



MINUTES

City Council Meeting

6:30 PM - Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Council Room

1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The City Council meeting was called to order on June 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

2 FLAG SALUTE

Council President Nick Engle led the flag salute.

3 INVOCATION

Council Member Wayne Molt, Jr. gave the invocation.

4 ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Member Kristi Truitt
Council President Nick Engle
Mayor Mark Staats
Council Member Jenny Webster
Council Member Chris Unkel
Council Member Wayne Molt, Jr.

ABSENT: Council Member Mike Neel
Council Member Elizabeth Stanton
Council Member Rick Coleman

5 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

5.1 Adoption of the Agenda

Nick Engle moved, seconded by Jenny Webster, to approve the meeting agenda, as presented.

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| RESULT: | Carried |
| MOVER: | Nick Engle |
| SECONDER: | Jenny Webster |
| AYES: | Kristi Truitt, Nick Engle, Jenny Webster, Chris Unkel, and Wayne Molt, Jr. |
| ABSENT: | Mike Neel, Elizabeth Stanton, and Rick Coleman |

6 PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Jaelen Johnston Proclamation

Mayor Mark Staats presented Jaelen Johnston with the Proclamation.

BACKGROUND:

- A proclamation honoring Jaelen Johnston for his recent success on *The Voice* for which we are all Derby Proud.

Jaelen Johnston said I thank everyone in Derby for rallying around me and cheering me on throughout the whole experience. Having Jaelen Johnston Day declared in my hometown is one of the best things ever. I appreciate all of you.

6.2 Parks and Recreation Month

Mayor Mark Staats presented the Proclamation to representatives from the Derby Recreation Commission and the Parks Department.

BACKGROUND:

- The National Recreation and Parks Association designates July as Parks and Recreation Month nationally, every year.
- The City of Derby has regularly participated in honoring this designation.
- The goal of Parks and Recreation Month is to promote the great opportunities and resources that local park and recreation agencies provide and to let the public know that July is a great time to get out and see all of the incredible things happening in their communities.

Vanessa Rugg, Director of Programs, Derby Recreation Commission, began by noting Jaelen Johnston was the winner of our 2023 Sing-Off at Derby's Third Thursday, so we join the City in congratulating him. Thank you to the DRC Board and staff as well as the City's Parks staff for all the ways we work together for those in our community. This year's National Recreation and Parks Association theme is "Build Together, Play Together," and I believe we exemplify that every day as we strive to provide high-quality programming and green park spaces for current and future generations. Thank you for choosing to celebrate July as Parks and Recreation Month with us.

6.3 VFW State Firefighter of the Year Award

John Turner, Fire Chief, introduced Loren Farley as the Firefighter of the Year, recounting his extraordinary and heroic efforts on August 1, 2024. Firefighter Farley was working on the primary attack line while responding to a house fire in Haysville that date when one of our mutual aid firefighters, Ty Voth, collapsed, went into seizure, and suffered a cardiac arrest. Farley was the only medic within 20 minutes of the scene, so he quickly relinquished his position on the nozzle and proceeded with administering patient care. Through his care, the fallen firefighter was able to regain a pulse, but unfortunately when transported to the hospital, they were unable to sustain his pulse, and Firefighter Voth passed away. It is with immense pride we recognize Firefighter Loren Farley as our Firefighter of the Year.

BACKGROUND:

- Since 2001, each year after Derby Fire & Rescue announces our Firefighter of the Year, the awarded firefighter is submitted to the Derby VFW Post 7253 for consideration for their State award.
- We are proud to announce that Firefighter Loren Farley has been awarded the VFW 2024-2025 State Firefighter of the Year Award.

Cody Jacobs, VFW Post 7253 Commander, presented Firefighter Farley with the local Firefighter of the Year award.

Aaron Grunden, VFW 5th District Emergency Services Commander, said as part of my role I am on the committee that reviews nominations for Firefighter of the Year. This is my third year to do so, and it is the third year Derby has been home to the winner. Chief Turner, you are doing something right! In addition to being named the District Firefighter of the Year, Loren Farley went on to become the State Firefighter of the Year, and even received recognition at the national level.

Firefighter Loren Farley said thank you, Mayor and Council, for having me here tonight. Thank you to the members of the VFW for all the awards; they mean a lot coming from such a distinguished organization. Thank you to members of Derby Fire and Rescue; I am here because of you. We truly are 100% team-oriented and focused, which is why we work so well together. I want to also honor Firefighter Ty Voth this evening. I did not know him but have learned a lot about him since the incident. He was truly a firefighter's firefighter, and what we all aspire to be.

6.4 Vaulted Deep Presentation

Dillan Curtis, Assistant Public Works Director, introduced **Luke Sharp, Vaulted Deep**, who gave a presentation about their partnership with Derby.

BACKGROUND:

- Representatives from Vaulted Deep will attend the meeting to thank the City of Derby and its Wastewater staff for their assistance in helping them win the X-prize for Carbon Removal.

Kiel Mangus, City Manager, said I believe your presentation is a testament to the forward-thinking of our team at Utilities. I applaud Mr. Curtis for being willing to try new things out. This has been a success so far, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Vaulted Deep.

7 PUBLIC FORUM & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Mark Staats said thank you to Public Works for the extended hours at the chip site in the days following last week's storm damage. The chip site had over 1,700 loads dropped off. I know our residents appreciate being able to clean up quickly and have the access to do so with expanded hours at the site.

Kiel Mangus, City Manager, noted there were over 700 loads just on Saturday. Traffic to the chip site has slowed now so we are resuming normal hours.

Council Member Kristi Truitt shared that PBS Kansas will be featuring Derby in their July 1st episode of "See, Taste, Do". Tune in to see the program about our community and to support our local PBS station.

Council Member Wayne Molt, Jr. echoed Mayor Staats' comments regarding Public Works and the chip site. I personally took several loads just from damage to trees at my own home. Even with all the additional loads arriving, the site was beautifully clean and ready to receive more because staff had done a great job keeping up with all the tree waste received.

Council Member Chris Unkel announced I am resigning my seat on City Council, effective immediately, due to moving outside the City limits. Former Mayor White is in attendance tonight; it was he who approached me a little over 4 years ago about considering a run for this seat. I've enjoyed my time serving our community on the Council. I have learned a lot about how a City is run and realized there is so much that goes on behind the scenes about which most people are unaware. There have been times, such as in a recent meeting, where we have had to make difficult decisions going against what some residents would like for us to do. Probably 95% of the time we are on the same page and agree as to what actions should be taken, but for those times when we have had disagreements, I feel we handle those courteously and thoughtfully. Thank you to everyone on the bench with whom I have served, and to our exceptional City staff who help us understand all the intricacies involved with the items on which we decide.

Mayor Staats thanked Mr. Unkel for his passion and the humor he offered which at times helped to lighten the mood during meetings. We appreciate your service.

Ms. Truitt seconded Mayor's thanks to Mr. Unkel. When I started on Council 18 months ago, it was nice to have a friendly face welcome me and support me in learning the ropes. You're always kind and lead with common sense, which helps other members in making decisions. You will be missed.

Council Member Wayne Molt, Jr. agreed and added his own thanks to Mr. Unkel for his service.

Council Member Jenny Webster said we have known each other quite a while, and I've enjoyed being a partner with you in serving Ward 4 residents.

Mayor Staats announced with Mr. Unkel's resignation, we no longer have a quorum, so the City Council meeting must end. However, we do have a quorum for El Paso Water Co., and we will move to that meeting.

Kiel Mangus, City Manager, stated all the scheduled voting items on Consent and New Business for tonight will move to our next City Council meeting on July 8, 2025.

The June 24, 2025 City Council meeting ended at 7:09 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

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