats presented the Council with information with the current breakdown of the wards, Ward 1 - 30%, Ward 2 - 26%, Ward 3 - 44%. Dunham also presented information regarding switching from ward elections to at-large elections, which would make the election for council members a citywide electorate. Dunham listed similar cities that have at-large elections. City Attorney Brian Henderson did not recommend the city move to an at-large election.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5 - 0

The consent agenda consisted of:

- April 15, 2025, Minutes
- April 15, 2025, to Current Appropriations.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Riverwalk Amphitheater: SICO Mobile Folding Stage: Update**  
City Administrator Nick Jones reported that the additional cost of the SICO Mobile Folding Stage for the stairs and stage was \$3,200 and that Farmers and Drovers Bank agreed to cover the cost, which Jones thanks Farmers and Drovers Bank for. Administrator Jones also said the shipping would cost the city \$3,000.
- **Ward Boundary Change Discussion:**  
City Administrator Nick Jones said he spoke with County Clerk Chelsea Schmidt who is also the Election Officer regarding the requirements for changing the ward boundary lines. Jones said Schmidt cited KSA 25-26A03 which prohibits changing any boundary lines within 4 months before a primary or general election. Jones said Schmidt recommended waiting until after the November election when the County Commissioners review their boundary lines since there are 2 commissioners that live in the city limits. Jones said the city would need to pass a resolution to change the ward lines or to change to at-large. City Attorney Brian Henderson did not recommend the city move to an at-large election citing Lyon County and the City of Emporia as an example of a at-large election.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Veterans Event: Jim Crosby:**  
Jim Crosby with Veterans and Morris County along with American Legion Post 121, and Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs would like to host a mobile veterans administration lab like the one held last year on May 31<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 1pm with setup being on May 30<sup>th</sup> in the evening. Crosby asked that the rental fees be waived for the use of the armory for the event. Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to waive the fees for Together with Veterans for May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 5 - 0
- **Sales Tax Grant Committee Recommendations:**
  - **The Grove Roots Fest**
    - City Administrator Nick Jones presented the sales tax grant request from Riverbank Brewery and The Dealership Building for a new event, The Grove Roots Fest, that will take place on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>. They requested \$2,000 for the event to help with the costs associated with the event. Administrator Jones said they also discussed a consumption area downtown, and that the ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) has relaxed their requirements on allowing a area in the downtown area as before they didn't allow it because it is along a state highway. Ryan McDonald representing The Grove Roots Fest broke down the cost associated with the event. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the sales tax grant request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson

Sean Honer. Motion Carried 5 – 0

- Voices of the Wind People Pageant:
  - City Administrator Nick Jones presented the sales tax grant request from the Voices of the Wind People Pageant to take place on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. They requested \$5,000 in sales tax grant funding for the event to help with cost associated with lodging for the Kaw Nation coming up from Oklahoma to be a part of the event. After discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the sales tax grant request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 4 – 0 with 1 Assentation – Councilperson Sharon Haun.
- Morris County Historical Society:
  - City Administrator Nick Jones presented the sales tax grant request from the Morris County Historical Society to cover the cost of hiring docents to allow for the Post Office Oak Museum, Seth Hays Home, to be open on the weekend and during city events. They requested \$5,820 in sales tax grant funding. After discussion, Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 4 – 0 with 1 Assentation – Councilperson Sharon Haun.
- Destination Council Grove: Convention & Visitors Bureau

City Administrator Nick Jones presented the sales tax grant request from the Council Grove Convention & Visitors Bureau for promotional and day to day operation funding. Administrator Jones said after the chamber was dissolved and the city took over it was after the budget for 2025 was done and this is the same amount the Chamber requested in the past. After discussion, Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion carried 5 – 0
- KDHE SRF Pre-Application Discussion:
  - City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council that the KDHE SRF (State Revolving Fund) Pre-applications are due May 15<sup>th</sup>. The project consists of 5 proposed improvements with a total of 3.5 million with up to \$1 million in forgiveness. Administrator Jones resubmitting the application does not oblige the city to anything and that the city can increase or decrease the project and all this does it get the city on the list for funding. items After discussion Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to have the application resubmitted. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 5 – 0
- Utilities Department: Subsurface Solutions Quote:
  - City Administrator Nick Jones presented Subsurface Solutions quote for water and sewer line tracing equipment. It has Global Positioning System (GPS) and will map water and sewer lines and we will be able to export them to our Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Total Cost \$12,908.30. Administrator Jones said the current tracing equipment was bought in 2010 and cannot be repaired or recalibrated as it is obsolete. After discussion Councilperson Sean Honer made a motion to approve the quote from Subsurface Solutions for the locater for the amount of \$12,908.30 to come out of the water and sewer fund. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion carried 5 – 0
- Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel Issue:

Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion. Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion that the governing body, including the mayor, city administrator, and city attorney's recess into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss open city inspector position for 15 minutes and return to open meeting at 6:35pm. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jason Booker. Motion carried 5 – 0

Upon returning no action was taken.

## • GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger –
- Councilperson Mark Berner – N/A.
- Councilperson Denise Hartman Absent
- Councilperson Sean Honer – said that he was approached about having a Tournament Director for more baseball tournaments in the summertime.
- Councilperson Nathan Adams – N/A
- Councilperson Sharon Haun – N/A
- Councilperson Jason Booker – Said he was disappointed in the Federal Leadership and the reservoir being closed and that there are petitions going around.

- **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – said he recommended reviewing and consolidating the number of committees and only hold meetings as needed and to publicize them. He said they reached to the League of Municipalities for clarification of the subcommittee's and as she said when she was here for the training is that it is a grey area depending on the committee and its purpose.
- **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – N/A
- **City Administrator Nick Jones** – said he spoke with Gary Kepple with the Core of Engineers regarding the temporary closure and that they are reevaluating the situation ever 2 weeks and will announce extending closures as needed.

Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Sharon Haun seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0

---

Debi Schwerdtfeger                      Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Nick Jones                      City Administrator



**ORDINANCE NO. 2273**

An Ordinance, granting to Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., a Kansas corporation, its successors and assigns, an electric franchise, prescribing the terms thereof and relating thereto, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with the terms hereof.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF: Council Grove, Kansas

**SECTION 1.** That in consideration of the benefits to be derived by the City of Council Grove, Kansas (the "City"), and its inhabitants, there is hereby granted to Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., a Kansas corporation, hereinafter sometimes designated as "Company," said Company being a corporation engaged in the business of selling and furnishing electric power throughout the state of Kansas and to the inhabitants of the City, the right, privilege, and authority for a period of twenty (20) years from the effective date of this ordinance, to occupy and use the several streets, avenues, alleys, bridges, parks, parkings, and public places of said City, for the placing and maintaining of equipment and property necessary to carry on the business of selling and distributing electricity for all purposes to the City, and its inhabitants, and through said City and beyond the limits thereof; to obtain said electricity from any source available; and to do all things necessary or proper to carry on said business in the City.

**SECTION 2.** As further consideration for the granting of this franchise, and in lieu of any city occupation, license, or revenue taxes, the Company shall pay to the City during the term of this franchise three percent (3%) of its gross cash receipts from the sale of electric energy for use within the corporate limits of said City, such payment to be made monthly for the preceding monthly period. Gross cash receipts shall not include other operating revenues received by the Company, which are not related to the "sale of electric energy". Other operating revenues include, but are not limited to, delayed payment charges, connection fees, disconnection and reconnection fees, collection fees and return check charges. Company will use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of its records and of the determination of the amount of gross cash receipts subject to the fee provided for in this Section 2. At the option of either the City or the Company and upon written notice given by one to the other sent at least (90) days before the fifth, tenth, or fifteenth anniversary of this franchise, the rate of compensation hereunder may be renegotiated. Any new rate of compensation that results from such renegotiation shall be effective on and after the fifth, tenth, or fifteenth anniversary of this franchise. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Franchise, the fee provided for in this Section 2 shall not become effective within any area annexed by the City until 30 days after the City provides the Company with a certified copy of the annexation ordinance, proof of publication as required by law and a map of the city detailing the annexed area.

**SECTION 3.** That Company, its successors and assigns, in the construction, maintenance, and operation of its electric transmission, distribution and street lighting system, shall use all reasonable and proper precaution to avoid damage or injury to persons and property, and shall hold and save harmless the City, from any and all damage, injury and expense caused by the negligence of said Company, its successors and assigns, or its or their agents or servants.

**SECTION 4.** After the approval of this ordinance by the City, Company shall file with the City Clerk, the Company's unconditional written acceptance of this ordinance. Said ordinance shall become effective and be in force and shall be and become a binding contract between the parties hereto, their

successors and assigns, from and after the first day of the first month after such acceptance is provided by said Company to the City after its final passage, approval and publication as required by law, and acceptance by said Company.

**SECTION 5.** That this ordinance, when accepted as above provided, shall constitute the entire agreement between the City and Company relating to this franchise and the same shall supersede and cancel any prior understandings, agreements, or representations regarding the subject matter hereof, or involved in negotiations pertaining thereto, whether oral or written.

**SECTION 6.** This franchise is granted pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-2001.

**SECTION 7.** That any and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the terms hereof are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 8.** The Company will file this ordinance with the State Corporation Commission of Kansas. Should the State Corporation Commission take any action with respect to this franchise ordinance, which would or may preclude Everygy Kansas Central, Inc., a Kansas corporation, from recovering from its customers any cost provided for hereunder, the parties hereto shall renegotiate this ordinance in accordance with the State Corporation Commission's ruling.

**SECTION 9.** A franchise shall be assignable only in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas, as the same may exist at the time when any assignment is made. In the event of such assignment to a successor, Company shall be released from all obligations which are assumed in writing by its assignee upon the signing by such assignee of an assumption of the franchise being assigned.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

*Attest:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk





CITY OF COUNCIL GROVE • 205 UNION STREET • PO BOX 313

COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846 • 620-767-5417 • COUNCILGROVE.COM

### Summer Seasonal Appointments: Recreation

<u>Workers</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Wage</u>
Lillian Zeigler	Pool Manager	\$12.00

- Will Receive (\$.50 increase for each certification) (Lifeguard + WSI)

Kierni Mullen	Manager Assistant	\$9.91
Casaia Mullen	Manager Assistant	\$9.91

<u>Workers</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Wage</u>
----------------	-----------------	-------------

Elkan Spear	Lifeguard 3rd year	\$9.00
Brooklyn Wangerin	Lifeguard 3rd year	\$9.00
Breckyn McEuen	Lifeguard 3rd year	\$9.00
Linkin Sherwood	Lifeguard 3rd year	\$9.00
Marlie Hayes	Lifeguard 2nd year	\$8.50
Macelyn Taylor	Lifeguard 2nd year	\$8.50
Laine Johnson	Lifeguard 2nd year	\$8.50
Leo White	Lifeguard 2nd year	\$8.50
Whitlyn Mullen	Lifeguard 2nd year	\$8.50
Kason Spear	Lifeguard 1st year	\$8.25
Lucy Palmquist	Lifeguard 1st year	\$8.25
Capri Gant	Lifeguard 1st year	\$8.25
Marlee Gant	Lifeguard 1st year	\$8.25

<u>Workers</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Wage</u>
Arianna Gonzalez	Concessions	\$7.69
Mazie Hayes	Concessions	\$7.69

Taegan Wilkens C	Concessions	\$7.69
Makenzie Grant	Concessions	\$7.69
Haylie Grant	Concessions	\$7.69
Evan Birk	Concessions	\$7.69
Hallie Frazier	Concessions	\$7.69
Jackson Stetcher	Concessions	\$7.69
Owen McIver	Concessions	\$7.69
Betsy Doornbos	Concessions	\$7.69
Claudia Simecka	Concessions	\$7.69
Carter Bremer	Concessions	\$7.69
Logan Stockwell	Concessions	\$7.69
Briley Cannon	Concessions	\$7.69
Quinley Sowers	Concessions	\$7.69
Aubrey McEuen	Concessions	\$7.69
Jace Schmidt	Concessions	\$7.69
Ashlynn Kesler	Concessions	\$8.69

<b><u>Workers</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Wage</u></b>
Reid Buttery	Maintenance	\$11.00
Hayden Buttery	Maintenance	\$11.50
Jordan Carlson	Maintenance	\$12.50
Mija Carlson	Maintenance	\$12.50

<b><u>Workers</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>
Drew Buchman	Umpire
David McDiffet	Umpire
Dax Myers	Umpire
Mason Wilkens	Umpire
Maxton Villalobos	Umpire
Laramie Mayer	Umpire





CITY OF COUNCIL GROVE · 205 UNION STREET · PO BOX 313

COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846 · 620-767-5417 · COUNCILGROVE.COM

**Summer Seasonal Appointments: Streets and Parks Department**

<u>Workers</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Wage</u>
David McDiffett	Maintenance	\$12.00
Beckett Nelson	Maintenance	\$12.00



CITY OF COUNCIL GROVE · 205 UNION STREET · PO BOX 313

COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846 · 620-767-5417 · COUNCILGROVE.COM

**Summer Seasonal Appointments: Utilities Department**

<u>Worker</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Wage</u>
Chris Barbo	Maintenance	\$12.00



CITY OF COUNCIL GROVE • 205 UNION STREET • PO BOX 313

COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846 • 620-767-5417 • COUNCILGROVE.COM

#### City Inspector Position Recommendation

The City Administrator recommends the appointment of James Masters to City Inspector position for the City of Council Grove at an hourly rate of \$35.00 per hour. This position is an exempt position under FSLA. Appointment is contingent upon passing a background check and drug/alcohol screening. The position start date will be June 2, 2025.