



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HUTCHINSON, KANSAS
July 15, 2025
5:30 p.m.

1. The Governing Body of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in the City Council Chambers with Mayor Goss presiding. Councilmembers Richardson, Garza, Fast and Meggers were present.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

3. The prayer was given by Pastor Victor Halfmoon, Legacy Bible Church.

4. Proclamations

a. Emancipation Day proclamation was accepted by Dave Sotelo, Director of Strategic Growth, and Will Miller, President of Emancipation.

b. Parks and Recreation Month proclamation was accepted by Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities.

5. Petitions, Remonstrances and Oral Communications From the Audience

Don Beydler gave an update on pickleball courts and offered suggestions on how many courts to have. He shared that outside funding is available to convert tennis courts into pickleball courts; and requested the City approve the pickleball courts.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2025 City Council meeting.

b. Approval of appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$2,397,196.40.

c. Approval of June 2025 City Financial Reports.

d. Approval of a Resolution authorizing a Special Event in a Designated Entertainment District for the Salt City Fest 2025 event.

Motion by Councilmember Fast, second by Councilmember Richardson to approve the Consent Agenda; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Hearing

Public Hearing to Consider Condemnation of an Unsafe and Dangerous Structure at 2100 S Bonebrake St. – residence.

Jason Lady, Building Official, requested Council remove the Public Hearing from the Agenda as the property has been sold. He stated the condemnation would be revisited in the future after speaking with the new property owner.

8. Ordinances and Resolutions

- a. Consider a Resolution of Intent to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate.

Enrico Villegas, City Manager, spoke on adjustments to the Proposed Budget sharing that medical and dental projections have been reduced; some levee maintenance and staffing positions have been shifted to the Stormwater Utility Fee; and certain positions opened due to retirement will be filled in-house with other positions not back-filled. He further explained comparisons to other municipalities and the numbers associated with the mill levy increase.

Angela Richard, Director of Finance, explained the resolution for exceeding revenue neutral rate; and recommended the September 2, 2025, council meeting for the public hearing.

Motion by Mayor Goss, second by Councilmember Fast to approve the Resolution of Intent to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Goss made a motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on sales tax under new business as item a; second by Councilmember Fast. The motion passed unanimously.

9. New Business

- a. Discussion regarding sales tax increase and placing it on the November ballot.

City Manager Villegas provided information on the proposed sales tax increase. Discussion ensued regarding the use of the sales tax and the removal of the stormwater fee; as well as putting the sales tax increase question on the November 4th ballot. It was recommended that more information be provided at the August 5th council meeting to decide whether to put it on the November 4th ballot.

- b. Update on 2100 S Bonebrake – commercial structure.

Jason Lady, Building Official, gave an update on the 2100 S Bonebrake commercial structure. A demolition permit has been applied for by Mrs. Gress' contractor. Mr. Lady explained the process for demolition as the property involves the Landmark Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Mayor Goss questioned Mrs. Gress regarding her decision to demolish the property. Mrs. Gress stated it was a difficult decision but it was the right one to make.

Discussion was had regarding the demolition.

COUNCIL RECESSED TO A SHORT MINUTE BREAK

- c. Update on 3405 E 4th Avenue.

Jason Lady, Building Official, provided an update on the structure at 3405 E 4th Avenue. The building permit has been issued for the south loading dock; and staff feel they are now in compliance with many of the city codes that were in issue. Staff recommend this item be removed from any future agendas; and feels the property owner is making a good faith effort to bring the structure into compliance.

d. Woodie Seat Freeway over K & O R.R. & Avenue C Bid Results.

Justin Karam, Construction Manager, explained the project which will begin this fall; sharing four bids were received with the low bid being from Wildcat Construction in the amount of \$1,459,096.00. Staff recommends approving the bid.

Motion by Councilmember Fast, second by Councilmember Meggers to accept the bid of Wildcat Construction Co., Inc. for the Woodie Seat Freeway over K&O R.R. & Avenue C as outlined in the enclosed documents in the amount of \$1,459,096.00; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Storm Water Discussion.

Evan Patterson, City Engineer, spoke about the current floodplain map and the proposed new maps that are currently in process. He also explained the classification of storms; floodplains; the levee system and drainage system in the City.

Joanna Rohlf, Flood Plain Mapping Coordinator with the State of Kansas, explained the current floodplain mapping project status.

Discussion was had regarding the floodplain.

10. Report of City Officials

a. Council

November meeting date change.

- Councilmember Garza thanked the council for their patience with the Bernard's matter.
- Councilmember Richardson reminded everyone of the Silver Crown Races at the Fairgrounds Friday and Saturday.
- Councilmember Fast shared a concerned citizen contacted him about the entrances to the City, but it was discovered it is a county issue. He stated the Police Department has been actively patrolling Avenue A Park and requested Chief Burlie comment on this. Mr. Fast also said the Woodie Seat project is progressing.

Chief Burlie said they are making their presence known so the park can be a more pleasant experience for visitors; and the officers are making more positive engagements at the park.

- Councilmember Meggers also commented on the Silver Crown Races this weekend. He questioned Chief Burlie on how the fireworks activity was across the city. Chief Burlie stated it was heavier on some days than others. Chief Beer shared they had 81 calls, including four dumpster fires, a couple of grass fires, and a couple of other issues. Mr. Meggers thanked everyone for their work over the holiday weekend.
- Mayor Goss said she and Enrico met with Stutzman's regarding a pay as you go pickup instead of monthly; however, it doesn't meet with Stutzman's business model. Ms. Goss commented on the additional lights at Farmington Park on poles; around the perimeter; and the trimming of trees after installation. She commented on the certification pay for City staff; and Mr. Villegas shared that many employees are taking advantage of furthering their education. Ms. Goss stated she had received a few complaints about scooters and questioned Chief Burlie about the rules regarding scooters. Chief Burlie stated they follow the same rules of the road and laws as bicycles. She also questioned Chief Burlie about the status of the Avenue A Park building being converted to a police substation. Chief Burlie reported that the department is presently at full staff; and they are looking at a community resource officer position; and as staffing levels move up, it is a possibility. Mayor Goss stated she would like to have a conversation with Evan regarding a footbridge at 11th & K-61. Discussion was had regarding the November 18th meeting and the conflict with the Chamber Annual Meeting.

b. City Manager

Chief Burlie spoke on the onboarding of Katie McDonald, social worker for the first responders; and she has begun group sessions as an introduction to meeting her; and is working towards individual sessions. He thanked Mr. Villegas for seeing the need for good mental health of our first responders; and the tools to address this need.

Jessica Woodyard, Public Communications Manager, gave an update on the website and new additions coming to it for resident access.

Todd Davis, Director of IT, spoke on updating the Parks pages with maps of the playgrounds in the individual parks. He also explained the creation of a foyer digital sign showing videos, meetings, news and QR code.

Mr. Villegas shared the City will be sharing a City Manager intern, Joshua Chonga, with Reno County for one year; and he is looking forward to the experience.

Mr. Villegas stated that in working day in and day out with staff, he understands what goes into the work, and at times there are community complaints regarding the timeline to get things done. He shared that everyone is stretched thin, and he does appreciate the community's patience.

11. Future Agenda Items

Budget discussion.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Richardson, second by Councilmember Meggers, to adjourn.
The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

August 5, 2025	5:30 p.m.	City Council meeting
August 19, 2025	5:30 p.m.	City Council meeting
September 2, 2025	5:30 p.m.	City Council meeting
September 16, 2025	5:30 p.m.	City Council meeting