

**ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
January 5, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also present were Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. City Attorney Olavee Raub was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT

Glen Keller, Alan Heroneme, and David Clingan.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 15, 2025, and Bills Ordinance #2228. Council Member Dave McDaniel seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS
(HEARINGS)**

SPECIAL ORDER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Licenses/Permits

Mayor LaBarge requested Council review and discuss the results of the Electronic Scooter/E-Bike survey. Following discussion, Council were tasked to bring suggestions to revise the proposed ordinance at the next meeting.

General Government: Repairs/Maintenance

Council reviewed the findings of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society building inspection and title search with Public Works Director Steve Homburg.

General Government: Acquisition

In consideration of the acquisition of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society building, Council agreed to postpone a decision pending completion of the land survey.

Sanitation: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg informed Council he received the final billing for repairs to the Sanitation Truck. Council Member David McDaniel moved to ratify the invoice from Ascendance for repairs to the Sanitation Truck in the amount of \$2,908.96, with funds to come from the Sanitation Utility fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Council Member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 635, waiving Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for financial statement reporting for 2026. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Policy

Annually, Council designates the official newspapers and official banks for the City to use. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to designate the Ellis Review, City Website, and Hays Daily News as official newspapers; Equity Bank and Golden Belt Bank as official banks within the City limits; and Emprise Bank and Commerce Bank as the official banks outside the City limits. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Financial

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council a motion would be required to transfer \$25,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Streets Fund to the Special Machinery Fund for 2025 to finalize funding for the previously approved acquisition of new accounting software, necessitated by the current system's end-of-life status. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the 2025 transfer from Capital Improvement – Streets to Special Machinery in the amount of \$25,000.00. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Sewer: Acquisition

Public Works Director Steve Homburg requested Council consider the purchase of a sewer dump trailer, as the current truck is no longer operable due to its age and level of use. Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the purchase of a Dump Trailer from Double Z's Trailers in the amount of \$6,100.00, with funds to come from the Sewer Utility fund. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented his department update.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the December monthly incident report and provided his department update.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented her department update and Health Savings Report for November.

Attorney

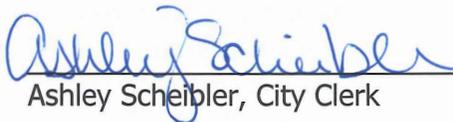
Mayor Update and Announcements

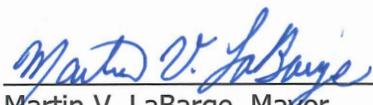
Mayor LaBarge requested City Clerk Ashley Scheibler gather potential dates for Council Orientation. Council will select a training date at the next Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved, and Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.


Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk


Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

**ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
January 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also present were City Attorney Olavee Raub, Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, Fire Chief Dustin Vine, Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council Member Devin Henderson was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor LaBarge requested adding Consideration of Repairs to the Public Works Pickup under New Business, and City Attorney Olavee Raub requested adding Consideration of a Condemnation Ordinance for the Water Exploration Project to New Business.

PUBLIC PRESENT

David Clingan, Glen Keller, John Leiker, Michael Berges, and Tyler Glissman.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 5, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2229. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS
(HEARINGS)**

SPECIAL ORDER

Fire Department: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review and noted the department will host its annual pancake feed on Wednesday, January 21, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Licenses/Permits

Mayor LaBarge requested Council review and discuss the ordinance proposed by City Attorney Olavee Raub regarding electronic scooter and e-bike use. Following discussion, Council directed City Attorney Olavee Raub to make the suggested revisions and present an updated ordinance at the next Council meeting.

General Government: Repairs/Maintenance

Council reviewed the findings of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society building land survey with Public Works Director Steve Homburg.

General Government: Acquisition

Council Member John Walz moved for the City of Ellis to approve the acquisition of the Ellis Arts and Historical Society Building. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Streets: Contract

Mayor LaBarge introduced Tyler Glissman of Wilson and Company, Inc., to discuss consideration of their assistance in reviewing the site plans for the Auto Service Center to help ensure the integrity of the City's West 2nd Street Improvement Project. Council Member John Walz moved to approve Task Order EL26-001 for engineering and/or site plan review services from Wilson and Company in the amount of \$2,500.00, with funds to be paid from the Water Depreciation Reserve Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Industrial Development: Financial

Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve Resolution 636, stating the City's intent to issue taxable industrial revenue bonds in the approximate amount of \$3,125,260.00 for the Gurkirpa Real Estate Investment Group to finance the acquisition, construction, and equipping of an Auto Service Center. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Tourism: Contracts

The Tourism Committee has submitted their proposal for 2026 advertising contracts. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the 2026 advertising contracts with Nex-Tech (\$1,850.00), Eagle Radio of Hays (\$4,620.00), Travel Brochure Distribution (\$600.00), and Lamar (\$12,350.00) in the total amount of \$19,420.00 with funds to come from the Tourism fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Insurance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented an EMC insurance inspection report for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants. Council directed Mr. Homburg to obtain repair deadlines and present that information at the next Council meeting.

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg informed Council of damage to the Sewer Plant Generator Building as reported by EMC Insurance. Council tabled the matter until the next Council meeting and directed Mr. Homburg to provide additional repair bids at that time.

Museum: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Don's Electric & Rewind for the replacement fuse box and fabricated cover at the Railroad Museum in the amount of \$2,500.00, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement – Special Projects fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0, with Council Member David McDaniel abstaining.

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to ratify the invoice from WaterWise for the purchase of two polymer barrels, in the amount of \$2,582.00, with funds to come from the Sewer Utility fund. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Public Works: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Five Star Auto Repair for repairs to the Foreman Pickup in the amount of \$5,276.26, with funds to come from General, Special Highway, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, and Campground funds. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Policy

Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve Ordinance No. 1503, authorizing the acquisition of private property by eminent domain for use by the City of Ellis for the purpose of establishing a water line to convey water from a new municipal well. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented the Comprehensive Water Report and his department update, noting he was appointed to the Smoky Hill – Saline Regional Advisory Committee for a four-year term. Council consented to compensate Mr. Homburg for his time while serving on the committee.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the January mid-monthly incident report and provided his department update.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented her department update, 2025 Catastrophic Sick Leave Balance, Safety Committee Annual Report for 2025, and Committee Minutes, noting Council

Orientation is scheduled for February 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member David McDaniel moved, and Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk



Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

**ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
February 02, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, David McDaniel, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also present were City Attorney Olavee Raub, Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council Member Devin Henderson arrived late at 7:06 p.m. Council Member Kevin LaBarge was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor LaBarge requested adding Consideration of Repairs to the HVAC Roof Units for City Hall under New Business.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Lyle Johnston, Glen Keller, John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, and Michael Berges.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 19, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2230. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lyle Johnston addressed Council regarding snow routes within the City, requesting consideration that during heavier snowfall events, the City make at least one pass through side streets.

Glen Keller addressed Council and requested consideration of revising the City's snow route to include clearing 8th and Madison streets around the Lutheran Church. Currently, it is the only church not included on the snow route, which makes attendance difficult for parishioners when snow accumulations exceed approximately four inches.

**PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS
(HEARINGS)**

SPECIAL ORDER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Licenses/Permits

Mayor LaBarge requested Council review the second draft of the proposed electronic scooter ordinance. Following discussion, Council directed City Attorney Olavee Raub to make the suggested revisions and present an updated ordinance at the next Council meeting for approval.

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the quote from Groundworks for the required repairs to the Generator Building located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$14,601.64, with funds to come from the Sewer Depreciation Reserve fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Buck Honas for masonry repairs to the Generator Building located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$2,000.00, with funds to come from the Sewer Depreciation Reserve fund. Council member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Haynes Equipment for a Flow Meter Sensor in the amount of \$4,700.00, with funds to come from the Sewer Depreciation Reserve fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: License/Permit

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Application for License to Sell Cereal Malt Beverages for Cheryl Kinderknecht. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Tourism: Contracts

The Tourism Committee has submitted a contract with Lamar for the replacement of three vinyl banners. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the contract with Lamar for vinyl replacement, in the amount of \$1,720.00, with funds to come from the Tourism fund. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Sewer/Sanitation: Accounting/Billing

Tammy Wolf submitted an Application for Local Utility Incentives for Boxcar Bread, a bakery, coffee, and breakfast shop she is opening at 814 Washington St. A. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Application for Local Incentives for Boxcar Bread at 814 Washington St A. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. The business incentives will take effect with the March 1, 2026, utility billing.

General Government: Committee

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the revised Roster of Appointments, which replaced the previous Mayor David McDaniel with the current Mayor Martin LaBarge. Several committees still have vacancies that will be considered in a future meeting. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Roster of Appointments with the discussed revisions. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg informed Council three of the four HVAC units at City Hall have failed heat exchangers, creating a safety hazard for city staff. As a result, the units have been shut down until replacements can be installed. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to direct city staff to immediately issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the replacement of all four HVAC systems, with proposals due by February 5 at 5:00 p.m. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Council will review sealed bids during a special meeting scheduled for February 5 at 5:30 p.m.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented his department update.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented his 2025 Year in Review, the January monthly incident report, and provided his department update.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the December Financial Statements, December Health Savings Report, and her departmental update. Ms. Scheibler requested Council consider scheduling a work session to discuss developing an operations and policy manual for the Ellis Arts and Historical Building, as well as establishing guidelines and form requirements for use of the bucket truck. Council agreed to hold the work session on February 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

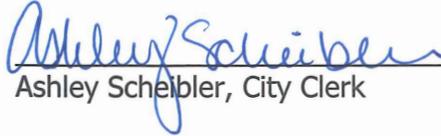
Mayor LaBarge asked Council to consider making adjustments to the snow route. Council directed Mayor LaBarge and City staff to present proposed revisions at the next meeting for review. Mayor LaBarge also discussed the need to establish a code of conduct related to

operations at the Ellis Lakeside Campground.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member David McDaniel moved, and Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk



Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

**ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes
February 5, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Kevin LaBarge, Devin Henderson, David McDaniel, Jolene Niernberger, Dava Gaschler, and John Walz. Also, present were Public Works Director Steve Homburg, City Attorney Olavee Raub, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PRESENT

Monte Cox and Nathan Cox.

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Martin Labarge stated the purpose of the special meeting is to consider bids for replacement HVAC units at City Hall.

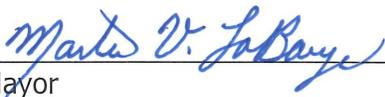
General Government: Repairs/Maintenance

Mayor LaBarge informed Council six sealed bids had been received for repairs to the HVAC units at City Hall. He opened the bids in the order they were received. The first bid, from MC Service LLC, was in the amount of \$43,857.61. The second bid, submitted by Auman Company Inc., totaled \$40,000.00. The third bid, from Skip & Sons, was in the amount of \$47,717.33; this proposal included four 4-ton units rather than the existing configuration of two 4-ton units and two 3-ton units. The fourth bid, from Reliable HVAC, totaled \$33,133.60. The fifth bid, submitted by Glassman Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning, was \$40,100.00. The final bid, from Werth Heating, Plumbing, and Air Conditioning, was in the amount of \$31,000.00.

Following Council discussion, Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to accept the bid from Werth Heating, Plumbing, and Air Conditioning in the amount of \$31,000.00 for the replacement of four HVAC units at City Hall, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement Fund. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4-2, with Council Members Jolene Niernberger and David McDaniel voting in opposition.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Dave McDaniel moved, and Council Member John Walz seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk

**ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
February 16, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, David McDaniel, Jolene Niernberger, Kevin LaBarge and John Walz. Also, present were City Attorney Olavee Raub, Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, Fire Chief Dustin Vine, City Clerk Ashley Scheibler and Clerk Danielle Schaus. Council Member Devin Henderson attended via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT

Lyle Johnston, Glen Keller, Dean Gottschalk and Donnie Younger.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 02, 2026, Special Meeting on February 05, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2231. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS
(HEARINGS)**

SPECIAL ORDER

Fire Department: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Licenses/Permits

Mayor LaBarge requested Council review the proposed electronic scooter ordinance. Following no further discussion, Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve Ordinance No. 1504, permitting the use of and creating regulations for the use of electronic-assisted bicycles and scooters within the City of Ellis with corrections to the font size and a formatting issue. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Streets: Repairs/Maintenance

Mayor Martin LaBarge requested Council review the proposed updated snow route. Council Member Dave McDaniel asked to add 10th Street from Baughman to Cedar Lane and 12th Street from Spruce Street to Mt. Hope Cemetery. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the snow route with corrections. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Water: Repairs/Maintenance

Donnie Younger representative from Ellis Golf Course requested consideration for the use of Well #11. He stated during the July and August months there is not enough effluent water to keep the golf course watered properly and they are having to reseed often. Council Member Dava Gaschler asked to revisit the request at the March 2 meeting. No further action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Sewer: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented a quote for a mini-split system to be installed at the Sewer Plant office. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from MC Service LLC, in the amount of \$5,863.20 for a mini-split system, with funds to come from the Sewer Depreciation Reserve Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Tourism: Committee

Mayor Martin LaBarge requested Council consideration for the appointment of Tammy Leiker to the Tourism Committee. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the appointment of Tammy Leiker to the Tourism Committee Board. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Police: Contracts

Police Chief Avery Smith presented information about LexisNexis/CopLogic. The company is wanting to go to electronic submissions which would streamline the process for the Clerk's office and the Police Department when doing police reports. There is no cost to the city to move to electronic reports. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the agreement with LexisNexis/CopLogic Solutions as presented and to authorize Police Chief Avery Smith to sign all required documents. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented his department update.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the February mid-month incident report and provided his department update. Chief Smith also spoke about a one-to-one cost match grant he will be applying for to get new body camera equipment that is at end of life. It was consent of Council to allow Chief Smith to submit his application on behalf of the City.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented her departmental update. Ms. Scheibler reminded Council of the Work Session for Thursday, February 19 at 5:30pm.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub provided her update on the Trego Waterline Project. Ms. Raub also noted she will be attending the March 2 Council Meeting via zoom.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge asked Council to consider allowing Council Member Devin Henderson to attend Council Meetings via zoom. It was the consensus of Council to allow Mr. Henderson to attend via zoom while in training.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Martin LaBarge asked for a motion to recess into executive session at the request of City Attorney Olavee Raub. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved for City Council to recess into executive session to discuss a pending claim pursuant to the Attorney Client Privilege Exception, K.S.A 75-4319 (b)(2) with City Attorney Olavee Raub and Police Chief Avery Smith present. The open meeting will resume at 7:53 p.m. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. No action was taken in executive session and the open meeting resumed. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve City Attorney Olavee Raub and Police Chief Avery Smith to attend mediation for the pending claim on March 6 in Wichita, Kansas with the Clerk's office to handle hotel arrangements for the day prior. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member David McDaniel moved, and Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.


Danielle Schaus, Clerk


Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

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ELLIS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

March 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin LaBarge called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Jolene Niernberger and John Walz. Also, present were Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn and Clerk Danielle Schaus. Council Member Devin Henderson and City Attorney Olavee Raub attended via Zoom. City Clerk Ashely Scheibler was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT

Glen Keller, Donnie Younger and Dean Gottschalk.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 16, 2026, Manual Journal Entries for January 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2232. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS (HEARINGS)

SPECIAL ORDER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water: Accounting/Billing

Donnie Younger, representing the Ellis Golf Course, requested the City consider allowing the use of Well #11 to irrigate the golf course greens. The Clerk's office presented a report detailing the actual effluent gallons pumped to the golf course in 2025, the estimated gallons needed from Well #11 to meet a 200,000-gallon-per-day request based on 2025 effluent usage, the total gallons pumped from Well #11 in 2025, and a comparable 2025 Midwest Energy bill reflecting the cost to pump the increased estimated gallons requested. The report also included the anticipated cost to repair Well #11 and other related considerations.

Mr. Younger stated the golf course would like to utilize Well #11 during the months of June, July, August, and September, and revised the request to 180,000 gallons per day during those months.

Council directed City staff to update the report to reflect the discussed revisions and to present the updated information at the next Council meeting. Mayor Martin LaBarge tabled the request until the March 16, 2026 Council meeting. No further action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Streets: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented quotes for crack sealant to help maintain the streets. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the quote from Crafcoc, Inc. in the amount of \$8,694 for crack sealant, with funds to come from Capital Improvement Street Fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Public Works: Repair/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented quotes for City Hall duct cleaning since new HVAC units were installed in the building. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the quote from Magna Dry, LLC in the amount of \$3,760 for duct cleaning at City Hall, with funds to come from Capital Improvement Special Projects. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented his department update.

The Comparative Water Report from December 10, 2025 to January 10, 2026 was presented.

Public Works Director Steve Homburg stated they are currently looking for leaks due to significant unaccounted for water loss. He reported the Kansas Water Office will be here on March 3, 2026 to help search for leaks in our community.

Public Works Director Steve Homburg asked Council permission to attend the Kansas Association Code Enforcement Conference April 15-17, 2026. Council Member Dava Gaschler made a motion to ratify permission for the Public Works Director Steve Homburg to attend the Kansas Association Code Enforcement Conference April 15-17, 2026 in Mayetta, KS. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. It is the consensus of the Council moving forward to allow Mayor Martin LaBarge to approve City staff attending the conferences, and Department Heads inform the Council of the conferences being attended.

Public Works Director Steve Homburg informed the Council that masonry repairs are needed at the top of the Cemetery Bell Tower. He asked whether the City's bucket truck could be used to allow masons to access and complete the repairs. City staff would operate the bucket controls from the ground, while the masons worked from the bucket. City Attorney Olavee Raub advised that the City's insurance would likely not cover the masons, as they are not City employees. Council directed the Clerk's office to contact the City's insurance provider to confirm whether coverage would apply in this situation.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the February monthly incident report and provided his department update. Council Member Dava Gaschler inquired whether the Police Department had conducted any training related to the new electronic scooter ordinance. Chief Smith reported no training has been completed to date, but stated the department plans to implement training prior to the end of the school year in time for summer.

City Clerk

Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented the departmental update.

Ms. Flinn reminded Council of AdamsBrown arriving on site for the annual field audit scheduled Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Ms. Flinn will attend the CCMFOA Spring Conference March 11-13, 2026 in Manhattan.

The 2026 Seasonal Lifeguards are tentatively scheduled to perform their lifeguard certification training at FHSU March 16-20, 2026.

The January Financial Statements and Health Savings Report were presented.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor Martin LaBarge read a letter of resignation from Alan Weber for the Ellis Local Housing Authority effective April 1, 2026.

Mayor Martin LaBarge read a request from Kevin Fox, Kevin Fox Construction, seeking a letter of support from the City for the construction of a single-family home utilizing housing funds awarded by the Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, Inc. and the North Central Regional Planning Commission. Council Member Dava Gaschler made a motion to approve City Clerk Ashley Scheibler write a letter of support on behalf of the City. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Martin LaBarge read the 2025 goals presented by Council at the beginning of 2025. He requested Council prepare their 2026 goals for the April 6, 2026 meeting.

Council Member Dava Gaschler expressed she feels it is important to support the Golf Course, noting it serves as a valuable amenity and selling point when recruiting staff to the school district.

Council Member David McDaniel emphasized the importance of Council Members communicating with legislators regarding issues impacting the community. He also voiced

concerns about the Golf Course water situation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved, and Council Member John Walz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk