

CITY OF SEVERY
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2026
7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Council members Marc Warren, Lyle Riggs, Bryan Hampton, Rodger Kraft, Clerk Tessa Riggs, City Attorney William McClendon and Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt

Absent: Councilman Ron Robert and Treasurer Madelyn McClendon

Guests: Ed Cornett, Tamara Higbee, Debbie Batson and Vicki Hinkle

Mayor Wiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was cited and roll called.

Riggs moved to approve the January 2026 minutes. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Warren moved to approve the January 2026 bills. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Riggs moved to approve the January 2026 treasurer's report as presented. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Vicki Hinkle, Tamara Higbee and Debbie Batson addressed the council regarding the funds that have been raised for the improvements for Brody's Park. Debbie Batson reported that 3 semi loads of pea gravel have been donated. According to the ladies they spoke to Helen Taliaferro with Junction Insurance and there will not be an increase in insurance. City Attorney McClendon suggested council needed to discuss requirements prior to the pea gravel being installed. City council thanked the ladies for raising money and would get back with them later in the week regarding the requirements.

Warren moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel for employee performance and include City Attorney at 7:22 p.m. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 7:32 p.m. No action was taken.

Water Superintendent Schmidt reported he has done a few fills ins at the cemetery. Schmidt noted that Jason Nusz replaced the screws on the city hall above the office due to water starting to leak in. Nusz is willing to replace the screws on the roof above the city shop for \$800.00. Riggs moved to have Nusz do the repairs for \$800.00. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 4-0. Schmidt stated that he is on the last sewer pump in January's meeting and was instructed to get another one ordered. Schmidt noted water conferences will be on March 24th – 26th in Wichita. He will need

to attend to receive credit for his licenses. Schmidt is going to be checking with Jenelle at WaterWise regarding the chlorine reader wiring process.

Old Business.

Clerk Riggs reached out to the Utility Service Company regarding the price increase of the water tower maintenance fee and requested the original contract from 2011. The utility service contacted Riggs stating they are going to reduce the fee back to what the city has been paying and refund the extra charge on the next quarterly billing. The company is also going to be sending a new contract addendum.

Clerk Riggs stated that there was discussion about whether the railroad was there before the city or vice versa. After contacting Greenwood County Title Company, it was determined that the city was here first and then the railroad. Documentation was found from when Greenwood County Title did the warranty deed for the new Home Bank & Trust Company had the bank built, which is the same railroad the abandoned vacant lots are located. Greenwood County Title has been in contact with the Greenwood County Courthouse Appraiser's office regarding the matter.

New Business.

Clerk Riggs noted there has been policy change to the city insurance.

Councilman Riggs addressed the council regarding a community revitalization program. Riggs stated that from time to time a new business would like to come to Severy, but the taxes are extremely high and the reason for that is the water plant project. Riggs would like to see the city work with a business who is willing to spend a large amount of money and give them a tax incentive. Riggs noted that the details can all be worked out at another time, but Riggs feels like anyone wanting to bring business or even build a brand-new home in the city limits of Severy, the city needs to work with them. Councilman Hampton mentioned that Severy needs tax structure to build growth.

Clerk Riggs stated the federal government requires if you have a one-million-dollar general obligation bond then you are obligated to have a bond underwriter. Riggs noted that in 2025 she tried to reach out to the person who oversaw the city bonds several times and never got any response. Riggs also reached out to the company who the underwriter was with, and the company has dissolved. Finally, after contacting Mike Younger, the engineer for the water plant project, he mentioned that the gentleman passed away in 2024. Younger recommended Ranson Financial. Clerk Riggs reported the cost is a little cheaper than what the city had been paying. Warren moved to move forward with Ranson Financial in Wichita. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

West Elk After Prom sent a donation letter. Council agreed that someone from the junior/senior class should come speak on behalf of the prom to get the donation. Clerk Riggs will reach out to the After Prom committee.

Clerk Riggs noted the auditors will be here on February 19th.

Warren moved to approve Resolution 2026-01 regarding the GAAP Waiver. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Warren moved to approve \$25/day for per diem for Schmidt to go to water conference. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Warren moved to go into executive session for a total of 50 minutes to consult with city attorney on matters subject to the attorney-client privilege and include city clerk at 8:35 p.m.

Regular meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m. No action was taken.

Hampton moved to approve the pea gravel and allow Clerk Riggs to send a letter to ladies in charge of Brody's Park Improvements stating the following per City Attorney McClendon's request. There will need to be a plan for the edging, a plan for removing the sod and a drawing with dimensions. The following will also be required, a minimum of 4 inches of pea gravel and a liner of at least 8 mil thickness be installed wherever gravel will be placed. Once the required documentation and drawings have been submitted to the City for Council approval, work may then begin. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

Warren moved to adjourn. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 4-0.

/s/ Marc Warren, Council President

Attest:

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk