

MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS  
HELD ON APRIL 10, 2025

**1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON:** The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Sandy Jacobs

Mason Ruder

Alaina Cunningham (by Zoom)

Reese Barrick

Absent: Shaun Musil

Mayor Jacobs declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

**2. MINUTES:** There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular session held on March 27, 2025; the minutes stand approved as presented.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:** There were no comments.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayoral appointments for approval.

Hays Housing Authority Board

Al Klaus – 4-year term to expire 4-10-2029 (4th term)

Hays Public Library Board

Michelle Bryant – 4-year term to expire 4-30-2029 (3rd term)

Mary Toepfer – 4-year term to expire 4-30-2029 (3rd term)

Youth Leadership Advisory Board

Jenna Brull (Thomas More Prep-Marian High School) - 1-year term to expire 4-30-2026 (2nd term)

Reghan Byer (Thomas More Prep-Marian High School) - 1-year term to expire 4-30-2026 (1st term)

Mario Edward Hernandez, Jr. (Hays High School) - 1-year term to expire 4-30-2026 (1st term)

Preston Mermis (Thomas More Prep-Marian High School) - 1-year term to expire 4-30-2026 (3rd term)

Elizabeth Nickell (Hays High School) - 1-year term to expire 4-30-2026 (1st term)

Eliana Pineda (Hays High School) - 1-year term to expire 4-30-2026 (1st term)

Erin Ruder (Hays High School) - 1-year term to expire 4-30-2026 (2nd term)

Commissioner Barrick moved, Commissioner Cunningham seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Sandy Jacobs

Alaina Cunningham

Reese Barrick

Abstained: Mason Ruder

**5. UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ADVISORY BOARD:** Members, Isabelle Jones, Chairwoman, Erin Ruder, Public Relations Liaison, and Preston Mermis, Vice Chair, gave an update about all that the Youth Leadership Advisory Board did throughout the past year.

The Commissioners commented about how proud they are of all the students who take part in the Youth Leadership Advisory Board. There are so many good things and events coming out of this group and they can't wait to continue to see what they can accomplish.

**6. 2024 AUDIT:** As required by Kansas Statute, the City of Hays hires an outside firm to conduct an annual audit of City finances. The audit represents an unbiased opinion of business practices and the financial soundness of all City funds.

Kim Rupp, Director of Finance, introduced Jami Benyshek and Alexis Crispin with Adams Brown, who conducted the City's 2024 Audit. Mr. Rupp stated that there were No Material Weaknesses, and he owes gratitude to City Clerk & Finance staff because they dot the I's and cross the T's to make sure we have a good audit like this.

Ms. Benyshek and Ms. Crispin gave a run through of the audit, the single audit, and the governance letter.

Commissioner Ruder moved, Commissioner Barrick seconded, to accept the 2024 Audit for the City of Hays as presented by Adams Brown.

Vote: Ayes: Sandy Jacobs  
Mason Ruder  
Alaina Cunningham  
Reese Barrick

**11. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS:** Commissioners Cunningham, Barrick, and Ruder attended the Western Kansas Congressional Staff Briefing and Reception and stated that it was a great opportunity for everyone to get together and meet with Representatives to discuss things happening in Western Kansas.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Jami Breit – City Clerk