

**CITY OF SHAWNEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
August 25, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

Governing Body Present:

Mickey Sandifer - Mayor
Sierra Whitted - Ward 1
Tony Gillette- Ward 1
Jeanie Murphy - Ward 2
Dr. Mike Kemmling - Ward 2
Kurt Knappen - Ward 3
Jacklynn Walters- Ward 4
Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4

Governing Body Absent:

Angela Stiens - Ward 3

Staff Present:

Paul Kramer - City Manager
Colin Duffy - Deputy City Manager
Jenny Smith - City Attorney
Stephanie Zaldivar - City Clerk
Kellie Heckerson - Admin. Coordinator CMO
Mike Inich - I.T. Director
Doug Donahoo - Communications Director
Geoffry Brown - Budget & Purch. Specialist
Kimberlee Hughes -Budget & Purchasing
Manager
Sam Larson - Police Chief
Rick Potter - Fire Chief
Tonya Lecuru - Parks & Recreation Director
Sean Rocco - Finance Director
Kelly Grisnik - Human Resources Director
Kevin Manning - Public Works Director
Doug Allmon - Community Development
Director
Jason DeWald - City Engineer

(Shawnee City Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.)

A. ROLL CALL

MAYOR SANDIFER: Good evening and welcome to the August 25th, 2025, meeting of the Shawnee City Council. I am Mayor Mickey Sandifer, and I will be chairing this meeting. I'll do a roll call at this point -- or this time. Councilmember Whitted.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: Present.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Councilmember Gillette.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Present.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Councilmember Murphy.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Present.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Councilmember Kemmling.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Present.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Councilmember Knappen.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Present.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Councilmember Stiens is remote.

MR. DUFFY: Councilmember Stiens is not online at this time.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. She's not online at this point. Councilmember Walters.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Present.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Councilmember Burchfield.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Present.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

MAYOR SANDIFER: Would you please join me for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence?

(Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence)

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you.

Next, I'd like to explain our procedures for public input. In an effort to enhance residents' ability to present information to the Governing Body, anyone interested in addressing the Governing Body is strongly encouraged to sign up to speak by noon on the day of the meeting, but it's not required. Information has been posted online about how to sign up.

By policy, comments are limited to five minutes, and no person may speak more than once on any one agenda item. Only comments related to City business are permitted. Disruptive acts are not permitted as per Policy No. 7 and will not be tolerated.

Additionally, comments can be submitted to the entire Governing Body at via: GoverningBody@cityofshawnee.org.

C. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve minutes from the City Council meeting of August 11, 2025.
2. Review minutes from the Planning Commission meeting of July 21, 2025.
3. Consider approving the increase of the Purchase Order with Edwards Chemical, INC for an increase in the amount of \$10,000 to maintain appropriate sanitation levels at TASAC and splash pads for remainder of 2025 aquatic season.
4. Consider a license renewal agreement for the Trimble Unity Construct (e-Builder) Project Management Software.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Next on the agenda is the Consent Agenda. Would anyone on the Council like to remove anything from the Consent Agenda? Hearing none, I'll accept a motion. Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Move to approve.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed, nay. Motion passes.

Motion 1: Kurt Knappen - Ward 3/Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4: Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried 7-0-0.

D. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

MAYOR SANDIFER: Next on the agenda is Business from the Floor. Did anyone sign up to speak from Business from the Floor?

MR. DUFFY: Yes, Mayor. We had two pre-register. First is Martin Mueller.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. Would you come to the podium, please? And when you're finished, please put your name, address, phone number on the form at the podium, please, so they have a record of your -- of you.

MR. MUELLER: Okay. My name is Martin Mueller. I live at 1600 East 80th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. My concern has been with word from your May 26th meeting, Council meeting where it was decided to put a gate across Frisbee Road at the Shawnee Riverfront Park to stop access to the area. I'm speaking as a rockhound from the Show Me Rockhounds Club as member of the Greater Association -- or Earth Science Association in Kansas City. There is a goodly number of people that go there for rock hounding that are separate from the dirt trail people and the trash people and that. And so, it's to open the door on finding ways that we can gain access once the gate is put into place. We have no -- we're pretty amazed.

My wife and I had gone last week, Monday, a week ago, and went south of where we usually access the river and noticed the dumping that had been going on there. So, I would agree that something needs to be done, and I just don't know how best to address some of those things. That's for better people. But we've got a community of rockhound people. We've been out there seeing couples with their children being able to play, pick up rocks, do stuff like that.

It was July 30th and talking to a person there that informed us of the decision to put a gate across. And so then, I looked up the minutes and read that and then been doing research on the situation out there. Having a rural background, knowing dirt bikes and

whatnot, not personally, but how young people deal with that, you know, my hats are off to you on figuring some of that out. Because once you close that up, they're going to move into neighborhoods, and I'm concerned that way.

But I'm here for the Rockhounds. And we have a code of ethics. First, we ask for permission, which is why I'm starting this right now. To that of -- I also noticed the time clicking away. To be able to access. And then we're not, as a group, we don't make a mess. And in talking to a number of people that have been there, they speak of picking up garbage bags of trash that other people have left behind. And I know that we've taken a magnet on a stick and picked up nails that have been left from some of their bonfires using pallets of wood for their fuel. So, we try to take care of our stuff, and we'd like to retain an ability to go there. I and my wife tend to be spontaneous. We're retired mostly. So, once we're done with our other things, we like being able to go there. It's nice and quiet for the most part. And we collect just rocks and we enjoyed the pleasure of being out there. If there's a way of being able to deal with this as the gate gets put in, then I'd appreciate knowing more about that.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. And what I can tell you is the City Manager and I were talking about it today. We're trying to come up with some type of a -- something where people could still walk in there and ride a bike in there so. If you want to contact the City and get a hold of someone at the City offices up here --

MR. MUELLER: Okay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: -- and talk to somebody. Is there anybody else?

MR. DUFFY: Yes. The other person we had pre-register is Riley Griffin.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Riley. Okay. As soon as you're finished, you need to sign your name and address on the podium, please.

MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you. My name is Riley Griffin. I'm at 12614 West 57th. First of all, I would like to say thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak with you and to be heard when we have an issue or whatever it may be.

Tonight, I would like to propose a change to a city ordinance. You all probably have the handout that I provided. On page 1, I've listed out some quick bullet points. On page 2 and 3, I've included some more information if you'd like to read further on the points that I had and my reasonings here. The goal of this, kind of what my husband and I are wanting to do, is raise two small dairy goats in our yard on our property so that we can have healthy milk for our family, promoting sustainable small scale agriculture. As everyone knows, the cost of buying milk and cheese and whatever it might be is going up. So, this is a small thing that we would want to do to help our family out. So, that's my reasoning number 1, promote small, sustainable agriculture.

My reasoning number 2, the current 100-foot rule is prohibitive. So, the rule as it reads, "There shall be no stable, pen, shelter, or similar animal housing within 100 feet of the nearest property line, provided that this shall not apply to non-commercial dog pens or dog houses." So that's the City Ordinance 6.08.020, and I have it listed there at the top of the handout for you all to read. We are proposing that we reduce this ordinance to 20 or 30 feet or open a discussion to create a reasonable variant for responsible owners.

So, moving back down to my reasonings and my points here. Goats are typically clean, quiet, and manageable with proper care, with their pen, and keeping it clean. They can -- they don't smell that much at all. More than, you know, 20 or 30 feet of distance would cause a hindrance or problem. And typically, they are pretty quiet. They can be quieter than dogs. I know that when I'm driving around our neighborhoods here you always are hearing dogs bark, and I've kind of just gotten used to it. Goats are not very much louder than that, if louder at all.

Another one of our reasons is that it be personal use, non-commercial. We would not be -- I would not have a herd of 40 goats in my backyard. That would be ridiculous. So, with that being said, we are willing to meet reasonable requirements, either if that's permits, inspections, ensuring that owners have specific classes so that they are properly equipped to handle these animals.

Another reasonable requirement that I will draw your attention to on the back page there is that limiting the number of animals, so goats in this case or special animals, within a certain lot space I think would be a helpful addition to this if we can't reduce or -- if we can't reduce the 100-foot setback, then we can move on to the waiver discussion. But my suggestion here is perhaps 2 per 10,000 square feet. I think that would be reasonable.

And then I've listed here an example of a waiver system that we could use, things that would go into the waiver system would include neighbor consent, animal welfare and care standards, which the enclosure must meet human housing standards. And then that the City would have review and approval of the plan, going out and inspecting the property as they already do. But it would just be a little bit more detailed to allow for this with responsible care.

Another thing that I've included there in the waiver system is the revocation clause that if it does not -- if it's not working out and it's causing problems, it's causing complaints, the City has a way to say, you know what, let's revisit this. You're not meeting these requirements that we've clearly laid out for you.

So yeah, that is my proposal for a change to this ordinance. What questions do you all have?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Well, we're not allowed to have questions at Business from the Floor.

MS. GRIFFIN: Oh, okay. That's good to know too.

MAYOR SANDIFER: But thank you for coming up.

MS. GRIFFIN: Yes. Thank you for allowing me time to speak.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. Thank you. Was there anybody else?

MR. DUFFY: That was all that pre-registered, Mayor.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. Anyone in the audience have anything for Business from the Floor? Okay. Moving on.

E. MAYOR'S ITEMS**1. Service Dog Proclamation**

MAYOR SANDIFER: The next item is Mayor's Items. Item Number 1 is Service Dog Proclamation. Communications Director Doug Donahoo will read the proclamation while I present it. I'd like to invite Canine Companions up front with me. Thank you.

MR. DONAHOO: Whereas, we believe in the connection between humans and canines; and

Whereas, there are 70 million Americans with a disability, but only 16,000 accredited service dogs; and

Whereas, Canine Companions is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing expertly trained service dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships free of charge; and

Whereas, Canine Companions and their service dogs empower people with disabilities to lead life with greater independence by providing best-in-class training, ongoing follow-up services, and a deeply committed community of support; and

Whereas, the City of Shawnee embraces all citizens and their service dogs.

Now, therefore, Mickey Sandifer, Mayor of the City of Shawnee, Kansas, does hereby proclaim September as Service Dog Month and encourages all citizens to celebrate service dogs and be respectful of the rights to safe access in our community.

(Applause)

F. PUBLIC ITEMS**1. Conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a Resolution levying a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate of 22.300 for the fiscal year 2026 budget.**

(a) Conduct a Public Hearing

MAYOR SANDIFER: The next item on the agenda is Public Items. Item Number 1 is to conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a resolution levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate of 22.300 for the physical year of 2026 budget. A roll call vote will be needed to occur at the public hearing.

Do I have a motion? Motion for a public hearing?

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Move to conduct a public hearing regarding the revenue neutral rate of 22.300.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I will take a roll call vote. Do we need -- it says a roll call vote right after this.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: We need discussion.

MAYOR SANDIFER: We need that at the end. Yeah. Okay.

Motion 2: **Kurt Knappen - Ward 3/Jeanie Murphy - Ward 2:** Conduct a public hearing to consider exceeding the revenue neutral ad valorem tax rate. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

(b) Adopt resolution exceeding the revenue neutral rate

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Can I clarify?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Pardon?

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: We're going to vote to exceed the revenue neutral rate before we discuss the mill levy for the year, correct?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Yes.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: So, right now we're just looking at the question of whether or not to go over the revenue neutral rate.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Yes.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yes. We are not setting the mill rate.

MAYOR SANDIFER: This is not setting it.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Right. We'll do that next, correct?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Right.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Okay. so, we'll just have discussion about the revenue neutral rate. Sorry, Mayor.

MAYOR SANDIFER: So, we're now in a public hearing.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yes, sir.

So again, on this one from the staff side, just to clarify, this is required by state statute. And so, what we are doing now is not setting the mill rate for next year; we're simply having the public hearing to exceed what was provided to the City as the revenue neutral rate.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Any discussion or --

MAYOR SANDIFER: Right. Anybody have any discussion on this? Mike.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Yeah. I talked to our Finance Director before the meeting, but I'll just make sure it's on the record here as well, which is that the revenue neutral rate here 22.3 is about 0.95 lower than what's being proposed in the budget later. So, this is about a mill. That's about a mill off. So, I just wanted to put that on the record?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Does anyone else have any questions for staff? Hearing none. I guess what it says --

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Any public comment?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Huh?

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Public comment.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Public comment. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this? Anyone sign up for it? Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't sign up. [Inaudible; talking off mic]

MAYOR SANDIFER: If you're going to speak, you need to come up to the microphone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [Inaudible; talking off mic] Shawnee, Kansas. I bought a house three years ago, my forever home. It has gone up to \$2,000. A thousand every year, and now I'm going to have -- what is going to happen to the people that are retired? What is Shawnee doing? I mean, there's people that are on a fixed income. It's fine if I was working and I knew that I could continue in this home. But it seems like maybe an apartment is all I can do, and you seem to be building a lot of those around. That's all I have to say.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. Once a motion on the resolution has been made, there will be no further comments accepted. I'll accept a motion to adopt the resolution levying the property tax rate exceeding -- oh, we've got to do --

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Not on this one. The vote is during the public hearing. It's a little bit different than the budget.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: It's the one time that we actually vote during the public hearing.

MAYOR SANDIFER: All right. So, I will accept a motion to adopt a resolution levying the property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate of 22.300 mill for the physical year of 2026. Do I have a motion? Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: [Inaudible; talking off mic]

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion --

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Move to approve the resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: A roll call vote.

MAYOR SANDIFER: That's right. A roll call vote. Sierra.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Mike.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Tony and Mike have voted no.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Is Angela online yet?

MR. DUFFY: She's not.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Nay, Walters.

MAYOR SANDIFER: You're a nay or --

MR. DUFFY: Yeah.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Do I need to say it again?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: We have three nays and six ayes -- or four ayes.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: And you do vote on this one.

MAYOR SANDIFER: And I'm an aye. So, motion passes.

Motion 3: **Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4/Jeanie Murphy - Ward 2:** Adopt a Resolution, by a roll call vote, levying an ad valorem tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate of 22.300 for the fiscal year 2026 budget. **The motion carried 5-3-0 with Tony Gillette - Ward 1, Dr. Mike Kemmling - Ward 2, and Jacklynn Walters - Ward 4 voting no, and Mayor Mickey Sandifer voting yes.**

(c) Conclude the Public Hearing

MAYOR SANDIFER: I'll accept a motion to conclude the public hearing.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Move to conclude the public hearing.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed, nay. Motion passes.

Motion 4: **Kurt Knappen - Ward 3/Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4:** Conclude the public hearing. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

2. Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider Adopting the 2026 Budget.

(a) Conduct a Public Hearing

MAYOR SANDIFER: Item Number 2 is to conduct a public hearing to consider adopting the 2026 budget. I will accept a motion to conduct a public hearing. Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Move to conduct a public hearing on this item.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion. Do I have a second? Sierra.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

Motion 5: **Tony Gillette - Ward 1/Sierra Whitted - Ward 1:** Conduct a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the 2026 budget. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

MAYOR SANDIFER: We're in a public hearing. Paul.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I have a brief presentation tonight before we open it up to comments or any questions.

[The 2026 Budget Process slide]

Tonight is the culmination of a long budget process. Before we start, so I don't forget, I'd like to thank the City of Shawnee Finance staff led by Finance Director Sean Rocco and his team for all the work they've done on this. The public who has been out to the meetings that we've held, and the Governing Body who's been through, again, these meetings.

This process started about 4½ months ago. We've held nine public budget discussions and meetings in April, May, June, July and August. We had a full-day Council retreat, a budget open house in early August, and notification has been published of the meeting agendas and public hearing notifications in accordance with state statute, and information on the website, print outlets, and social media.

[2026 Budget Breakdown slide]

So, each budget has themes that emerge as you go through them. Each budget is different. So, for the 2026 budget, I thought that this chart was especially reflective of the process we went through. If you'll turn your attention to the column on the far right side, then you'll see the 3.09 percent. What that represents is year over year the operating budget for the City of Shawnee. The entire operating budget increased 3.09 percent.

Down there at 2.41 percent, you'll see what the year over year revenue increase was. So, a couple of notes to point out on that. Taxes increased 3.34 percent. That's sales and property together.

We did have quite a decline in investment income. We'll talk about that as we get to the revenue portion, reserve portion of the budget discussion. A lot of that has to do with spending down our reserves over the last two years, really the last 18 months. And we'll put in some detail, based on Council direction, on what we did.

The other thing I want to point out is that 2.41 percent of revenue is a number. It's a number that we have, the resources we have, but it also, to staff and to the Governing Body indicates that people have cut back up a little bit on their spending. Sales tax revenues are down. Sales tax growth is down. And so, we take that into consideration when forming the budget. And I hope that that's reflected in that 3.09 percent year over year expenses.

We have tried to keep the city costs down. Personnel growth, 3.55 percent. As we all know, Public Safety is the vast majority of our employees and those costs grow to about 9½ percent year over year.

Contractual Services only up 1.84 percent year over year. And Commodities only up 0.17 percent year over year. We have tried through our contracts and our commodities and our personnel to minimize expenses to the maximum extent that we thought we could and still ensure quality service delivery that our business and residents expect.

[2026 Operating Budget Considerations slide]

Public safety, personnel, equipment and operational requirements, and our core functions safety, inspections, property maintenance and land use, infrastructure, sidewalks, roadways and stormwater. We'll talk more about stormwater. And the recreational amenities that our residents enjoy - parks, trails and aquatics.

At the same time trying to maintain responsible financial and workplace management. Making sure that we have in mind throughout this entire 4½ month process, the value for the taxes paid. Optimal revenue and expense structure. Mill and fee rates. And of course, our future obligations in the form of debt issued and reserve levels.

We also know that it's important across the City to ensure that pay ranges for entry and in labor positions, those out there doing the work day-to-day, are competitive, and that there's competition across all areas, including public safety.

[Revenue and Expenses slide]

Just briefly on revenues and expenses. Some highlights. Property valuation growth. While we are mindful it's still up, but it has moderated. We're at a 4.81 percent increase in property valuations for the City of Shawnee. It's different in different cities in the county, but that's the picture here in Shawnee.

Commercial valuation increases are up 1.9 percent, and single-family average is 5.3 percent. And we were happy for the first time in a while to see this year that 35 percent of Shawnee homeowners saw less than a 3 percent increase in their assessed valuation.

At the same time, sales tax revenue is down. '26 forecasted revenue increase of 2.8 percent. As a reminder, the City of Shawnee is primarily operated on sales tax revenue. 40 percent of our operating budget is sales tax where 30 percent is property tax. Property tax plays a key role but is definitely behind sales tax as far as what drives the city. And sales tax right now is down year over year from a forecast of about 3½ percent is what we like to see; 2.8 percent is where we are right now.

On the expense side, General Fund expenses are 70 percent staff. Cities don't make things. They are people who provide services. Whether that's in Public Safety, whether that's in our Parks crews, our Public Works crews, that's what we are. And 63 percent of that staff is Public Safety.

I did mention earlier that Public Safety personnel expenses increased about 9½ percent annually. They have their own individual pay plans. That's a step type system that there's automatic increases and that's what every competing agency does. And that's what this Governing Body has put in place. But that does mean that those increases

year over year are about 9½ percent. There is that constant competition between Johnson County cities and there are increases to the state pension requirements.

We do look at other opportunities to reduce expenses. As I showed you on the previous slide, two slides ago, Contractual Services, we've managed to get down to a 1.84 percent year over year increase, and Commodities, a 0.17 percent increase. We don't have as much control over commodities as I'd like. We're sort of subject to the market on a lot of those. But right now those trends are looking pretty good to keep the expenses low.

[2026 Proposed Operating Budget Highlights slide]

So, with that said, we didn't have a lot of new additions to the 2026 budget. It's pretty much a status quo budget focusing on service delivery. Our Shawnee summer camp was a huge hit. So, I'd like to again thank the Governing Body for approving that. We're expanding by 25 participants next year. And the only thing, the only increase in cost on that is a part-time employee who will be transitioned to full-time. But that position is paid for by revenue from Camp Shawnee. That will put us to 100 children that get to spend their summer in the Civic Centre and going on field trips in Camp Shawnee.

We did double the property tax rebate program. That is a program to help to help our homeownership, lower income residents with a rebate of their Shawnee City property tax. We are definitely trying to get that word out through service agencies more so than we have in the past. We want every dollar allocated, which is now \$100,000, to be used by those who need that property tax relief.

We did add one position. One new dispatcher in the Police Department. Based on call volume and best practices, the five-year plan for the Police Department calls to add five. We'll see where that goes if we have the funds to do that. But we were able to, and I think the Governing Body was supportive of adding one new dispatcher for next year. Our call volumes are increasing. And unlike some other cities in Johnson County, Shawnee does our own police dispatch. And so those dispatchers are City employees.

The compensation plan recommendation is a 4 percent merit pool increase. That comes out to about an average of 3.6 percent for employees of the City, and that's across the board, but that is merit based. It's also not inclusive. As I mentioned previously, about approved automatic compensation adjustments for our Police and Fire.

Continuation of our Reserve Use Plan. And sort of something I'll talk about here in the next slide is we have really started to subsidize the Stormwater program with General Fund dollars. And so, you'll see how that's come into play.

[FY2026 Overview - Reserves slide]

So, the reserve plan. Eighteen (18) months ago, well, last year at this time, but earlier last year, the Governing Body made the decision to spend down some of our reserves to get closer to -- our reserves had increased to a level that was a little bit high. So, in the last 18 months we have spent \$4.3 million of reserves. Here is where it went. \$2.5 million went directly to Stormwater projects. We have an enormous backlog in the city. We have sinkholes. We have a failing roadways. If you live out in the Monticello High School area, you'll notice that. And so, \$2.5 million in the last 18 months has gone on top of the Stormwater Utility Fund. The direction was can we get more money to

Stormwater without increasing the Stormwater fee? We have not increased the Stormwater fee and we're putting more money towards stormwater.

We were able to cash finance a fire truck rather than having to borrow that money and pay the interest. And then we are trying to move toward a partial self-insurance for property and casualty, so we can insulate ourselves against future increases in insurance rates. So that \$4.3 million, 2½ to Stormwater, 1.8 to a fire truck and our Risk Mitigation Fund so that we don't turn in those claims on some of our city buildings.

Nearly all revenue collected in excess of expenses is currently being directed to Stormwater. 2.5, I put the exact amount there, but I talked about the \$2.5 million to the Stormwater Fund. The July 16th rain event has created a backlog of more than \$1 million in new projects. And these are projects in all Council awards. We're working on streambank erosion, sinkholes across the city, and funding that with Stormwater reserves,

I think the next important point to make is at any revenue in excess of expenses is not going into the General Fund. Any revenue in excess of expenses is going to Stormwater. That's where we have been putting it. These numbers indicate that and that's where it will continue to go.

[Value of your tax dollars slide]

Value for your tax dollars. We do this slide every year. This is the market value of a \$422,000 home here in Shawnee. You pay the City one out of every \$5 that you pay in property taxes comes to the City, so about 20 percent. And that works out to \$94 a month for police protection, snow removal, street repairs, the Civic Centre, animal control, fire protection, code enforcement, parks, trails, playgrounds, pools, health and safety inspections. And for the first time I did add stormwater. Stormwater has traditionally been paid out of a dedicated Stormwater Fee. But as you can see from the last side, we are now heavily subsidizing the much needed improvement to our stormwater system from the General Fund. Any excess dollars above expenses goes into Stormwater.

[Proposed 2026 Budget slide]

This is just the numbers that we put on the state form that you'll find in your agenda packet and that you've seen throughout this process, including a mill levy that remains flat year over year is the proposed budget.

That is the end of my prepared remarks. I'm prepared to answer questions you have. I also again have my Finance Director, Sean Rocco, here if there's any comments, questions, and then I'm sure we'll hear from the public, so.

MAYOR SANDIFER: All right. I have on here is there anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this?

MR. DUFFY: Mayor, we had one pre-register. Alex Welch-Blattner.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay.

MS. WELCH-BLATTNER: Hi. I'm Alex Welch-Blattner. I live at 13213 West 66th Terrace in Ward 2. I'm here because I have heard that some Councilmembers are pushing for yet another mill levy decrease. This concerns me, especially in light of

looming financial uncertainty due to tariffs and recent infrastructure failures such as the pipe collapse on Monticello and the sinkholes near me in Ward 2.

I appreciate Councilmembers Whitted, Murphy, and Burchfield for being present at the Budget Open House to engage with residents, including myself, on the budget process and Councilmember Murphy for holding a Ward 2 town hall to discuss further.

But for everyone here, often those concerns used to justify a mill levy decrease are the City's high level of reserves and tax relief for residents in need. I sympathize with both of these concerns, but I feel a mill levy decrease is not the most efficient method to address them. If the concern is about the City's reserves being too high, staff has already implemented an excellent reserve reduction plan to address this. I love the plan. I do have concerns about spending the reserves down too far because we lose out on interest revenue. But if further reduction is needed, I would like to see the City put more reserve dollars towards critical infrastructure projects like stormwater pipe repairs and adding curb and gutter to streets that don't have them. Which again, Ward 2, we have a lot of those.

If the concern is about tax relief for those in need, especially seniors struggling to stay in their homes, again, we've put in place a really great property tax rebate program for those individuals that would save them a lot more than the \$6 a month they'd save with a one mill decrease. We could even expand that plan to cover more income levels if the program's utilization remains low.

In conclusion, the City already has more effective plans in place to address the concerns of reserves and tax relief. A mill levy decrease is, in my opinion, a one size fits all solution that benefits large businesses and wealthy homeowners much more than it benefits those who need help the most. And it risks leaving the City unable to address our crumbling stormwater and street infrastructure.

I personally am more than happy to pay \$6 a month in exchange for being able to walk and drive around on streets that work. I ask you to approve a flat mill levy for this and future budgets. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. Put your name and address, please, there.

MS. WELCH-BLATTNER: I already did.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. Is there anyone on the Council have any item -- have any questions for staff?

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Is there any more public?

MAYOR SANDIFER: Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to speak on this item? Okay. If you'd like to speak on it, come up to the podium. Please put your name and address on the -- when you're finished there.

MS. SHULTZ: Hello. My name is Virginia Taylor Shultz. My husband and I have been residents of Shawnee for over 30 years, homeowners. And we have been -- we have both recently retired. We both have had lucrative careers. However, we have done our part to keep our community going and building. I've been a registered nurse for almost 50 years. I keep my license active because I'm so afraid of our community and our --

just the expenses throughout our government and the monies that are constantly being drawn from our pay. We no longer have that ability to make what we were making before. We do have our retirement, but it is now to a point where we're having to use our retirement just to meet the demands of the increased costs and limiting ourselves of what we've had before or our way of life. I don't expect this -- to live as we did because we had very good careers and retirement does restrict that.

However, when you were first talking about the increase in the taxes, I did not understand the different reserves. Some of your terminology is confusing and it would be nice to have a little more discussion and explain what you mean. And then you moved through to the vote to go ahead and increase it.

As a senior now, and also with limited and restrictions, I don't see things for us seniors here that I would like to see such as the rec center. My husband, and he walks. That's what he relies on. And due to weather, you know, when it gets really, really hot it's pretty difficult. So, we go to the rec center. Well, in the summer you shut everything down for the kids. Well, then what are the adults or the retirees supposed to do? Why don't we have an indoor pool or something even for our seniors to use? I would like to see more things available for us and encouragements and ways of keeping us involved. I feel like it's just, well, you're old. You're there. Just pay your taxes and shut up. I still have a lot to give. As I said, I'm still a licensed registered nurse. I have -- I just, I don't know.

I'd just like to understand a bit more about what's going on and what you as our government. I keep up with the nation's politics pretty well, and I'll tell you, that's scary. That is very scary what's happening. I'd like to know what's happening here. Are we a sanctuary city? I'd like to know. Can anybody tell me are we or are we not?

MAYOR SANDIFER: We're not answering questions.

MS. SHULTZ: Okay. Well, that's something we should be able to have access to that type of information, like who's living around us. Who's moving around us. Because that is scary. I mean, I wake up when I was hearing about all this movement of people coming and being dropped off here, being dropped off there. Is someone, am I going to wake up and find someone camping out in my backyard. I don't know. I would just like some information. Okay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: You could probably set up an appointment and talk to some of the staff here to figure out some things. As far as I know, we are not a sanctuary city, so.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: [Inaudible; talking off mic]

MAYOR SANDIFER: I can't hear you. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Sanctuary cities are illegal in the state of Kansas.

MS. SHULTZ: Okay. That's what I believe. But yet, when you see some of the things that are going on, it's like are we or are we not.

MAYOR SANDIFER: All right.

MS. SHULTZ: So.

MAYOR SANDIFER: But anything else you could set -- call the City and get an appointment and they could explain a lot of the budget and a lot of the different things to you.

MS. SHULTZ: Okay. Because I would like to know more about my local [inaudible].

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who do we talk to? Who should we ask to speak to?

MAYOR SANDIFER: So, you can get a hold of the Finance Department, and they could --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [Inaudible; talking off mic]

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. Anyone else? Come on up. When you're finished, please put your name and phone number and address on the --

MR. NEUER: Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Fred Neuer, and I live at 7593 Legler Street in Shawnee. And we appreciate the time that you folks have dedicated to help from the City.

However, I'd like to speak to all of us in that, folks, we have a problem. And the problem is our taxes, and our expectations are too high. We have a \$32 trillion deficit. I know that doesn't go here. But I think we have to start thinking in a different frame of mind. And what I mean is, well, we're only going to raise it 1 percent or 2 percent. I think, folks, in general, we're going to have to do with less whether we like it or not. And where that starts is right here with you folks. I know, particularly, I don't know this answer, and I'll have to ask the question. What percent of the folks in Shawnee are retired? I mean, they cannot continue to take a 2, 3, 4 percent increase every year.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

MR. NEUER: So, I'm saying to you is we have to have a mindset change in that we have to do with less or we have to do more with less. And that's an American tradition, believe it or not. We can do it if we're if we're asked to do it. And this is no reflection on the City employees because they -- they're trying to do a good job. But my problem is everybody is talking about a cost of living increase. Well, folks, that's a great idea. But there's come a time, and I think the time is now for us to say, folks, we got to do -- we have to -- we have to do with less. Now, that's going, and don't take this the wrong way, it's always -- it's always easier to give more than to take back, to take away. I understand that. But we can't continue this way or we're going to have a lot more problems.

And so, I'm really asking you in the future let's not raise it this little bit, that little bit. You know, 1 percent or 2 percent every year, before you know it, for the retired folks, it becomes a significant problem. I can tell you're all mostly, I don't know your backgrounds, but you seem to be family people. You're trying to hold on -- hold the line. We just can't keep doing what we're doing. And the sooner we -- and I would ask the

City employees who are good people and try hard, but I think their frame of mind has to be the reverse.

And so, I've said my point. There's no sense elaborating on it. But thank you everybody that's been here.

(Applause)

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. And put your name and address on the form, please. Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to speak on this? Hearing none. Are there any comments from the Council? Somebody. Go ahead, Sierra.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: All right. Mill levy. I'm glad there's so many people here tonight. So, you got to see some of those numbers. I'm sure they looked kind of a mess up there, but I wanted to highlight that what those numbers were showing was how our staff turned straw into gold. We are not talking about raising any taxes here. We are only talking about maintaining it. Right now, we've been spending down our reserves because they were a little high and we have been able to invest those funds into some emergency projects, primarily the sinkholes, the corrugated metal piping failures. But even then, we are spending every single extra penny -- if we want things like the indoor pools and to be able to use more of those funds to give back to the City, we have to have the funds. Right now, we are razor thin. And honestly, if we do -- we have enough for 2026. We have that budget. If we lower that mill levy, that \$6 a month on average, that's if you're a homeowner, those are the people that that is currently impacting. If we lose those funds, that means that we are losing a big chunk of our General Fund. And if you saw those numbers, that means that the -- one of the biggest portions there is our public safety. And we're going to have to choose where to make cuts if it comes to that point. As you said, you know, if we have less, we're going to have to make do with less and we're going to have to figure out what to cut. So, as we're moving forward, I -- with the emergency projects that we have, with the sidewalks that we need, the stormwater, the corrugated metal piping, the sinkholes, I do not feel comfortable, I do not feel like we are setting up Shawnee for a strong future, strong infrastructure if we reduce the mill levy at this time. And I understand taxes are high. They go up. That is primarily the county. The portion that the City gets is much smaller. So, and honestly, we very much need those funds to make sure that we are keeping Shawnee foundationally sound. And I do not support reducing the mill levy at this time.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Thank you, Mayor. So, residents routinely get five minutes to present to the Council. And it occurred to me that I typically try to speak as quickly as I can. So, I thought for once I'll actually take a full five minutes to explain my position and actually read some of my thoughts regarding this year's mill levy since this is a very important issue. It's the most important vote we take every year. I could take 15-20 minutes to discuss this, but this is the culmination of probably 20 meetings that we've had throughout the course of the year, and this really tonight wraps up our budget.

I appreciate your comments about learning more, and I -- we invite you. I mean we have meetings all year long about this, and I'm not surprised, so some of it is going to be foreign if you haven't been to the meetings. But I feel like we have a very

transparent policy, and we want and encourage -- we never shut down public input. So, thank you for your comments.

I have proudly voted for three mill levy reductions over my six years on the Council so far. And those were the first tax decreases in 20 years. I've always been in favor of cutting taxes whenever possible. That said, I do want to share with the public my thought process regarding how best to move forward this year regarding the mill levy.

Number 1. I do hope the public realizes that we have the leanest workforce per thousand residents among any of our sister cities. We run a tight ship, so I don't believe there's room to reduce our workforce.

Number 2. Our total increase in the budget last year, as City Manager stated, was 3.09 percent, which was right at inflation. And that's in spite of a lot of headwinds. That is the result mainly of this staff, but also this Council being as fiscally responsible as possible on each and every vote.

Number 3. I believe with all my heart that there is a lot of waste in taxpayer money, particularly at the federal and state level. And I'm not going to say there's not any at the City level, but after being here for six years, I feel very confident that we are doing everything we can to reduce costs on our local, the local burden and, you know, the City government is the one that probably impacts you the most on a day-to-day basis, including public safety, parks, local roads, stormwater and much, much more. So, a few thoughts there.

I think it's important also to spell out the headwinds we're facing and many of them have been commented on already. But I realize they are not that different from the headwinds facing families today. Nonetheless, if we're going to be responsible stewards of the public funds, I think we need to recognize them and balance low taxes with our overall obligations is -- that's an extremely important point.

Number 1. We have significant stormwater needs. You've heard it talked about tonight. We've been talking about this for years and this Council has essentially put every bit of extra money into our stormwater because we have a real problem. Over the last 1½ years alone, we've put almost \$3 million in. I think the City Manager said 2½ million last year in addition to what is always budgeted for Stormwater. And then we had, you know, three weeks ago, seven sinkholes. One is going to cost \$1.5 million out by Mill Valley. I know I've got another constituent that's got a sinkhole and an easement that's going to cost probably \$250,000. And that's just two out of seven that I heard of. So, these are unexpected. They're expensive, and we've done our best to prepare for them and plan for them and get ahead of it, but it's continuing to be a problem.

Number 2. And I'm sorry I'm talking a lot. I don't usually do this. Number 2. 40 percent of the City revenue comes from sales tax. And sales tax revenues have slowed significantly. They are not projected to improve in the near term. But again, any revenue in excess of expenses does go to Stormwater.

Number 4. I sat on the health insurance task force for two years, so I'm familiar with the numbers. And we continue to see what you're seeing at home, which is double digit increases in both property tax insurance for our buildings, but also double digit every year increases for our employee insurance. That costs a lot of money in spite of efforts to be creative, keep costs down well above inflation.

Number 4. One of the reasons I voted for three tax decreases was the fact that we had so much in our reserve fund. Why would we keep taxing residents when we had so much in reserves. But our City Manager has now put a plan in place to utilize those funds and bring our reserve fund back to the industry standard. With that reserve spend down plan going forward, again, all extra funds go to stormwater repairs, basic infrastructure, not nice to haves, but have to haves.

Number 5. And finally, the cost of construction materials continues to skyrocket. It's just hard for us to get materials and it costs a lot more. So, I'll leave it at that on that end.

But all this said, again, we are facing headwinds, uncertainty. I just can't support a mill levy reduction this year as much as I would like to. Residents pay, on average, about \$100 per month in taxes to the City for all the services they get, including public safety, parks and recreational offerings, infrastructure throughout the City, snow removal, and much, much, much more. I believe that we deliver on the money our residents pay and that's why Shawnee is one of the best places in Kansas to live. And as a result, I'll be in favor of voting not for a tax increase, but for a flat mill levy this year. Sorry to talk so long. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thanks. Anyone else? Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Thanks, Mayor. Appreciate it. So, that the public understands, this is, again, a combination of many meetings. So, I hope next year you take the time to come and be more educated on the issue through the budget process. We highly encourage it. I know our staff is very welcoming and will meet with anybody, including your Councilmembers, the Mayor. Anybody will talk with you about this issue.

I'd like to start by saying that I really appreciate the staff's presentations during the budget process this year. They did an outstanding, excellent job of keeping expenses nearly as flat, if not at a zero level increase, so that they need to be commended for that. That's not always been the case here. As Councilmember Knappen said, I voted in favor of a mill levy decrease every year I've been on this Council. And should I get reelected, I would love to be able to continue to do that.

Given all the problems we have in Johnson County with rising tax valuations, our schools continue to rise, as it was spoken by a resident earlier, it's becoming harder and harder to stay here in Johnson County, Kansas. I moved here from Des Moines, Iowa almost 30 years ago. This is my forever home. I love this community. I love serving it. I've raised two children here, and I want to continue to stay here. But last year, we did not do a mill levy decrease, we stayed flat. I think given the extreme expenses that are out there in our county, the best that we can do in the City is to give a little bit back.

We took in about \$1.3 million more dollars in revenue than projected, and there's a difference between actuals and projections when it comes to budget season. And that's great government talk. But at the end of the day, we did take in more dollars and so we need to return a portion of that back to you, but still keep Shawnee a great place to live, work, and raise your family. So, I'm in favor of the changes for this budget season. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Anyone else? Jacklynn.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Good evening. Thank you to Sean and the team for - I can't say it enough. You do a great job presenting every -- each department and all of the, you know, telling us what you've done and what you need in the future, so I really appreciate that. I thought this was probably the best year yet since I've been on the Council, and I appreciate that very much. You've done a good job in that department.

I also just want to say a thank you to Paul and his efforts on the stormwater. It is an issue that I've been extremely passionate about my entire time on the Council. It isn't, you know, it was mentioned that we have always allocated extra funds to that, and I will correct that. This Council voted for allocating extra ARPA funds that I said, hey, we should put that more towards the stormwater. We're getting all this free money kind of. We're all paying for it. We should allocate that for stormwater. And \$1.5 million, I believe it was, was actually voted on by this Council, not myself, and not everyone up here to give to a business, draw them to Shawnee. That fell through. So, thankfully it was then allocated, a portion of it, to stormwater. But no, we have not always done a good job of allocating funds responsibly. And we continue to not always allocate funds responsibly. I'm not saying that in certain instances that we don't -- we need to fund the certain things that are required by us as officials and our role as government officials, and which one of those being stormwater, road repair, infrastructure, our Police and Fire. Those are musts for me, and I have always voted to ensure that we support those efforts.

But it is the excess spending that, yes, can continue to be cut. And you know, fellow Councilmember Kemmling always explains that well in that it's sometimes not the big ticket items. Sometimes it's the little things here and there that we can just cut. It's the same thing that I have to do in my budget at home. A family of four, I get it. I'm not retired and on a fixed income, but I'm not getting a raise, and my husband is not getting a raise. We got to figure it out.

So, I am in favor of reducing the levy, the mill levy if given the opportunity. I think that pretty much -- I did have a question for you, Paul. The all excess going to Stormwater, is that new based on your direction? Because I've never heard that before. All the excess.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yeah. That's what -- the message that I have received from the Council is that we don't want to grow our reserve.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: And the primary priority is Stormwater.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Yeah.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: So, at the end of the year, if there is that all goes to Stormwater.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Thank you. I can't thank you enough. I think that's the best thing I've heard from your office ever. So, I'm very excited for that. It's a need and we have to -- we have to be on top of it just like -- we aren't preparing for the what ifs. The reason we're in the situation even worse now is because we haven't been doing that up to this point, and so I appreciate that.

I appreciate all of you coming out. I don't know that I have been to a Council meeting on a budget hearing with this big of a crowd, and I appreciate it. So, thank you for allowing your voices to be heard and you are noticed and your voices are heard. Don't know what that's going to do at the end of the night, but as far as I'm concerned, it's hard. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Anyone else? Mike.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Yeah. As mentioned earlier, sometimes it is a little bit complicated. We set the mill levy at the City, which is a rate, but we don't do the valuations. And so, if we keep the mill levy flat and the county decides to appraise your house at a higher value, then we have a built-in increase even with the flat rate and you guys end up paying more in your taxes. And so, I voted for the three mill levy decreases that did pass. I voted for multiple mill levy decreases that did not pass. I voted against mill levy increases that did pass. And so, I have constantly been a voice to try to lower the mill levy and cut our spending as much as we can. You know, I've been a homeowner in Shawnee for almost 20 years. I do pay my property tax. And now that my house is paid off, I have to write a separate check. It's always bigger when it's not there on your mortgage. My mom is my next door neighbor. She pays her property tax. She's retired. And so, I understand what it's like to be on a fixed income because I see her finances. I know what that's like. And so, once again, I would support another mill levy decrease this year. A lot of my points have already been said, so I'll stop there. Thanks.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Anyone else? Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [Inaudible; talking off mic]

MAYOR SANDIFER: Public input is over.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They still could.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Point of order. Yes. I believe they're still able to participate.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Thank you. I know there's been a question about what is reserve and what do a lot of these things mean. I look at the City budget and I try to put it in terms of your home budget, and reserve is that emergency fund they tell us we should all have that, you know, you should have six months of expenses put in a savings account, and that's what -- that's what our reserves are. But I personally have just had one of those moments that was not anticipated on my home budget when one of our cars was totaled. And what you get from the insurance company isn't a lot. And so, you have this sudden expense to figure out what you're going to do.

We have spent down our reserves. We're getting them to a good level. But there's always that question, I think we saw that number of -- was at \$1.8 million for a fire truck. That's a lot of money. If something happens to one of our fire apparatus in an accident, it's \$1.8 million or more to replace it. So, if we do not have money coming in to keep

those reserves going, it's like your home budget when you have no savings account and the appliances all break in the same month.

So, I'm not in favor of lowering the mill. We don't know what's coming. The federal funding for a lot of programs is being cut, which then -- affects the state funding, which comes to the county, which affects the county, which affects the county money that comes to the City. So, as each of these areas gets cut and the funding gets less, it puts more responsibility on the City budget to take care of our public safety and our citizens, so I am not in favor of the cut.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Anyone else? Laurel?

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Thank you. This is not an easy decision for any of us, and so I want to thank all of you for engaging with us, for coming out tonight and talking with us. Nobody wants you to pay more in property taxes, and that's -- that's just the truth. Nobody wants your personal budget to be hurt because you are supporting the community you live in. That being said, our City needs to continue to provide the services, the infrastructure, and the programming that makes this a home, that makes this a livable home for all of us, so that we can get to work. We can get to our social opportunities. Our children can get to school. I don't need to repeat a lot of what my fellow Councilmembers have said, other than just to thank all of you for coming out and speaking with us. The staff really do a good job of providing those opportunities. But there's always more opportunities that we could provide.

And so, meeting with us, meeting with your staff for your city is a great way to get involved. Once you, once I started the process of understanding our City budget better. The pieces clicked together easier for me in terms of understanding where our money is going, why we choose to put our money into these places, and how it benefits our community and our City's future. Because as you've heard, we're not just thinking about today. We're thinking about the future of our city and how we can sustain it and grow it in a way that helps all of us.

I love that we have a property tax rebate program. I love that we've expanded it. I love that we are doing more to make sure that residents know about it and facilitate the application process in a way that makes it easier for people because I know that that is a benefit that's not being utilized as much as it could be. And so, I hope that through this process, our residents understand that that is something that the City is committed, that all of us are committed to providing for you on top of all of the investments that we're making into our infrastructure and to our public safety and into everything else.

I will be voting for a flat mill levy. Yes, that means that you will see an increase in your personal property taxes. It will vary, but we are not voting tonight for an increase. We are not saying the City wants to take in more of your money by increasing the amount that we set. We are saying that we are doing everything we can to keep that flat, to make sure that we're not spending the money that the City is bringing in on things that are not necessary, that don't benefit our community. And so, please reach out to us if you want to engage more, because there's always opportunity to learn more about what we're doing, why we're doing it, and how. And I really would love to engage with residents about how our city is serving you. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. And although our structure says that we do not accept any more comments, I can accept them and I will. So, is there anyone else that

would like to come on up? When you're finished, please sign your name and address on the podium.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I've only been to one other City Council meeting and that was to get some easements vacated about ten years ago. And thank you for doing that as well.

Dr. Kemmling, you said earlier that property evaluations is a big part of this. And I would encourage all of you to look at that very closely. I received mine, the last three years I have not done anything about it. I know it will impact the revenue or the income for the City if we contest it, but you have that opportunity to contest it, and look at the comparisons that they're doing. My comparisons have been over 1,000 square feet bigger than the home I live in. So, you need to look at that. And that goes through the county, not through the City of Shawnee. So, take every opportunity that you're afforded to contest that, and it will help your taxes.

I don't envy any of you. Mill levies are very important. I've spent 31 years in public service funded by the mill levies in education for 28. I work for another city entity for the last three, four years, so taxes and mill levy are very important. So, I don't envy any of you, but you're doing a fantastic job. But I would encourage all of you to contest your valuations each and every year. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. Anyone else? Okay.

(b) Conclude the Public Hearing

MAYOR SANDIFER: If there's no more comments, I'll accept a motion to conclude the public hearing. Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Move to conclude the public hearing.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second to conclude the public hearing. Do I need a roll call on that? Okay. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed nay. Motion passes.

Motion 6: Tony Gillette - Ward 1/Jeanie Murphy - Ward 2: Conclude the Public Hearing. The motion carried 7-0-0.

(c) Approve 2026 budget with corresponding projects and programs

MAYOR SANDIFER: Next, I'll accept a motion to adopt the 2026 budget and approve the corresponding projects and programs as presented by staff. Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Yeah, Mayor. I'd like to propose a 1.0 mill levy decrease for the 2026 budget. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion --

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: -- and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

Motion 7: Tony Gillette - Ward 1/Dr. Mike Kemmling - Ward 2: Motion to approve a one mill levy decrease. No vote was taken as it was an invalid motion.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Just a quick point of order. The maximum that you could decrease it would be the 0.949, which is the revenue neutral rate since we already voted that we wouldn't exceed. So, it would be 0.949.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: 0.949?

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: So, I amend that 0.949 mill levy decrease, Mayor. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: We do -- one more question. We need a motion to amend the motion. Sorry for the technicality on that.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: You need a motion --

MAYOR SANDIFER: Before we do that, is that all --

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yeah. Because there's a motion and a second, so we need you -- even though it's a motion you can't make, you need to amend the motion.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Oh, to amend your motion and second.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Mayor, I'd like to make a motion to amend my motion.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Well, you've got to vote on it?

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: And is your second to amend it?

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: So, I amend my second.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY SMITH: And there needs to be a vote to amend the motion.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: And a vote to amend the motion now with it.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this. All those in favor, say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed nay. Motion passes.

Motion 8: Tony Gillette - Ward 1/Dr. Mike Kemmling - Ward 2: Motion to amend Motion 7. The motion carried 7-0-0.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Now, you can do it.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: So, Mayor, I amend my motion to a 0.949 mill levy reduction. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed, nay. Motion passes. All those --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please state that again.

MAYOR SANDIFER: State it again.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: The mill levy reduction proposal is 0.949.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. and I need to do a roll call now.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: You don't have to but you can.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Pardon?

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: It may make it cleaner to do that so we can hear.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Yeah. I have a motion and a second on that item. I'll do a roll call vote. Sierra.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Mike.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Aye.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jacklynn.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Aye.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: And I vote aye or nay on that. Yes. And that motion fails.

Motion 9: **Tony Gillette - Ward 1/Dr. Mike Kemmling - Ward 2:** Motion to approve a 0.949 mill levy decrease. **The motion failed 3-5-0 with Sierra Whitted - Ward 1, Jeanie Murphy - Ward 2, Kurt Knappen - Ward 3, Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4, and Mayor Mickey Sandifer voting no.**

MAYOR SANDIFER: I'll accept another motion. Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: I move we approve the 2026 budget and the corresponding projects and programs as presented by staff.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion. Do I have a second? Sierra.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. I will do a roll call vote.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Mike.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMMLING: Nay.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jacklynn.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Nay.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: And I'm an aye. Motion passes.

Motion 10: **Jeanie Murphy - Ward 2/Sierra Whitted - Ward 1:** Consider approving the 2026 Budget and corresponding projects and programs as presented by staff, which establishes a total ad valorem tax levy of \$34,158,855. **The motion carried 5-3-0 with Tony Gillette - Ward 1, Dr. Mike Kemmling - Ward 2, and Jacklynn Walters - Ward 4 voting no.**

G. STAFF ITEMS

- 1. Consider approving the contract with Fry and Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$87,434.15 for park fixtures at Garrett Park.**

MAYOR SANDIFER: The next item on the agenda is Staff Items. Item Number 1 is to consider approving the contract of Fry and Associates, Incorporated for the amount not to exceed \$87,434.15 for park fixtures at Garrett Park. Paul.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Parks and Rec Director Tonya Lecuru will handle this item.

MS. LECURU: Thank you for allowing us to speak tonight. So, with this, there was a question about that. The project budget as approved in the CIP includes a number of different things. And so, our FF&E for the trash cans and tables and benches is a separate contract than that from the general contractor. We do it that way through co-ops in order to save the market fees. So, that is the reason why we are bringing this proposal or this request to you this evening.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Is there any questions for staff? Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Yeah. Thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to clarify and just give a thank you to both our City Manager and to Tonya at Parks and Rec. I did ask the question about why this came up as a separate vote over the weekend. And so, this has been voted on. It's within the budget of the program. This is not another new tax for this part, but it's a continuation of the current program. So, I did get that answer over the weekend and I just wanted to acknowledge and thank you for that.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Anyone else? Anyone in this audience sign up for this? Anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this? Hearing none, I'll accept a motion. Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Move to approve.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed, nay. Motion passes.

Motion 11: **Kurt Knappen - Ward 3/Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4:** Approve the contract with Fry and Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$87,434.15 for park fixtures at Garrett Park and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract as approved by the City Attorney.
The motion carried 7-0-0.

2. Project Discussion: 51st Street Improvement Project, between Black Swan Drive and Quivira Road (PN-3622)

MAYOR SANDIFER: Next items. Item Number 2 is a project discussion for the 51st Street Improvement Project between Black Swan and Quivira Road. Paul.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just a quick clarification that this is an information only item. There's no action requested. Kevin is going to reiterate that. But I wanted to make sure that we know that. Kevin is going to do a presentation of some of the feedback we've received as we've met with the public over the last couple months.

MR. MANNING: Hi. Good evening. Kevin Manning, Public Works Director. As City Manager Kramer said, I'm just going to kind of go over kind of where we're at on this project.

[Agenda slide]

So, this will be our agenda for tonight. So, I'll kind of start off talking about what the goal will be and then moving to just an introduction for the project. Talk about some of the different options we're looking at, and then talk about when those options were presented to the public, what kind of the survey results were, you know, what we're kind of seeing there, and then talking about kind of next steps on the project.

[Informational Only slide]

So, the first thing tonight, this is for informational only. We're not really asking for any direction from the Council tonight. So, this is just kind of your first bite at the apple to kind of see what's going on, see what the public is saying and start to digest that. So, I'll be providing an overview of the project and public survey results. And like I said, this is a good opportunity to start thinking about any questions. And we will be looking for more specific design direction, either in two or four weeks at the September 8th or September 22nd meeting. We needed a little bit more work on our end from staff's perspective on some of the utilities to better provide the Council a little bit better information. But tonight is purely informational and no action is required or expected. But we will be coming back to you in either two or four weeks to get started on more of the design on this project.

[Project Introduction slide]

So, starting off what we're talking about is the 51st Street project. It's a Street Improvement Program project from Black Swan Drive to Quivira. So, I think everyone is aware of what the goal of the project is. But we're really looking to bring this road up to our modern standards. So, we're looking at curb and gutter, the sidewalks, basically

bringing this road up to, you know, if we were building this road today, what would it look like. So, that's the ultimate goal.

[Existing Typical slide]

This is an existing section of what's out there currently basically on the west side of the project from Black Swan to Halsey. So, if you kind of took a cut down the roadway, a cross-section, this is what it would look like. You can see we've got Every poles on both sides of the roadway. The roadway itself is a two-lane roadway. It's about 11 feet wide. And you can also see we have quite a few utilities under the roadway. We've got a 36 inch WaterOne transmission line underneath the roadway on the left side there. And then we've got an Every duct bank as well. And then we've got a few other smaller utilities in there as well. So, overall, right now in this particular section, we've got about 60 foot right-of-way.

[Existing Typical slide 2]

As we move east along the corridor, basically from Halsey over to Quivira, the roadway narrows. It's about 50 feet of right-of-way, but we still have utilities on both sides. And then we also have the Every duct bank and a few other smaller utilities as well. But for the most part along the corridor right now, we've got 22 feet of payment, two 11-foot lanes.

[Existing Typical slide 3]

So, we're going to talk a little bit more about what some of these different sections will look like. So, I wanted to orient you a little bit as to what, you know, from basically the power pole to power pole is in this area. So, if you're driving through here, this is just a frame of reference. The west side is a little bit wider. It's about 43 feet between the two poles that you see on the left side of your screen. And then on the right side, it's about 36 feet between those two poles. So, it definitely gets more narrow between the poles as you go to the east. But that's just kind of to help you orient.

[Option Summary slide]

So, these are the options that were presented to the public. We kind of have three major options with a few permutations under those, and I'll talk about these briefly. So, our first option is basically a 36-inch, or excuse me, 30-foot wide roadway. It would be basically a minor residential collector section with bike lanes. So, we'd have two 12-foot lanes and then 4-foot bike lanes on either side of the roadway, and then curb and gutter. And so, this is essentially matching the existing section to the west on 51st Street. If you take 51st Street all the way to the west where it's already developed, Option 1 would be basically continuing that section further to the east of Quivira. So, that's Option 1.

We kind of had two sub-options, Option 1A and Option 1B. And you'll see some diagrams up here of these briefly, but I just will touch on this. The only difference between these two is really the green space. Option 1A basically has space between the curb and gutter and the sidewalk. A 6-foot space with a 5-foot sidewalk. And then 1B doesn't have that green space. And since that sidewalk is adjacent to the curb in this option, it's basically our best practice to make that a little bit wider to account for basically a pedestrian shy distance.

So, you can also see here, basically they needed right-of-way width for all these sections and then the number of anticipated right-of-way acquisitions that would have to occur with all these options.

And we also have an anticipated cost down here on the bottom. I will say these numbers are higher than the budget. I think we're going to come down quite a bit. One thing that staff is investigating right now, you saw in the earlier picture we've got those Everygy power poles out there. There's a distinction in if those power poles have to move, who pays for it. Basically, if utilities are in within the right-of-way but not in an easement, the utility is responsible for the cost of relocation. If they are in an easement and the City requires them to move, then the City is responsible for that. And so, that's an important distinction here because it's going to be quite expensive to move those power poles, and we're hoping to design around the duct bank. But basically we have a lot built into our budget, but our preliminary title work shows that more than likely there's no easement. And so, the utilities would be responsible for moving those. So, those costs are up into, you know, the high six figures. And so, we're anticipating, you know, you could probably chop off around \$1,000,000 assuming we don't have to worry about any relocation. And then we have quite a substantial construction contingency built in right now, almost half a million. So, I think it's reasonable to say that we're going to see those costs come down, and it is likely at this point. But before we ask the Council to make a final decision, either in two or four weeks, we're going to have that information for you, so we can provide that in terms of what's expected on utility relocation.

Moving on to Option 2. So, this option is a little different in that we do not have dedicated bike lanes for this option. We essentially just have a wide lane. So, it would be more like a shared lane approach. The roadway lanes itself would be 13½ feet. And then you can see there's a few sub-options there. We looked at 5-foot sidewalk width on both sides of the roadway with a 4-foot green space. We looked at a trail on one side and a sidewalk on the other. And then we also looked at, you know, an option that's very similar, 2C to 2A, only it's a slightly more narrow section. And the idea was there we were just looking at potential ways to reduce the amount of right-of-way takings there.

Our third option that's shown here is basically a residential street with 11½-foot lanes. And that particular option we show one option with sidewalk and green space and the other one with just the sidewalk adjacent to the curb. So, those are kind of our -- that's our most narrow option. Probably the least impact to adjacent residents.

[Options 1A & 1B slide]

So, I'm just kind of showing you what these look like. So, this is 1A and 1B. So, 1A is definitely our widest option. Like I said, this would match the section of 51st Street to the west. You can see what this looks like. We got the on-street bike lanes. We have the green space, and we have sidewalk. And then you can see 1B. We still have the on-street bike lanes, but we take out the green space and the sidewalks adjacent to the curb.

[Option 1A slide]

These are just a few pictures as to what this would look like. So, this is Option 1A. And once again, this is basically from Halsey to Quivira, which is our narrowest section of the project. And you can see on here too some of these X's are potential locations where this particular option would impact those trees, and those trees would have to be removed as part of this option.

[Option 1B slide]

Once again, Option B. You know, a little bit narrower here, but still impacts a lot of the same trees.

[Options 2A, 2B, 2C slide]

Moving on to Options 2A, 2B, and 2C. So, right here you can see these are basically share the lane options. Instead of a 12-foot lane, we have a 13½-foot lane. And the idea there is if you've got someone bicycling on the roadway the car has a little bit extra space to get around them. It's not as tight if they do need to pass. And you can kind of see here we do have a little bit of green space shown in all these options. And then sidewalk on both sides of the roadway.

[Option 2A slide]

And once again, I mean, these are going to look fairly similar, but this is an idea of what it would look like on an aerial, 2B and 2C.

[Options 3A & 3B slide]

And then finally, this is our third option. So, as I said, this is our narrowest option. It's going to have the least impact to adjacent residents. However, you know, there's no bicycle -- there's not a, really a Share the Road. The lanes would be basically the same width as the existing lanes. You still have curb and gutter like we do on all these projects. 3A shows a green space and a sidewalk. And then 3B basically shows a sidewalk adjacent to the curb.

[Option 3A slide]

And finally, once again same thing, just an overview there.

So, one thing to keep in mind on all these is that whatever direction we go on design, we are going to do our best to try to be accommodating to residents and it's unlikely we're going to have a 100 percent exact section going through the entire project. If there's places where it makes sense to bring in the sidewalk for a certain area and then bring it back out, we can certainly do that. So, I don't want to give the impression that we're absolutely wedded to do exactly one of these. If we have direction to go in two or four weeks to go down a certain path, we'll do that for the most part, but there's still an opportunity where maybe it makes sense in some areas to widen out the sidewalk or have it farther away from the roadway and take it back in if we're running into maybe a tree that we don't want to have to impact or a fence that's in the way or something like that. So, I just want to say that is something we will consider as we go through the project.

[Option Summary slide]

So, once again, and I won't touch on this too long, but here is just a summary of all of our options. So, we did have a public meeting towards the end of July where all these options were presented to the public and then the public had the opportunity to respond in a survey and kind of rank all the options in terms of what they would prefer.

[Public Survey Results - Overall slide]

So, this is basically looking at one response per household. So, we had 31 total responses. And what you're seeing here is you're seeing all these options basically ranked. And so, basically if you see kind of a dark red on your screen that indicates that it was someone's first choice. If you see the dark blue that indicates that it's basically the last choice. And so what you can kind of see here is like 2C and 2A, as after we went through and kind of scored all these, these were kind of our highest ranked options. You know, looking at 2C, we had quite a bit of support for that one. Probably about 25 percent of the people put that down as their first choice. Option 2A is actually interesting because it had a lot of people, basically that kind of light red is actually their

third option. And no one actually selected that for its first choice. But you can kind of see there's not a lot of people that hated it either. There's not a lot of people on the end that you saw in the blue that viewed it as last. And then conversely, down at the bottom, and I'm going to get into this a little bit more, but there's basically strong opinions on both sides. Like Option 4, or excuse me, rank four, Option 3A with a 27-foot ride and sidewalks with green space, you had a lot of red there. And then you also had a lot of blue. So, there's not a lot of people that are kind of ambivalent about that. You have kind of strong feelings one way or the other. Same thing with Option 1A I mentioned earlier. Option 1A is the widest section. You have a lot of people that strongly supported that and you have a lot of people that were strongly opposed to it. And so, 1B is pretty similar to that, although you had a stronger opposition there. And then 3A -- or 3B was kind of at the bottom. You didn't really have that much support for that one, but you had a lot of people that were opposed to that one. So, this is looking at all the survey results across everyone that responded to the survey.

[Public Survey Results - Adjacent slide]

We broke this down further to provide some additional information. So, these are the survey results for people that are actually adjacent to the project. So, if your property touches 51st Street, these were those survey results. So, you can see here Option 3A, which is, once again, a narrow option was extremely popular. It scored very well. Option 2C was also popular. 3B was fairly popular as well. And then you can see 1B and 1A, which were the on-street bike lanes were not popular at all with people adjacent to the roadway.

So, after looking at all this, I think we can kind of summarize this as follows in that if you're along, if you live along the corridor, you're more in favor of a narrow project. You're not as interested in as many amenities. I think the survey results show that pretty clearly. Conversely, if you maybe bike along the roadway or, you know, you are interested in those amenities, 1B and 1A were very popular. So, if you don't live along the roadway, you may like those. But if you do live along the roadway, you would prefer a more narrow section. So, like I said, I think that was pretty clear from the survey results that really where people live kind of dictates how they felt about the project.

[Anticipated Design Schedule slide]

So, kind of what the project schedule looks like moving forward. So, as I said, we'll probably have about a month, either two to four weeks where the Council can -- if you have any questions, we're always happy to meet or answer any questions that may come up. Towards the end of September, middle to end of the September, we'll be coming back looking for direction as to what we want to do on design. We are progressing forward with basically preliminary design on certain things like utilities, things that we can already kind of knock out. But once we get that direction in September, we'll have about a month, month and a half, two months of additional preliminary design to move forward with whatever option has been selected. And we'll have another public meeting at that point and then move into basically final design, then you can see easement acquisitions that will start as well. Once we get the preliminary design done, we have a much better idea of what will actually need to be required on the project so that process can start as well. So, that's essentially the design schedule.

[Anticipated Construction Schedule slide]

And then this is what the construction schedule we'll look at. As I mentioned, we're definitely going to have utility relocations on this project and it's going to take some time. And so that's going to be a fairly lengthy process. So, even though we're almost in

September of 2025 right now, I mean, we are interested in getting design started on this because we need to have the plans design in order to get the utilities relocated. And that's probably not going to get done to almost, you know, according to our current schedule, end of June. And so, you know, we can kind of get started in construction maybe mid-June. And so we've got a lot of work to do on this project before it's ready to go. But that's what basically kind of the design and construction schedule looks like on this.

So, that's the entirety of my presentation. I'd be happy to answer any questions at this time.

MAYOR SANDIFER: All right. Start with -- I know we have been trying to get the bikes off of some of the busier roads. And that is -- I've been down that one when there's bikes going down the road and it's not a safe road, especially for the bicycles. So, somehow whatever design we pick, we need to make sure it's something to keep people safe and the bicycles and the motorists because, you know, if a motorist hits a bicyclist it's a problem either way. So, at least come up with some type of a compromise of a sidewalk or something that they can share to make this work, because we definitely need to keep the bicycles. Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Yeah. Thank you, Kevin. A couple of rapid fire questions. Number one, does this qualify for match funding at all?

MR. MANNING: No, it does not.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Okay.

MR. MANNING: We will be spending this ourselves through basically the sales tax that funds the SIP Program.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Okay. Secondly, to the Mayor's point, I think one of the things I'm interested in is making our city as bikeable as possible, right. So, can you just maybe dig in -- you were talking fast and -- but it looks like the shared the N/A - Shared Lanes versus a dedicated bike lane, what does that look like? Does that mean walkers are on the same path as bikers?

MR. MANNING: No. So, the intent of like kind of the wider share the lane concept, you can see here the lanes are 13½ feet wide. Basically, walkers are still on the sidewalk.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: So, they're sharing it with the road.

MR. MANNING: Yeah. The idea of Share the Road is that the lanes are a little bit wider, which allows little -- like for instance, if you're driving, you're not having to go into the oncoming lane as much or at all if it would be --

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Right.

MR. MANNING: -- if it was more of a typical lane.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: So, if we want a dedicated bike path, we would basically have to pick one that had a dedicated bike path.

MR. MANNING: That's correct. If the Council wanted to move forward with a dedicated bike path, these would be, you know, two good options. And obviously 1B is a more narrow option. But everything has trade-offs and that's part of the discussion here is that --

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Yeah.

MR. MANNING: -- you know, we can have the on-street bike lane, but then the sidewalk is also adjacent to the curb.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Yeah.

MR. MANNING: You know, you don't have as much green space there.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Thank you. I'd be in favor of that just because I want it to be as bikeable as possible.

Third, how would you rate the level of engagement from residents? In other words, are there a lot that are very opposed to this, like, right by the thing, or are we getting major engagement from the immediate community and beyond? Or how would you rate -- how would you profile that?

MR. MANNING: Yeah. I mean, I would say we had excellent participation at our public meetings. So, I think the public is definitely engaged on this. I think, frankly, there's just -- there's strong opinions probably on both sides as to what the right section is out there.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Yeah. And then final comment, I appreciate options. I hated it when staff used to just bring us one option. But there's a lot of options here.

MR. MANNING: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: So, like moving forward, I feel like, you know, it makes it hard for residents to prioritize when there's like eight options. So, just a comment from the peanut gallery, but maybe three or four would be easier for us to manage and get a clearer picture of what the majority of folks want. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jacklynn.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Thank you. Just a few thoughts as I was looking at it. I noticed quite a few of them don't prefer the without green space option. I can resonate with that having children that bike and/or walk with me when I'm biking and/or walking. I've complained before about the speeding on Pflumm, and I've witnessed cars do this number on Pflumm, which is just insane to me. And I think that extra buffer there is just helpful for me as I'm going on my morning walk. So, I -- it's no secret, I want to take as little as possible. That's kind of always my mindset is, you know, as little footprint as we can, but mindful of that green space for the safety of the residents. But then also, I have seen, and I -- I don't know. I know many of the bikers have maybe opinions on this. The difference of the ride shape, I don't know what it's called, the shared lanes --

MR. MANNING: The Share the Road.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Shared lanes versus the dedicated. I've seen those mainly in Lenexa, I think. I don't know the safety of those versus an actual designated lane. But I think that would be helpful information to educate us on is that just as safe or not or --

MR. MANNING: I would say in general on-street bicyclists prefer to have their own lane.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Okay.

MR. MANNING: That's a safe statement to make.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Okay. Okay. I see the bicyclist shaking his head behind you. I'm going to take that as a yes. I think it's just helpful so that, you know, we know going in kind of what is -- truly, it's the safety that I think I'm ultimately most worried about. But then also, you know, I know one of them, I'm not sure which one it was, maybe 1A offered like the larger path on one side and the smaller path on the other. I'm like no, just make them both small or whatever. Oh, I did have a question. On the 2, hmm, 3B maybe --

MR. MANNING: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: -- that had, or maybe it was -- no. 3A, five, six. The five foot six -- I'm trying -- so, can you make that green space slightly smaller instead of the five six?

MR. MANNING: Yeah. And that's kind of what I was alluding to earlier is that --

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Okay. I just wanted to make sure.

MR. MANNING: You know, the western side of this project has a lot more space.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Uh-huh.

MR. MANNING: So, if we can allow more green space within the existing right-of-way and not have to do any further like right-of-way acquisition, we're going to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Okay.

MR. MANNING: But as we move to the east side, it's likely that green space will shrink regardless of what option is picked more than likely.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Got it. Okay. That makes sense. All right. Yeah. I just think, you know, however we can cut down on the footprint but yet still maintain the safety for the residents and the people, the pedestrian or bicyclists is the best option if we can. But I think you've done a really good job, and I appreciate the input from the residents, so that's helpful. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Yeah. Thank you, Mayor. Kevin, thanks for the -- thank you for the many options actually. As I went through the packet, I was able to

understand the challenges we have. and I'm very sensitive to the residents along the Black Swan area, the taking of their property, you know, trying to minimize that as much as possible. But at the same time the goal of this is to open this up, make it safe for both bikers, walkers, runners, all that kind of stuff, and all the residents. So, it's challenging, but I think you did a good job presenting it.

Two quick questions. On the 2-foot striping on a shared lane side of it, is there a way to do striping like a dotted line or something like that to signify that that's a portion of a shared lane? Is that common anywhere? Is that possible? And then 2B of that same question is, I believe we did 11½ lane widths on Midland. It also encourages slower traffic for a narrower lane. I know that's not compatible with what's on the west end of 51st. But it may be an option to take less property and maybe open up that bike lane to a shared space of maybe 3 feet. Just something, you know, through the back of my head. I didn't know if that was an option. So, can we kind of separate that and can we do narrower lanes that creates that without taking a whole bunch more property? Is that a clear question?

MR. MANNING: Can you just say that one more time? I want to make sure I got it.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: So, instead of a 12-foot lanes, can we do 11½? That gives us more shared bike lane space. And on the bike lane space, can we like stripe it in some way that it signifies it's for biking and it's shared space instead of just for cars?

MR. MANNING: Sure. So, like going back, so this is like our Option 1A and 1B. So, we're showing like -- if you just think of like a regular travel lane plus a bike lane is 16 feet here. And so, you know, we could certainly shrink the 12 foot down to 11 foot and then we we're into a 15-foot lane and then still have that striped bike lane, there comes a point where like that's why like kind of our Options 2A and 2C, we had the 13½ foot because we're going -- if we go to a 11-foot lane and a 4-foot bike lane here, we're 15 feet, and we go down to 13½ feet. They're going to be fairly similar. But at some point - - and the rule of thumb is 4 feet. But we can look at that a little bit more if we could stripe a narrower bike lane. But there's coming to a certain point where it's basically kind of like too narrow and bicycles are just -- they're not going to stay in it. It's not realistic to expect them to stay in like a 2-foot section. But we can look into some of those and see if we can play with those numbers a little bit.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Yeah. Just some way to maybe utilize, better utilize the shared portion of it without having to take as much property as we can. But I agree with Councilmember Walters. I think the -- wherever we can add the green space between the street and the sidewalk is a very good safety concern. So, I'm sensitive to both the bikers as well as the property owners, and you've presented a bunch of good options, so I just want to say thank you, but maybe we can refine that a little bit better. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Thank you. First, I want to say that I attended the public meeting that was held a couple weeks ago in this room. And your team did a fantastic job in facilitating that and providing really great visuals for people to respond to, answering questions. So, kudos to your team for what was really a pretty full house of residents who wanted to learn more and engage. And I love seeing the resident engagement that you're getting through the surveys. So, thank you for going the extra

step and really making sure we hear from folks. Thank you also for having this many things for us to consider with regards to bringing this road up to modern standards and providing safety. I heard safety was a concern in that room. So, I know that that is on our minds and it's on the residents' minds as well.

I want to clarify, when we're talking about the bike lanes, these are just stripes. None of these are protected bike lanes, correct, that we're considering for this space.

MR. MANNING: That's correct. There's no barrier wall or any physical barrier separating the roadway from the bikes. It's a stripe.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Okay. Thank you. And then the -- I know that trees are always something that's of concern for residents. You kind of went through the slides really quickly. Could I possibly see the difference again between Option 1 and Option 3 between which trees? Because it didn't seem like there was a huge difference in that.

MR. MANNING: No. I mean there's going to be some difference. Like here you can see -- let's see. There's seven. Kind of five on the east side. And this is just to Halsey. Here there's only four from one option, 1A to 1B. And once again, Option A is the widest option. If we go to 2B or 2A, we're at four. We're at five on 2B, and then four on 2C. And then once again five on 3A and four on 3B. So, we're basically anywhere between four to seven depending on the width of the project.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: And you said this specific cross-section of the project area is the more narrow or the wider --

MR. MANNING: Option 3A and 3B are the narrowest options.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: So, I know the segment of the road.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Segment.

MR. MANNING: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry. This segment, yes. Halsey to Quivira is the narrowest segment. If you go west of Halsey, the roadway does widen out. So, that's why I talked about, you know, we could potentially look at some additional green space in here. But this will be the tightest section that you're seeing here.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Okay. Thank you for that.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Does anyone else have any questions for staff? Did anyone sign up for this?

MR. DUFFY: Yes, Mayor. We had one pre-register. Jason Van Luyk.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Could you come up? When you're finished, please state your name and address on the form on the podium, please.

MR. VAN LUYK: All right. My name is Jason Van Luyk. I live at 12315 West 51st. We had -- hold on. Let me just stick to the bullet points here. We voted for the 2A option, which is kind of a happy medium between the two. It's not the widest. It's not the most narrowest. It'll give us some green space. You still get a sidewalk. I know every option

pretty much stays within the easements, even the widest one barely trickles on the outside in some areas. It's just if we're going to widen the road and improve the road, our biggest concern to those of us that were here for that meeting, you were here, well, you were here too, is that our biggest concern is the speeding. Every house that's on that road that has direct -- that's directly affected has a turnaround in their yard or enough space to do so. There's 18 houses that have their driveway directly off of 51st that have a turnaround and there's 8 houses that have -- that it's going to affect their side yard. And there are a few more that are further out, so it's not going to be directly in their immediate driveway.

So, we got people that drive 55-60 miles an hour down that road all the time, and it's posted 35 to 30. So, when you go and try to push apples to apples, when it's apples and oranges because you're taking the old -- everything that's west of Black Swan, it has a really wide, nice road, there's -- every single one of those houses has like a hundred yards up to their front door. They've got a long driveway, except for one, and she's at 13305 West 51st. She's got 24 foot. Which if you take a four-door truck, short bed, long bed, whatever, and park it up against your garage, you barely have enough room to walk around the front without blocking the sidewalk.

So, everything from the east side now with all those other driveways, that's what every single one of them is going to look like. So, you're basically creating a situation where if you're not going to fix the speeding problem, we're still going to have that. And this was discussed in the meeting that we can't control speeders. Now, you put them in a residential zone. When you pull down these side roads and these HOA's and these newer builds, everyone has enough room to park one vehicle outside of their garage. And it's 25 miles an hour. It's off the main strip. You're taking the main strip and putting all those residents in that situation. So, like that's our concern, or at least my concern and the wife are where we live and why we kind of want to keep it less impactful to the residents.

I think that -- I guess I figured there was going to be more people, more than 30 that actually took the time and effort to fill out the survey. We talked to a couple of neighbors that were directly impacted that didn't even know that this was happening. So, I guess I would have felt there would have been more input if people that are directly affected and the surrounding areas would have been, you know, whether you left a flyer on the door or, you know, a door knock or something to those that are directly affected to it.

Uniformity is a little bit different. I know there's rules and regulations that change the width of the sidewalks. The sidewalk on the old side is 4 foot, and now it's 5. You've got essentially for -- can we zoom in on that, that picture again for 3B? I guess. The street is 10½ feet for each lane, so now you're 20 -- you're 21 feet wide, black top to black top right outside the white line. And now we're talking about going 60 feet through tripling the size of this roadway. And if we're going to have a green space, I'd like it to at least be small enough where I only have the push mower in one direction and not backtrack around 20 times.

But I'm with the green space because I feel like having a safety to, you know, walk your animals or your children and everything else, it keeps you a little bit further down the road. You're also going to have that bike lane to give you a little bit of buffer or whatever happens with that. But I don't know. I just feel like I needed to come here and at least voice my opinion to you all and that's I think about all I got.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. Anyone else?

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Can I just ask to clarify? Was it 2B that you said you voted for?

MR. VAN LUYK: Yeah. 2A. 2A.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: 2A. Okay. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Is there anyone else? Anyone else signed up for this?

MR. DUFFY: No, Mayor. That's all we had pre-register.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Okay. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this issue? Please come up, and when you're through, sign the form on the podium please.

MS. DUGAN: Hi. I'm Lindsay Dugan. I'm the Vice President of the Black Swan Homeowners Association. And I want to echo what everyone else is saying about the appreciation for the team that put together the plans and the resident engagement. I also agree, I was at the meeting, and there was -- it was a great discussion. There was a lot of questions and a lot of good answers for them. I think by and large, everyone is supporting a plan, whatever one it is. For Black Swan, one of our concerns is the addition of the guttering and the additional concrete removes some of the absorption from -- because right now there's mostly just green space there that absorbs the rainwater. And so, with the additional hard spaces, we'll be getting more rainwater going to the storm drain. I love hearing about storm runoff. So, we're concerned and would ask that the Council and the planning committees, as they move forward with these, consider where all of the runoff is going to go from this and how it will affect downhill where we're collecting the saltation and everything in the lake. That's all. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you. Anyone else in the audience that would like to speak on this? Come on up.

MR. SINCLAIR: Thank you. Good evening, Council. Christian Sinclair, 4960 Park Street, Ward 1. I have shared with you before I commute on this road and actually, well, I don't commute on this road because it's too dangerous by bike. I try to like -- we go through the residential roads. I will note that this area is a boundary for Ray Marsh Elementary and Bluejacket Flint Elementary. And, Councilman Walters, I appreciate you sharing families. You know, families could use a protected bike lane or sidewalks to safely get their kids to school. So, I think that's really, really important for this area.

Questions about sharrows. Sharrows were popular in the 2000s and 2010s. Shawnee has a lot of them. There's been a lot of research showing that actually may increase accidents. You can read it a couple different ways, but they're not proven to be safe. They don't always change drivers' behavior. Sometimes they make drivers more hostile towards cyclists too.

The other thing I was going to add is the width seems to be one of the biggest issues. And the hard thing to tell about when the surveys came in is what were they opposing? Were they opposing the bike lane? Were they opposing the width? Were they

opposing the lack of green space? So, like what qualities were they opposing? I love the idea, Councilmember Gillette, you brought up the narrow widths. The hills there, if you try to pass a biker and you go into the other lane and there's hills there, that's the speeding -- the dangerous part about that whole road. So, I think sharrows just places like new danger in that road. But I do like the idea of the narrow lane widths. I think we could do something with that? So, thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thanks. Would anyone else like to speak on this issue? Come on up.

MS. VAN LUYK: I'm Aubrey Van Luyk. I'm the wife unit as he referred to me. 12315 West 51st Street. So, I was just going to address actually what he was asking about, what the opposition is. So, the opposition is the widest plan encroaches into what we, I mean, it's technically an easement, but we are used to it being part of our front yard, about 20 feet almost. So, that's kind of a significant amount. And I mean as he had stated earlier, it does basically triple the amount of space that's taken up. So, imagine your regular road in front of you and then suddenly now there's -- the amount of space, obviously it's not three roads next to each other. Now, it's a green space plus the sidewalk, plus the bike lane plus the 2-foot curb. So, it's just kind of like really coming into -- I kind of liked this house that we got because it felt like it was a little more private. Now, I feel a little like now all the public is going to be hanging out in my front yard. So, that's my opposition, I guess. So, the least impactful. But also, I do support like the green space and just minimal impact just because that will make us still feel like we have some privacy a little bit in our front yard, I guess. That's my main thing. But also, this extensive conversation about budgeting. If you look at the cheapest option to the most expensive, obviously those prices are not set in stone, but it's a difference of \$1.5 million too. Not that I'm saying we should go with the one where the curb, the sidewalk goes straight up to the curb. But yeah, I mean if we can save money, since we're talking about how things are so expensive and where we can cut stuff, that's where I would say if we can find a happy medium where everybody can be safe and have accessibility. No matter what, every option is allowing a safer, more accessible option for people on that road. Because currently people still walk there and occasionally bike there. But yeah, everything's going to be an upgrade. So, if we could save money in the process but also make it safer and where we can all be happy, that's what I'm for.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Thank you.

MS. VAN LUYK: So yeah.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Is there anyone else that would like to speak on this? Seeing none, this was for an information only. Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Yeah. Thanks, Mayor. Kevin, can you just address real quickly for the residents, stormwater collection through the curbs and gutters? Where will that affect Black Swan area, and can you just address that real fast?

MR. MANNING: Sure. So, you know, previously -- where currently this is a ditch section road. And so, we're not going to be necessarily changing the direction of the water, but we will be kind of bringing it into the stormwater system. And there will be additional stormwater due to increased impervious surface that runs like in either direction. And some of that will discharge towards Black Swan Estates. And we've already been in discussions of looking at -- there's one particular pipe that kind of

discharges towards that lake. And we're looking at basically an energy dissipator. So, when it comes out of there, you know, we're putting some Riprap to slow that water down, you know, where it's discharged.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Thanks. I assumed there was kind of a -- there's kind of a peak on that road for what flows more eastbound versus westbound.

MR. MANNING: Yeah. We're not changing the direction the water is flowing necessarily, but obviously we will be gathering it and discharging it at certain points.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: I appreciate your attention on that. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: That's it. This was for informational purposes only. We'll move on.

3. Consider adopting a Resolution authorizing the Financing of Fire Fighting Equipment with General Obligation Bonds.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Item Number 3 is to consider adopting a resolution authorizing the financing of firefighting equipment and general obligation with General Obligation bonds. Paul.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Sean Rocco, our Finance Director, will handle this item.

MR. ROCCO: Good evening, Mayor and City Council. The item in front of you is actually for a fire truck that was approved April 24th of 2023. When we brought that to you at that time, because of the delivery time, we needed to get out in front of it. That truck is actually scheduled for delivery in October of this year. When we got approval for the truck at the time, we didn't have cash to pay for the truck, so the plan all along was to finance this truck. And because of Kansas statute, there is a requirement to pass the resolution that's in front of you authorizing for financing the truck with General Obligation bonds. We're then required to issue a public notice for two consecutive weeks, and then also allow for a 60-day protest period. So, we're following the statute guidelines by bringing this in front of you tonight.

Just to remind you, the original purchase was a not to exceed amount of \$1,635,000. The debt payments for this truck have been budgeted through the Debt Service Fund. They were included in this year's budget as we estimated the truck would cost.

But I'm happy to answer any questions that you have, but that's the action required tonight.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Are there any questions from staff? Anyone sign up for this? Anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this? Hearing none, I'll accept a motion. Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Move to approve.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Motion passes. Anyone nay? Motion passes.

Motion 12: Kurt Knappen - Ward 3/Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4: Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Financing of Fire Fighting Equipment with General Obligation Bonds. The motion carried 7-0-0.

4. Consider approving a Professional Service agreement with Olsson Inc. for the 2025 Engineering, Technical and Administrative Services and Staffing for the Stormwater Management Program.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Item Number 4 is to consider approving a professional service agreement with Olsson, Incorporated for the 2025 Engineering, Technical and Administrative Services and staffing for the Stormwater Management Program. Paul.

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Kevin Manning, our Public Works director, will handle this item.

MR. MANNING: Okay. This item is our on-call professional services contract with Olsson for stormwater services. So, this is actually a really important contract for us, like when we have issues with our major July storm, all those sinkholes that popped up, this allows us to move quickly into the design. But this contract also covers all kinds of other things. Olsson also provides some inspection of our video that we take on all of our pipes, and then also they help us out with some of our construction inspection as well. This contract is, and basically an on-call contract, so it's a not to exceed amount. So, the \$326,000 is not a set value, but it is basically a maximum that we can bill up to as services are needed.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Are there any questions for staff? Anyone sign up for this? Anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this? Hearing none, I'll accept a motion. Sierra.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTED: Move to approve the contract with Olsson, Inc.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed, nay. Motion passes.

Motion 13: **Sierra Whitted - Ward 1/Tony Gillette - Ward 1:** Approve the contract with Olsson, Inc., a Professional Services Agreement for the 2025 Engineering, Technical and Administrative Services and Staffing for the Stormwater Management Program in the amount of \$326,115.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement as approved by the City Attorney. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

H. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- 1. Ratify the semi-monthly claims for August 25, 2025, in the amount of \$3,445,725.13.**

MAYOR SANDIFER: The next item on the agenda is Miscellaneous Items. Item Number 1 is to ratify the semi-monthly claim for August 25th, 2025, in the amount of \$3,444,725.13.

Anyone sign up for this? Anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this? hearing none, I'll accept a motion. Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Move to approve.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Laurel.

COUNCILMEMBER BURCHFIELD: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I have a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed, nay. Motion passes.

Motion 14: **Kurt Knappen - Ward 3/Laurel Burchfield - Ward 4:** Ratify the semi-monthly claims for August 25, 2025, in the amount of \$3,445,725.13. **The motion carried 7-0-0.**

2. Miscellaneous Council Items

MAYOR SANDIFER: Item Number 2 is Miscellaneous Council Items. Paul, do you have anything?

CITY MANAGER KRAMER: If I may, I'd like to ask my Deputy City Manager to make a quick presentation.

MR. DUFFY: Thank you. Mayor and Council, very briefly, I wanted to take some time this evening to recognize a few outstanding employees that went above and beyond to help a Shawnee resident. This summer, Code Enforcement Officer Dwayne Franklin inspected a home facing multiple code violations.

The house had buckled, had a buckled wall needing replaced, a stuffed shed that needed to be removed, and a lawn needing mowed. Rather than leaving the resident with multiple ongoing code violations, Dwayne rallied the assistance of a few City employees to resolve the violations. Building Inspector Jim Lorenz surveyed the property to determine how to rescue and restore the wall of the house. Then firefighter Jim Giffen pulled in the help of firefighters Jeff Weltmer, Ryan Bennett, Jake Zilmer, Jackson Rosner, and Luke Cheever to volunteer a day off to work on the property.

To make matters more complicated, a tree limb fell on the shed a few days before. This team came together to tear the shed. [Inaudible] mowed the yard and even purchased a new refrigerator and filled it with food all to benefit the resident. This was a peer-driven effort that demonstrated the heart our employees have for [inaudible]. They not only cleared the code violations, but they made the home look good again. So, with that, I'd like to thank Dwayne Franklin, Jim Lorenz, Jim Giffin, Jeff Weltmer, Ryan Bennett, Jake Zilmer, Jackson Rosner, and Luke Cheever. And that's it.

(Applause)

MAYOR SANDIFER: Are any of them in here today?

MR. DUFFY: They are not. But we did recognize them at a quarterly leadership meeting.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Very good. Thank you. Anyone on the Council have any items? Tony.

COUNCILMEMBER GILLETTE: Yeah. Thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to take a quick moment and thank staff at every level and probably especially Public Works because there continues to be a lot of drainage issues and clean-up requests from citizens due to the big rain storms that we had. So, I just want to say thanks. And I know residents have been sometimes reluctant to reach out to City Hall. But for those who have reached out to City Hall and asked questions, whether it's their HOA or it's a City property, they're getting answers for that. And I just wanted to thank staff for taking care of that. And so, if you're listening to this and you've got a problem in your area, reach out to us, anyone, your Councilmembers or City staff, and we'll then try and help you get some answers. So, I appreciate staff's efforts so far. Thank you.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Anyone else? Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Yeah. Colin, thank you for that. That is a powerful example of our employees' dedication and going above and beyond. So, that's awesome. In that vein, I just wanted to take a moment to give a shout out and kudos to our, I'll say it wrong again, Tonya Lecuru, and her staff, and not just Parks and Rec, but we had a lot of our Public Works folks out there this past weekend for Dog Days. The dogs enjoyed jumping in the pool and then they enjoyed coming over to Old Town Shawnee. And then fortunately, I'm not running for election this year because I had to help judge and tell a lot of people that their dog wasn't the cutest even though they were all cute. So, great job on Dog Days.

And then also we have the Tour de Shawnee, which I had never taken a part in, and that was a fantastic event on Sunday morning. So again, it's a good example of so many employees working on a Saturday, working on a Sunday, whether it's, you know,

Moonlight Market or everything else we've had going on, we have employees that are really dedicated and make things go around here. So, thank you, Tonya, and your whole crew.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Judging dogs is like judging your baby. Anyone else? Jeanie.

COUNCILMEMBER MURPHY: I also got to judge the waggiest tail and the best bad hair days, which is not easy with dogs. I just wanted to mention it, a lot of the great things that were said at my town hall meeting last weekend. And one of the things that was brought up was how responsive is to the, I always get this wrong. See Click Fix. The fact that they can see a problem and actually have it taken care of. And several people mentioned that that is a great program and they really appreciate that program being available and how well it's responded to.

And also just thank you to Doug Donahoo, who was able to put Laurel in contact with a City Councilwoman from our sister city of Erfurt, Germany, who was in town for just a few short days on a State Department program. But we were able to meet with her and exchange some ideas. So, thank you for making that contact. It was nice to be able to connect with another person from our sister cities.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR SANDIFER: Anyone else? Hearing none, I'll accept a motion to adjourn. Kurt.

COUNCILMEMBER KNAPPEN: Move to adjourn.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Jacklynn.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS: Second.

MAYOR SANDIFER: I've got a motion and a second on this item. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MAYOR SANDIFER: Opposed nay. We are adjourned.

Motion 15: **Kurt Knappen - Ward 3/Jacklynn Walters - Ward 4: Adjourn.**
The motion carried 7-0-0.

(Shawnee City Council Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a transcript to the best of my ability from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

/das September 3, 2025

Deborah A. Sweeney, Recording Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Stephanie Zaldivar, City Clerk