

CITY OF SEVERY
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 5, 2026

7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

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

Guests: Ed Cornett, Jeanna Fout, Avery Postelwait & Jenelle Summerow (via zoom)

Mayor Wiss called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was cited and roll called.

Councilman Riggs entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Councilmen Hampton, Riggs and Kraft were sworn in.

Kraft moved to approve the December 2025 minutes. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Robert moved to approve the December 2025 bills. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Warren moved to approve the December 2025 treasurer's report as presented. Robert 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Water Superintendent Schmidt reported that the water use report from the state came in today and he will need to get it filled out before March. Schmidt stated that there has been a violation from the state on failing the HAA testing. Another water sample will be taken and sent in again. A state inspector came out to inspect the salt creek pump. Schmidt asked for an extension to get the water perfected. The state is requiring the pump to run for a time from January to December and run as much water as possible through the meter. In the meantime, there are a few things Schmidt must do prior to, before the water can go through the meter. The plan is to get everything completed and start the process in January 2027. The city is allowed 22 million gallons a year for both permits. The state requires that the pump not be run during the drought months of July and August. Schmidt also noted that he is on the last back wash pump. Schmidt stated Cole Conard with the township asked if the city would assist with a tree cleanup west of town due to a recent windstorm. City employee Rollings took care of the cleanup.

Old Business.

Clerk Riggs reported the abandoned railroad vacant lots that recently sold, a new owner has not received the deed. Riggs explained that co-owner Larry French of the Greenwood County Title Company passed away in December. Riggs has been in contact with the employees at the company. The company stated that two of the three owners' warranty deeds have been taken to the courthouse to be recorded. Clerk Riggs said that the remaining new owner of the last property sold has not paid for the property. Council agreed to give it another couple of months. City Attorney McClendon stated he would stop by the courthouse and see what the status of the deeds is.

New Business.

Clerk Riggs noted she went through the 2026 calendar and Labor Day will fall on the first Monday and with the office being closed due to the holiday she asked if it could be moved like it has been in the past. Warren moved to approve moving the September 2026 regular business meeting from September 7th to September 10th at 7:00 p.m. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Riggs stated the quarterly invoice for the water tower maintenance was \$285.74 more than the original amount the city usually pays. Clerk Riggs reached out to the utility service company, and they replied via email with the amount and years the city would see an increase. City Attorney McClendon suggested for the clerk to reach back out to the company and request the current contract and possibly have Jenelle with WaterWise Enterprises assist in looking for another company and table the issue until February's meeting.

Clerk Riggs spoke with a property owner who purchased a vacant lot in Severy from the tax sale in December regarding the mowing the city had done and assessed to the property taxes. The owner would like to see if the city would remove the mowing fees. The council decided not to at this time.

Warren moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes at 8:15 p.m. to consult with attorney for the city on matters subject to the attorney-client privilege and include city clerk. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m. No action taken.

Councilman Riggs was approached by a citizen about dirt that the city wrongfully removed, and the city was unaware where the property line was located, and it was a misunderstanding. Riggs asked the city council if the berms could be put back in place with black dirt along with a low spot that needs to be filled in. Riggs stated the property

is located at the first property north of Brody's park on Kansas Avenue. The property line appears to be approximately 5 ½ feet south of the owners' fence and the city assumed it was to be mowed and taken care of and it was nothing but minor misunderstanding. Council stated that this should fix the problem.

Warren moved to go into executive session for a total of 60 minutes at 8:35 p.m. for non-elected personnel on employee performance and include City Attorney McClendon, Clerk Riggs and Jenelle Summerow with WaterWise Enterprises. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 9:35 p.m. No action taken.

Councilman Hampton stated that there are numerous dogs at large around town and asked what can be done. City Attorney McClendon stated the city could hire a dog catcher, but there is nowhere to take them. Clerk Riggs stated she would try to get in contact with the local vets and maybe the city could work something out with them. It was mentioned that the problem has gotten worse. Discussion was had about giving new businesses a tax deduction.

Warren moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Robert 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

/s/ Donna Wiss, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk