

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 and 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 16, 2025.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 7-7-25:** Covering 2025 bills to date in the amount of \$933,370.81.
- 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 appointed Don Erickson to the Airport Advisory Board.
- 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.

Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Moeder 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:** Mr. Parr asked about the 2026 budget and will bring up some concerns at the July 14th budget meeting.
- 2. Administrators Update:** City Administrator Logan Burns presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.
- 3. Economic Development Report:** Economic Development Inc. President Sara Arnberger presented her monthly report.
- 4. Splitting Public Works Department Director Roles:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that 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 an additional burden on the General Fund. Ms. Biggs made a motion to approve Ordinance 4457, establishing a utilities department and the position of Director of Utilities. Ms. Mingenback seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
- 5. Accelerated Payment of PFAS:** City Attorney Allen Glendenning reported that 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. Mr. Urban made a motion to authorize acceptance if the final number is deemed acceptable by the Mayor, City Administrator, Finance Director and City Attorney. Mr. Soupiet seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

6. **PTRC for USD 428 or RFP for Daycare at Front Door Facility:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that 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 (PTRC) 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. After some discussion about the daycare shortage/issues, Ms. Biggs made a motion to prepare an RFP for a daycare facility to go in the space at the Front Door. Mr. Soupiet seconded the motion and failed by a vote of 4-5, with Mr. Moeder, Mr. Urban, Mr. Parr, Ms. Mingenback, and Mayor Schmidt voting against. Mr. Urban then made a motion to proceed with a lease agreement with USD 428 to utilize the space for PTRC at the Front Door building. Mr. Parr seconded the motion and passed by a vote of 5-3, with Ms. Biggs, Mr. Soupiest and Mr. Jimenez voting against.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Urban made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Soupiet and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.