

GREAT BEND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 7, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Location – City Hall Council Chambers

The Council meeting will be livestreamed for public to view on our city council Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/gbcitycouncil/>.

AGENDA

Members present:

<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor Cody Schmidt	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Cory Urban
<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Kevyn Soupiset	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Gary Parr
<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Rickee Maddox	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Tina Mingenback
<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Alan Moeder	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Davis Jimenez
<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Jolene Biggs	<input type="checkbox"/> Attorney Allen Glendenning
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator Logan Burns	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Administrator VACANT	

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on June 16, 2025.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 7-7-25:** Covering 2025 bills to date.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 6-27-25:** Covering payroll ending June 21, 2025, in the amount of \$568,588.04.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt will make appointments as appropriate.
- e) **Resolution 070725-A – 2025 GAAP Waiver:** Approval of Resolution 070725-A, requesting a GAAP Waiver for 2025. Each year the City requests a waiver from the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for the reporting of Cities financial statements and to allow the City to use the regulatory basis of accounting under the Kansas Municipal Audit & Accounting Guide (KMAAG).
- f) **Kans for Kids Car Show:** Close Lakin Avenue from Kansas to Main Street for the Kans for Kids Car Show on August 29, 2025 from 12pm-8pm.
- g) **Street Closure:** Close McKinley and 17th Street Terrace starting at 9:50am for the wet/dry parade on August 9, 2025, for Party in the Park.
- h) **Street Closure:** Close 17th Street Terrace west of McKinley to White Sands Drive after the parade to midnight to utilize for extra parking and allow one-way traffic to be directed to the west on August 9, 2025, for Party in the Park.

- i) **Non-Street Legal Cars:** Allow non-street legal cars that are local car club affiliated to be able to preregister and travel no more than 12 blocks to get to the Party in the Park Car Show on August 9, 2025, for Party in the Park.
- j) **CMB Beer:** Allow CMB Beer (no bottles or glass) in Al Burns Field for the Concert with help of Legion Riders and GBPD as additional security on August 9, 2025, for Party in the Park.
- k) **Vets Park Curfew Extension:** Authorize people to be in Vets Park past midnight on Saturday August 9, 2025, for cleanup of the Party in the Park event.
- l) **Agenda:** Approval of agenda as submitted or amended.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The public is free to comment on items not listed on the agenda. Please address comments to the City Council as a body and be mindful of others who may wish to speak by abiding by the 3-minute limit. If a large group is present for the same topic, the mayor, in his discretion, may ask that you elect 1 spokesperson, and he could allow a longer time for that individual to speak.

D. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. **Councilmember Reports:** Councilmembers will report on the boards and commissions that they serve on.
Recommendation: Informational item.
- 2. **Administrators Update:** City Administrator Logan Burns will present an update on what is happening within the City organization.
Recommendation: Informational item.
- 3. **Economic Development Report:** Economic Development Inc. President Sara Arnberger will present her monthly report.
Recommendation: Informational item.
- 4. **Splitting Public Works Department Director Roles:** With the recent resignation of our Public Works Director, Jason Cauley, we are now faced with the important task of filling this key leadership role. Following a recent City Council work session, we explored the possibility of restructuring the department by dividing it into two separate entities: the Public Works Department and the

Utilities Department. This discussion included an analysis of the potential advantages and disadvantages of such a change. Splitting the department could allow for more focused leadership in each area, with directors possessing specialized knowledge in their respective fields—namely, streets and infrastructure for Public Works, and water and sewer systems for Utilities. This targeted expertise could improve operational efficiency and oversight. Additionally, the hiring process may be more manageable by seeking candidates with specific skill sets rather than one individual with broad expertise across multiple disciplines, which is becoming increasingly difficult to find. On the other hand, creating a second department would require an additional \$60,000 to be budgeted within the General Fund. With the proposed split, the Public Works Director's salary is shared between the General Fund and the Water/Sewer Fund, due to the position's oversight of stormwater infrastructure but would cause the additional burden on the General Fund. City Administrator Logan Burns report.

Recommendation: Motion to approve Ordinance 4457, establishing a utilities department and the position of Director of Utilities.

5. **Accelerated Payment of PFAS:** As you know, the city has been participating in a nationwide class action lawsuit against manufacturers of PFAS chemicals. Some of those claims have been settled and Great Bend's share in that settlement totals a little over \$1.3 million to be paid out over time. One payment has already been received, and another is expected in September. The remaining amounts are currently set to be paid out in annual payments through June of 2033. The amount to be paid after September 2025 will be a little over \$475,000. However, Great Bend now has an opportunity to accelerate those payments and receive the total amount left this year, discounted to present value and minus a 3.5% transaction fee. This would be accomplished by selling the income stream to an investment banking firm. The final discount rate is currently being negotiated by the lead attorneys in the lawsuit and the bankers, so we do not yet have a final number on the proposed accelerated payment. The discount rate is currently between 8.5% and 11%. Using an estimated 9.7% rate, the accelerated payment would approximate \$430,000. The attorneys advise that they expect to be able to do better than that in the negotiations. The benefits of taking the accelerated payment include having the money now and passing to the investment bankers the risk that the companies paying the settlement will be unable to make the future payments. The city can put the money on interest and collect back some or all or more than the city is giving up in the initial transaction. I have already signed a **non-binding** Letter of Intent to accept the accelerated payment. That will allow us to now receive a final proposed number when it is negotiated. When we do receive that number, we will likely have a short turnaround time – two weeks or less – to take it or decline it. City Attorney Allen Glendenning will report.

Recommendation: The council needs to choose one of the three options;

1. Motion to authorize the acceptance if the final number is deemed acceptable by the Mayor, City Administrator, Finance Director and City Attorney.

2. Motion to authorize the acceptance of the accelerated payment if the final number is at or better than the estimate set forth above or some other number set by the Council.
 3. Motion to require that the final number be brought back to the Council for a final decision – by Special Meeting if the turnaround time does not allow that to be done at a regular meeting.
- 6. PTRC for USD 428 or RFP for Daycare at Front Door Facility:** Since 2009, the City of Great Bend has leased the Front Door facility to the Great Bend Children's Learning Center for use as a daycare facility. Over the past several years, the utilization went from year around to only in the summer months due to staffing issues. This summer, the building is not being utilized, and we only received rent payments of \$300 during the 3 months the daycare was operating in the prior years. After discussion with the Children's Center, they are looking at opening an additional room in their current facility as the space requirements of the Front Door only allow a small number of children. USD 428 reached out to the City and was interested in a lease agreement to move the Parent Teacher Resource Center from Washington School to the Front Door as they are facing some construction challenges with Washington School and the costs associated with that project. Tonight, I am asking the Council for a decision to move forward with either a lease agreement with USD 428 to move the PTRC into the Front Door facility or to move forward with a request for proposals for daycare facilities to continue the use of a daycare. If we move forward with USD 428, we will prepare a lease agreement to bring back to the Council for consideration or we will put out an RFP for a daycare facility and also bring back for formal consideration. City Administrator Logan Burns will report.

Recommendation: Take appropriate action.

ADJOURNMENT

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Cody Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following presents: Councilmembers Rickee Maddox, Alan Moeder, Cory Urban, Kevyn Soupiset, Jolene Biggs, Davis Jimenez, Gary Parr. Absent was councilmember Tina Mingenback. Also in attendance were City Administrator Logan Burns, City Attorney Allen Glendenning, and Finance Director/City Clerk Shawna Schafer.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on June 2, 2025.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 6-16-25:** Covering 2025 bills to date in the amount of \$977,181.45.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 6/13-25:** Covering payroll ending June 7, 2025, in the amount of \$462,517.78.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made no appointments.
- e) **Annual Business Licenses Renewal:** Approval of business licenses that are up for renewal that have submitted their application. All requirements of the ordinances have been met.
- f) **Agenda:** Approval of agenda as submitted or amended.

Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Biggs seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

B. OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no visitors or announcements.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Councilmember Reports:** Councilmember Gary Parr asked about the Assistant City Administrator position and why we advertised, took applications and interviewed and landed on no one. Mr. Parr asked why we take applications for the City Administrator position as well. He also asked what our plans for the salary that's budgeted for the Assistant City Administrator position and he was told that the money will stay in the general fund.

7. **Harrison Well #4 Piping and Meter Installation:** Utilities Supervisor Darren Doonan reported Water Department has in equipment maintenance the funds to purchase new piping and installation of a new meter (already purchased). Our original intention was to keep the new meter in a remote pit outside of the well house. Due to specifications and pipe condition in the pit, we would like to move the meter to inside the wellhouse for easier service and longer life. We have acquired 2 bids for the project from: Sargent Drilling – Salina, Ks and Rosencrantz-Bemis – Great Bend, Ks. A 3rd contractor was attempted to contact with no return. The low bid is Rosencrantz-Bemis for \$29,626.53. Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the bid for \$29,626.53 from Rosencrantz-Bemis for new piping and installation at Harrison Well #4. Mr. Parr seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Biggs made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maddox and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.