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.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

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.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

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.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

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.

Martin V. LaBarge
Mayor

Ashley Scheibler
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.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Danielle Schaus, Clerk

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 Crafco, 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

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Verda Flinn

Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

March 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, Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also present were Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Fire Chief Dustin Vine, City Attorney Olavee Raub, Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council Member Devin Henderson attended via Zoom, arriving at 6:57 p.m., and Police Chief Avery Smith arrived late at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT

Tom Weber, Glen Keller, Greg Mickelson, Nickole Byers, Elizabeth Kolacny, Ron Hallagin, Wade King, Linda Pfeifer, Dean Gottschalk, Michael Berges, David Schoenberger, Jennifer Kreutzer, and Ryan Kreutzer.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 2, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2233. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Glen Keller of the Ellis Railroad Museum requested Council consider requiring any Event Requests involving land within the train tracks at the Ellis Lakeside Campground to be reviewed and approved by the Railroad Board prior to Council approval, as the Ellis Railroad Museum leases that land from the City.

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

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Insurance

Curtis Zerr, ICI Insurance, presented the City's 2026-27 general insurance policy with EMC Insurance and the Workers Compensation policy with Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT). The overall premiums increased 2.8% from last year. Council discussed revisions to multiple items within the policy and directed City Clerk Ashley Scheibler and Public Works Director Steve Homburg to help ICI Insurance properly list these items within the policy. Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve Resolution No. 638 adopting the Bylaws and Interlocal agreement of the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT). Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the 2026-27 general insurance policy with EMC Insurance in the amount of $211,712.00. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Fire: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review, noting their newer fire truck is currently broken down.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water: Accounting/Billing

Donnie Younger, representing the Ellis Golf Course, presented Council with a revised proposal for their consideration. The Proposal requested a bulk rate of $1.25/1000 gallons with a water usage cap of 6,000,000 gallons for the year. Council Member John Walz directed City Attorney Olavee Raub to draft a contract between the Ellis Golf Club (EGC) and the City of Ellis allowing EGC to utilize Well #11 at a bulk rate of $1.25 per 1,000 gallons, with an annual cap of

6,000,000 gallons. EGC will be responsible for the cost of the valve, as well as any applicable fees and taxes. The City of Ellis will cover the electricity costs during operation. The City reserves the right to suspend use of the Well if water restrictions are enacted. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

General Government: Contract

City Attorney Olavee Raub presented Council with a draft lease agreement for the Ellis Nutrition Center, as requested during a prior work session. Verda Flinn, President, and Linda Pfeifer, Treasurer of the Ellis Nutrition Center, spoke on behalf of the board and requested clarification on several items. It was determined the City will assume responsibility for lawn maintenance. Additional clarification was also provided regarding cosmetic improvements and the associated restrictions. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the lease agreement contract with the Ellis Nutrition Center, with revisions. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Ms. Flinn also presented Council with a copy of the rental agreement used for individuals requesting to rent the Ellis Nutrition Center facility. The Ellis Nutrition Center intends to continue to lease the space for $65.00 with a one-time refundable deposit of $40.00. Council found the agreement to be sufficient.

General Government: Contract

City Attorney Olavee Raub presented Council with a draft lease agreement for the Bukovina Society, as requested during a prior work session. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the lease agreement contract with the Bukovina Society, with revisions. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Public Works: Policy

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler provided Council with a revised Bucket Truck Assistance Request form and Bucket Truck Assistance Policy based on feedback obtained at a prior work session. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Bucket Truck Assistance Policy and Bucket Truck Assistance Request form as presented. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Water: Grant

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented Council with a WaterSmart – Small Scale Efficiency Grant opportunity that would allow the City to reallocate budgeted funds for electronic water meter replacements toward a cost-share match, with the goal of completing the City's 10+ year transition to automated meter reading. The City currently has 467 meters remaining, which, under the current annual purchase capacity, would take approximately five more years to acquire and install. If awarded, the grant would enable the City to complete all remaining replacements within one year. Council Member John Walz moved to allow the Clerk's Department to apply for the WaterSmart Grant to support the acquisition of the remaining electronic water meters for the City of Ellis. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Public Works: Equipment

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented quotes for leak detection equipment to assist the City in identifying potential water leaks and to utilize associated software following completion of the Trego Well Line project, as the system can detect leaks within a 3,000-foot range. Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the quote from Subsurface Solutions in the amount of $26,091.00, with funds to come from the Sewer Depreciation Reserve and Water Depreciation Reserve funds. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

General Government: Contract

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council the Printer Maintenance Agreement with Tri-Central did not include routine toner replacement. Due to the volume and frequency of toner usage, the Clerk's Department recommended adding toner maintenance to the agreement to reduce

overall replacement costs. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Maintenance and Support Agreements with Tri-Central Office Supply in the amount of $2,240.00, with funds to come from the General Government Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Financial

Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve Resolution No. 637 authorizing City employees to use the City credit cards. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Event Request Application

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented an Event Request Application from Lori Stimson seeking approval to use Creekside Park on March 26, for a Birthday Party. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Event Request Application for the use of Creekside Park from Lori Stimson on March 26. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Event Request Application

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented an Event Request Application from the VFW Auxiliary seeking approval to use Creekside Park on July 5, for a Community Block Party to celebrate their 250th Anniversary. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Event Request Application for the use of Creekside Park from the VFW Auxiliary on July 5. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Event Request Application

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented an Event Request Application from Scouts Troop #115 for approval to use the field inside the train tracks located at Ellis Lakeside Campground on April 12, for their annual Boat Regatta Race. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Event Request Application for the use of the field located within the train tracks located at the Ellis Lakeside Campground from the Scouts Troop #115 on April 12, contingent on approval from the Ellis Railroad Museum Board. Council Member Kevin LaBarge 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 mid-month incident report for March and provided his department update. Chief Smith noted their Annual Drug Take Back Day will be held on April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the committee meeting minutes and her department update, noting AdamsBrown had completed the annual field audit, and it went well. Ms. Scheibler informed Council Doug Goetz with Wilson & Company, Inc. contacted the Kansas Water Office regarding the Water Project Grant and confirmed award announcements are expected by the end of March. She also asked Council to consider establishing an Inventory Committee for the Congregational Church. Council appointed a committee consisting of Council Member John Walz, Council Member Jolene Niernberger, Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Ellis Nutrition Center Board Members Leonard Schoenberger and Verda Flinn, Bukovina Society Board Member Guy Windholz, and Ellis Arts and Historical Society Board Member Perry Henman, including a representative from the Clerk's Department.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub reported she has prepared two petitions regarding easements for the Trego Well Line Project that will require Mayor LaBarge's signature, and had nothing further to report.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge asked Council to consider the following appointments: John Walz to the Joint Recreation Board and John Leiker to the Local Housing Authority Board. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the appointments as presented. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0, with Council Member John Walz abstaining.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Martin LaBarge asked for a motion to recess into executive session at the request of City Attorney Olavee Raub. Council Member David McDaniel moved for City Council to recess into executive session for a Claim Discussion 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 9:26 p.m. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. No action was taken in executive session, and the open meeting resumed.

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 9:26 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
April 6, 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, City Attorney Olavee Raub, Police Chief Avery Smith, and Clerk Danielle Schaus. Council Member Devin Henderson attended via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, Sheila Fischer, John Fischer, Kelly Sigg, Glen Keller, Marvin Honas, Kylie Honas, Amber Deutscher, Jackie Henman, Paulette Harp, David Clingan, Coddy Loudermilk, Ethan McLaughlin, Kathy Ditter, Nickole Byers and Guy Windholz.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 16, 2026, Manual Journal Entries for February and Bills Ordinance #2234. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Insurance
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the 2026-27 general and commercial insurance policy with Nationwide Insurance for the Ellis Arts and Historical Society, Congregational Church in the amount of $15,713.00 with fund to come from the General Government Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water: Accounting/Billing
Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the agreement contract with the Ellis Golf Course as presented. Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

General Government: Contract
City Attorney Olavee Raub informed Council that Guy Windholz, representing the Bukovina Society, requests Council's consideration regarding a proposed amendment to Exhibit A of the lease agreement. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the lease agreement with revisions to Exhibit A, Item No. 4. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Dollar General Request
Ethan McLaughlin, Store Manager of Dollar General in Ellis, addressed Council regarding the potential development of a Dollar General Market Store in Ellis as a response to the recent grocery store closure. Mr. McLaughlin explained the proposed store would require approximately 16,000 square feet, while the existing building is less than 9,000 square feet. Mr. McLaughlin noted he does not have the authority to initiate the project, the City Council would need to submit a letter of support to Dollar General's corporate office for consideration. Mayor Martin LaBarge requested contact information for corporate representatives in order to invite them to a future Council meeting to discuss potential opportunities. No action was taken.

Cemetery: Repair/Maintenance
Paulette Harp, representative of the Cemetery Committee, addressed Council regarding the need and urgency of rehabilitating the cemetery wall at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Ms. Harp reported the bid received for the project was $350,000. Given the high cost, she expressed hope of securing grant funding and encouraged Council to consider allocating funds to the cemetery wall project during the upcoming budget process. No action was taken.

General Government: Historical Designation
Jackie Henman, representative of the Cemetery Committee asked Council to consider applying for WPA Historical Designation which would cover multiple locations within the city and would allow city staff to apply for Historical Preservations Grants, Tax Credits, and other protections. Council Member David McDaniel moved to authorize the Clerk's Office to issue a request for bids to conduct a WPA Historical Designation Survey. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Streets: Repair/Maintenance
Public Works Director Steve Homburg addressed Council regarding chip sealing for city streets. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize Mayor Martin LaBarge to sign a letter to the County Commissioners requesting assistance with the 2026 Street Rehabilitation Project. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

General Government: Event Request Application
Clerk Danielle Schaus presented an Event Request Application from Alicia Flower seeking approval to use Creekside Park Shelter House for a birthday party. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Event Request submitted by Alicia Flower for May 9, 2026 at the Creekside Park Shelter House. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Public Works: Assistance Request
Marvin Honas, representing the Ellis High School Alumni Association, asked Council to consider their request for assistance from the Public Works Department in removing approximately five inches of surface dirt for the installation of a brick courtyard. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize Public Works to assist the Ellis Alumni Association with the removal of dirt for their brick courtyard project. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Tourism: Advertising
Glen Keller, representative for the Tourism Committee requested Council's consideration for funding to support the Tourism Committee's Marketing Swag Bags for groups that come to Ellis. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Tourism Committee's request to purchase item for swag bags, with expenditures not to exceed $2,900 and a minimum allocation of $2,700 to come from the Tourism Fund. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works
Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented the Comparative Water Report for the period of February 10 to March 10. Mr. Homburg also provided his department update.

Police
Police Chief Avery Smith presented the Monthly Incident Report for March and his Department report.

City Clerk
Clerk Danielle Schaus presented the Committee Meeting Minutes, March Financial Statements, Health Insurance Savings Report for March, and their department update. Ms. Schaus informed the City was unsuccessful in securing grant funding to help support the Booster Pump Station project. Council consented to allow City staff to invite Wilson & Company to the April 20th Council meeting to talk about a Plan B for the Booster Pump Station, since receiving the notification that the City did not receive the Kansas Water Office Water Project Grant. Ms.

Schaus asked Council for permission to apply for the Historical Preservation Fund Grant. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to allow the Clerk's office to apply for the HPF Grant. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub reported she has file eminent domain on three properties for the Trego Waterline Project. Ms. Raub also stated she had the legals for the West 2nd Street Project and would be preparing temporary easements.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge asked Council to consider forming an Economic Development Committee to try and get some of the empty buildings in town filled. Council stated Ellis already has an Economic Development LLC and would prefer a representative come and speak to Council about what they do for the community of Ellis.

Mayor LaBarge then requested Council's input for their 2026 goals. The following projects were mentioned: booster pump station, public forum meetings, Trego Waterline Project, street, curb and sidewalk maintenance, fill empty buildings with new businesses, youth advisory committee, 2nd Street Project, downtown development, gas station on the North hill, incentives for existing business not just new ones, Volunteer Day in the community, revisit goals throughout the year to keep forward moving progress, clear the 11th street bridge, secure a pedestrian bridge, bike lane, actively recruit businesses, consider new Christmas décor during budget season, 310 Leadership class at FHSU to do a project, bus transit tours in Ellis, and monthly "Issues and Eggs."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member John Walz moved, and Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Danielle Schaus

Danielle Schaus, Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
April 20, 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, City Attorney Olavee Raub, Police Chief Avery Smith, Fire Chief Dustin Vine and Clerk Danielle Schaus. Council Member Devin Henderson attended via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, Glen Keller, David Clingan, Nickole Byers, Ron Hallagin, Jenni Holmgren, Travis Kohlrus, Ronald Julian, SJ Singh and Randy Honas.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 6, 2026, Manual Journal Entries for February and Bills Ordinance #2235. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Ron Hallagin addressed council regarding the grocery store, expressing his desire to keep grocery options local so residents do not have to travel to another town for their needs.

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

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Auto Service Center
David Clingan, representing Grow Ellis, addressed Council regarding plans for a proposed Auto Center in Ellis. He stated the project could potentially generate $1.5 million in annual sales and over $26,000 in sales tax revenue.
SJ Singh also spoke about the Auto Service Center. He stated the center plans to employ approximately 14–18 individuals for the car wash and tire center. The facility would not be able to accommodate commercial vehicles. He explained the car wash would utilize a water recycling system, with approximately 80% of the water being reused to conserve resources. Mr. Singh stated he is not sure on the timeline of completion for the Auto Service Center, as he would like to stay with local resources to build.

Fire Department: Report
Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review. Mr. Vine stated he is also waiting for another quote on the parts to fix firetruck that is currently down.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water: Loan
Clerk Danielle Schaus presented the Kansas Revolving Fund (SRF) pre-application to help support the Booster Pump Station Project. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize submission of the Pre-Application Form to KDHE for consideration of funding under the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program and proceeding with a formal application, contingent upon project acceptance. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

Water: Grant
Clerk Danielle Schaus asked Council to consider reapplying for the Kansas Water Office Grant

for Construction of the Booster Pump Station Project. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize City staff to apply for the 2026 Kansas Water Office Grant with a 30% local match coming from Water Depreciation Reserve Fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Water: Low-to-Moderate Survey

Clerk Danielle Schaus asked Council to consider conducting a Low-to-Moderate (LMI) survey as the City of Ellis status has expired and it being necessary to determine the eligibility for LMI status in support of the Booster Pump Station Project. Council Member David McDaniel moved to authorize City staff to submit a request for approval to the Kansas Department of Commerce to conduct a community survey for the purpose of determining Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) status in support of the Booster Pump Project, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the request letter. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

Water: Grant

Clerk Danielle Schaus asked Council to consider applying for CDBG Grant funding to support the Booster Pump Station Project, Ms. Schaus stated that applications will be accepted starting May 20, 2026. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to authorize City staff, contingent upon approval from the Kansas Department of Commerce, to solicit a minimum of two bids from qualified firms to conduct the required community survey and present at a future Council meeting for consideration. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

Water: Grant

Clerk Danielle Schaus asked Council to consider applying for the Dane G. Hansen Foundation Grant in support of the Booster Pump Station Project. Ms. Schaus stated the city would plan to do a 30% contribution match. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to authorize City staff to apply for Dane G. Hansen Foundation Grant and to request a 30% matching contribution toward the project. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Economic Development

Travis Kohlrus, President of Ellis Development Group spoke to council about the role they play in Economic Development within the City of Ellis. Mr. Kohlrus stated they don't actively recruit businesses to come to Ellis, rather help with putting resources together for incoming business owners.

General Government: Grocery Store

Nickole Byers presented Council with flyers and research about possibilities of a new grocery store in Ellis. Ms. Byers invited council to come to the Community Meeting scheduled for April 29, 2026 at 6:00pm hosted at Dolce Vita.

Campground: Event Request

Ronald Julian asked Council consider the event request at the Ellis Lakeside Campground for Ellis Cub Pack #115. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Event Request Application Ellis Cubs Pack to camp on May 9-10, 2026 at Lakeside Campground contingent on approval of the Railroad Museum. After some discussion and needing a more definitive plan, Council Member Dava Gaschler withdrew her motion. It was a consensus of Council to table the request for the next council meeting.

Streets: Bucket Truck Request

Jenni Holmgren presented her request for use of the bucket truck for the Hometown Hero banners. John Walz moved to approve the Bucket Truck Rental Application for Ellis Memorial VFW Auxiliary and for Public Works to assist in hanging the Hometown Hero Banners on existing Midwest Energy poles. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Pool: Chemicals

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented quotes for chemicals needed for the swimming

purchase of 16 Drums of sodium hypochlorite ($3,960.00) and 8 Drums of calcium hypochlorite ($2,160.00) plus shipping ($50.00) for a total cost of $6,170.00 with funds to come from the General – Swimming Pool fund. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Streets: Chip Seal

Public Works Steve Homburg presented quotes for chip seal materials. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the quote from Flatlander for chip seal chips in the amount of $5,825.00 with funds to come from the Capital Improvement – Street Fund. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg provided his department update. Mr. Homburg also asked Council to consider allowing Public Works to advertise for a full time General Public Works Employee. Council Member Devin Henderson moved to approve the full-time position of General Public Works Employee to be advertised. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith provided the Mid-Month Incident Report for April and his Department update.

City Clerk

Clerk Danielle Schaus presented her department update.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub provided her update on the Trego Waterline Project and the 2nd Street Project easements.

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 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Danielle Schaus, Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
May 4, 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 Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn, Public Works Director Steve Homburg and City Attorney Olavee Raub. City Clerk Ashley Scheibler attended via Zoom. Council Member Devin Henderson attended via Zoom at 6:33 p.m. Police Chief Avery Smith arrived at 7:23 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, Glen Keller, Alison Nuttle and Janice Wilson.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 20, 2026, Manual Journal Entries for March and Bills Ordinance #2236. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Clerk: Proclamation
Mayor Martin LaBarge read a proclamation in observance of the 57th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week from May 3 - 9, 2026.

Police: Proclamation
Mayor Martin LaBarge read a proclamation in observance of National Police Week from May 11 – 16, 2026.

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
Jennifer Hecker was not present to review the handout for Options, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Campground: Event Request
Alison Nuttle asked Council to consider the modified event request at the Ellis Lakeside Campground for Ellis Cub Pack #115. Ms. Nuttle reported the Railroad Museum will allow the Cub Pack to camp within the center of the train tracks. They are requesting to use camp sites 16 and 17 for campfire activities and preparing meals. Since the City does not accept reservations, Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to allow designation of occupancy in camp sites 16 and 17 for Saturday, May 9, 2026 and waive the fees for those sites. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Water: Low-to-Moderate Survey
Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented two bids for completing a Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Survey to determine the City's eligibility to apply for CDBG funding for the pressure pump station. Council Member John Walz moved to approve Wilson & Company provide a random income-based survey in the amount of $3,500 with funds to come from Water Depreciation Reserve. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6–0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Janice Wilson, USD 388 Superintendent, requested Council consider waiving the $1,350 water tap fee and the $50 sewer tap fee for the new Childcare Facility to be located on the Washington Grade School property. Council Member John Walz moved to approve waiving the water and sewer tap fees for the USD 388 Childcare Facility. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 with Council Member Dava Gaschler abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Parks: Event Request

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Nelson family gathering Event Request Application for the Creekside Pavillon on May 24th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 with Council Member John Walz abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Streets & Parks: Event & Traffic Control Requests

Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented an Event Request Application from the Ellis High School Alumni and Chrysler Boyhood Home seeking approval to utilize both the South and North Walter P. Chrysler Parks on May 23, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the car show. Traffic Control requests are for the Ellis High School Alumni parade route and barricades at Walter P. Chrysler Parks. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Ellis High School Alumni's Event Request Application for South and North Chrysler Parks and Traffic Control requests for the parade route and barricades at 10th & cottonwood for Alumni events held on May 23, 2026. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: License/Permit

Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented the Fireworks Permit Application for the annual Ellis Baptist Church fireworks stand located at 808 Washington. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Fireworks Permit Application for the Ellis Baptist Church, contingent on presenting proof of liability insurance. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Committees

Mayor Martin LaBarge presented the 2026 Roster of Appointments for consideration. He requested Council's approval of the roster as presented with the addition of Council Member Dava Gaschler appointed to the Disaster Recovery Team and Council Member Kevin LaBarge appointed to the City Board of Health. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the Committee Appointment List as presented, with any applicable changes as requested. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Swimming Pool: Repair/Maintenance

Due to peeling on the current pool diving board, Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented two bids for the purchase of a replacement. Council Member Devin Henderson moved to approve the bid from Austin Pools & Spas LLC to purchase a diving board in the amount of $5,460 with funds to come from Special Machinery. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Museum: Repair/Maintenance

Council Member John Walz, President of the Walter P. Chrysler Boyhood Home Museum, requested repairs at the museum, including addressing the lifting sidewalk, replacing concrete around the wishing well, painting the south museum building, and repairing the ceiling near the chimney in the house. Public Works Director Steve Homburg will obtain a quote for the painting. The Council may consider the expense during budget preparations, or, as City Clerk Ashley Scheibler noted, funds are available in the special projects fund if the painting needs to be completed this year.

General Government: Special Event

Mayor Martin LaBarge requested Council consider a Coffee and Donut Hour quarterly at the Ellis Public Library. He requested it begin in July. Council Member Devin Henderson moved to approve hosting a Coffee & Donut Hour at the Ellis Public Library quarterly with the Mayor and two Council Members present, beginning Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 10 a.m. Council Member

John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: License/Permit

Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the Noise Permit Application for the Ellis Golf Club alumni concert on May 22, 2026 from 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented the Comparative Water Report, noting a significant leak exists but has not yet been located.

Mr. Homburg also provided a departmental update, stating he is beginning the interview process for a full-time position in the Public Works Department. He will update the Council at the next meeting on the status of the Ellis Historical Church roof replacement and share information received from the County regarding glass recycling.

Mr. Homburg reported Union Pacific is working on the railroad bridge on the west side of town.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith provided the Monthly Incident Report for April and his Department update. Chief Smith reported Officer Sun graduated from the KLECT program on May 1st and will complete an additional eight weeks of training with a City officer before working independently.

City Clerk

Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented the minutes from the Campground Committee, health insurance savings report for March, March financial statements and the department update.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub provided her memo on the Trego Waterline Project, 2nd Street Project easements, Ellis Golf Club effluent usage and the announcement of Ellis Municipal Court Judge Ross Wichman retiring.

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 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Verda Flinn

Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
May 18, 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 Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn, Public Works Director Steve Homburg, Police Chief Avery Smith, Fire Chief Dustin Vine, and City Attorney Olavee Raub. City Clerk Ashley Scheibler attended via Zoom. Council Member Devin Henderson was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
Lori Miller, Jeremy McGuire, Glen Kelller, Karen Day, Kylie Honas, David Clingan, Jackie Henman, Jenni Holmgren, Isaac Harold, Susan Molstad, David Molstad, John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, Chris Feldt, Nona Barton, Becky Stites, John Horesky, and Gail Brack.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 4, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2237. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Kylie Honas, President of the Ellis County Library Board, presented the Ellis County Library Board's Policy for Allocation of Funding. Susan Molstead, Chairperson of the Ellis Public Library Board, shared concerns regarding the policy, noting the Ellis Public Library is not a member of the Ellis County Library system. Jackie Henman also spoke on the advantages of the Ellis Public Library remaining a member of the Central Kansas Library System.

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

Public Works: Proclamation
Mayor Martin LaBarge read a proclamation in observance of the 66th Annual National Public Works Week from May 17 – 23, 2026.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
Isaac Harold with Options – Domestic and Sexual Violence Services provided information regarding the specialized services and programs Options provides. The organization requests consideration of funding in the amount of $2,500.00 from the City through the 2027 Budget. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
Karen Day, Director of the Walter P. Chrysler Boyhood Home & Museum, presented their 2027 budget request. Ms. Day thanked Council for their dedicated years of support and sustainability. She mentioned the number of days open during the week have been reduced to offset rising costs. The Chrysler Board requests consideration in the amount of $15,000.00 from the City in the 2027 budget. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
David Clingan presented the 2027 budget request from Grow Hays. The organization's mission for Ellis County is *Business Creation, Business Retention & Expansion, and Business Recruitment.* Mr. Clingan provided an update on the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) currently being utilized in Ellis and encouraged residents to contact Grow Hays for information on the Grow Hays Rehab Program, which offers assistance with home improvement

and rehabilitation projects in Ellis. Grow Hays requests consideration of $5,000.00 from the City in the 2027 budget. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.

SPECIAL ORDER

Fire Department: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine presented his monthly report summarizing the Department's activities.

Personnel: Benefits

Lori Miller of Heartland Retirement & Benefits Consulting and Jeremy McGuire with Blue Cross and Blue Shield presented the 2026 renewal information for the City employees' health insurance policies. Ms. Miller explained the City utilizes a proprietary health insurance model in which a high-deductible plan is purchased, with the resulting savings used to help fund employee claims. The City's current Blue Cross Blue Shield Bronze health plan will see a premium increase of 11.34%, while premiums for the Blue Cross Blue Shield dental plan will increase by 1.95%. No premium increases are proposed for the Vision Care Direct plan or the Advance Life Insurance plan. Ms. Miller reviewed several health, dental, and life insurance comparison options and explained, based on the City's employee health pool, to remain with the current Blue Cross Blue Shield Bronze plan would be the most beneficial underwritten option for both the City and its employees. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the employee's health option #2 and dental insurance plans with Blue Cross & Blue Shield, the employee's vision plan with Vision Care Direct, and the employee's life insurance plan with Advance Insurance Company of Kansas, all for the period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Streets: Traffic Control Request

David Molstad expressed concerns regarding the speed of traffic along Monroe Street between 10th Street and 19th Street. Mr. Molstad suggested reducing the speed limit in the area from 30 mph to 20 mph and considering the installation of solar-powered radar speed signs at both ends of the corridor. Police Chief Avery Smith stated he would research the cost of radar signs, as well as potential grant opportunities, for future Council consideration.

Fire Department: Repair/Maintenance

Fire Chief Dustin Vine presented two quotes for repair of Fire Truck Unit #853. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the estimate from Dreiling Field Services, LLC for repairs to the 2009 Freightliner Fire Truck not to exceed $9,969.44, with funds to come from the Special Machinery-Fire. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Policy

Council Member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 639 designating July 3rd and 4th from 9:00 a.m. to midnight as permitted dates and hours to discharge fireworks for 2026. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Contract

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the contract with Blue Valley Public Safety, Inc, for the 2026 Annual Siren Preventative Maintenance in the amount of $740.00, with funds to come from the General – General Government fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Contract

Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Cost Share Program award contract, which will provide funding assistance to help offset costs associated with the West 2nd Street Project. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign Grant Contract No. 122-26 with the Secretary of Transportation and the Kansas Department of Transportation for acceptance of Cost Share Program funding for

the West 2nd Street Project. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Contract

Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented the Kansas Office of Information Technology Services award contract for the FY23 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, which will provide funding assistance to help offset costs associated with updating the water and wastewater treatment plants. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign the Fiscal Year 2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Letter, Procurement Attestation, and Memorandum of Agreement with the Kansas Office of Information Technology Services for acceptance of funding to complete updates at the water and wastewater treatment plants. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Permit

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Noise Permit Application for the Walter P. Chrysler Boyhood Home & Museum on May 23, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chrysler North Park. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0, with Council Member John Walz abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

Tourism: Committee

Glen Keller, President of the Tourism Committee, submitted a proposed temporary arrangement for the 2026 season to remove the Tourism Welcome Banners, while not permitting use of the City-owned banner brackets by another organization. The proposal suggested the VFW Auxiliary could, at its own expense, temporarily place Hometown Hero banners below the former Welcome Banner locations on the same side of the street from 5th Street to 13th Street along 10th Street (east to west), with the exception of one Welcome Banner remaining at each end of 10th Street, as well as along all of West 9th Street and on Jefferson Street from 9th Street to the VFW Building. The display period would run from May 2026 through November 11, 2026, provided it does not interfere with other organizations' flags or the City's holiday star displays.
John Horesky, Operations Manager for the Midwest Energy Hays District, spoke on behalf of Midwest Energy, the owner of the light poles.
Jenni Holmgren, a member of the VFW Auxiliary, spoke on behalf of the organization regarding the Hometown Hero Banners sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary.
After discussion, no action was taken by the Council.

General Government: Committees

Mayor Martin LaBarge presented the 2026 Roster of Appointments for consideration. He requested Council's approval of the roster as presented. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Committee Appointment List as presented. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg provided a departmental update, stating a new employee will start June 1st.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith provided the Mid-Month Incident Report for May and his Department update. Chief Smith reported he will be obtaining bids for the replacement of the Dodge Charger.

City Clerk

Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn presented the minutes from the Tourism and Cemetery Committees and the department update. City Clerk Ashley Scheibler reported she will return to the office on June 22nd. Ms. Scheibler requested a date for the first budget work session with Council. Council agreed to hold the session on Tuesday, June 23, at 5:00 p.m.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub noted the proceedings are moving forward with the Trego Well Water Line Project.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Council Member David McDaniel reminded Council of a League of Kansas Municipalities City Forum in Oakley, KS on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 4:45 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member John Walz moved, and Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
June 1, 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 Clerk Danielle Schaus, Public Works Director Steve Homburg and Police Chief Avery Smith. Council Member Devin Henderson, City Attorney Olavee Raub and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
Glen Keller, Jenni Holmgren, Aaron Honas, Gail Brack, Joe Niernberger and Jane Stewart.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 18, 2026 and Bills Ordinance #2238. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Aaron Honas shared concerns about the truck parking and trailer switching on Madison Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets. He stated the road is being damaged by commercial vehicles and the repairs needed shouldn't have to be an issue the City of Ellis has to maintain.
Gail Brack addressed Council about the Hometown Hero Banners. Ms. Brack asked why the banners were not placed considering all mowing was done at the cemetery and Public Works had time to hang them.
Joe Niernberger shared that he appreciates City Council for making the tough decisions and keeping Ellis looking great.

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

SPECIAL ORDER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Repairs/Maintenance
Public Works Director Steve Homburg addressed Council with the update on the Congregational Church roof. Mr. Homburg stated the shingles place on the West side by Roofmasters had been installed incorrectly and would need to be torn off and replaced. Mr. Homburg asked Council for a four-week extension to allow Roofmasters to complete the project. Clerk Danielle Schaus informed Council based on the RFP and contract submitted an extension would not be needed as the date of completion was set at June 30. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks: Event Request
Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Ellis Baptist Church Event Request Application for the Creekside Pavillon on June 7th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Council member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Parks: Event Request
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Tourism Committee Event Request Application for Memorial Park to host the KSN Summer Road Trip held on June 16th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
During the discussion Council Member Dava Gaschler asked about the poles on the fence at Memorial Park and who can paint them. Council Members Jolene Niernberger and John Walz

stated the PRIDE Committee and the Baptist Church helped with painting in previous years. Public Works Director Steve Homburg stated 50 gallons of traffic paint was available for use.

Tourism: Special Project

Glen Keller presented an event flyer for the KSN Summer Road Trip. Mr. Keller asked Council for permission to be a sponsor of the event which cost $1,000. Council Member John Walz moved to approve hosting the KSN Summer Road Trip promotion at a cost of $1,000 with funds to come from the Tourism Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0 with Council Member David McDaniel abstaining.

Sewer: Repair/Maintenance

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve contracting with Geist Spreading to haul sludge from the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of $4,800.00 with fund to come from the Sewer Utility fund. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Committees

Mayor Martin LaBarge presented the 2026 Roster of Appointments for consideration. He requested Council's approval of the roster as presented with the addition of Donna Huff and Peggy Seibel appointed to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Committee Appointment List as presented. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented his department update. Mr. Homburg informed Council of an email from the National Rural Water Association about being part of a national settlement on the PFOS chemicals. It was consensus of the Council to have City Attorney Olavee Raub review the email and documents. Clerk Danielle Schaus asked to also be included in the documents Mr. Homburg had shared with Council.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith provided the Monthly Incident Report for May and his Department update. Chief Smith reported he had a couple bids for a patrol unit but was not ready to present those at this time. Chief Smith stated he has been looking into radar signs and asked Council for permission to apply for grants in assisting with the cost of the radar signs. It was Council consensus to allow Chief Smith to apply for grants.

City Clerk

Clerk Danielle Schaus presented the Audit Pre-Communication Letter from Adams Brown with assisting in the 2027 budget. Council Member John Walz moved to approve Mayor Martin LaBarge to sign the letter for Adams Brown to assist with the 2027 City of Ellis budget. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Ms. Schaus presented the Health Savings Report for April along with her department update.

Attorney

Mayor Martin LaBarge presented City Attorney Olavee Raub's memo on the Trego Waterline Project, 2nd Street Project easements and her attendance to the CAAK Conference.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor Martin LaBarge addressed Council regarding two topics he would like included on the agenda for the June 15 Council Meeting: fallen trees along the banks of Big Creek and the Hometown Hero Banner program.

Council Member John Walz expressed his appreciation to the Public Works and Police Departments for their efforts in preparing the community for the Alumni Event and Memorial Day festivities.

Council Member Jolene Niernberger reminded Council the County Library Board will be meeting at the Ellis Public Library on Wednesday, June 3.

Council Member David McDaniel reported during the Memorial Day placement of American flags; he and Mr. Keller observed two flags were damaged by the protruding Hometown Hero

brackets. Mr. McDaniel asked Mr. Homburg to determine whether relocating the Hometown Hero brackets to the street side of the poles would allow banners to be displayed without interfering with the holiday stars.

Council Member Dava Gaschler inquired about the number of poles within the City that are available for banner placement. Ms. Gaschler also requested assistance from the Clerk's Office and Public Works Department in gathering information regarding the total number of poles in the community, the number of organizations utilizing the poles, and the number of City-owned stars installed during the holiday season.

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 7:28 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Danielle Schaus

Danielle Schaus, Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
June 15, 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, Fire Chief Dustin Vine, Police Chief Avery Smith, City Attorney Olavee Raub, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council Member Devin Henderson was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
Daniel Pyle, Pauleen Edmonds, Glen Keller, Alicia Flower, Tricia Pritchett, Tracey Andrews, Jenni Holmgren, Connie Fox, Ben Bencze, Carol Schryer, John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, John Horesky, Jenny Bates, and Sylvia Deutzcher.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 1, 2026, Bills Ordinance #2239, and the Manual Journal Entries from April 2026. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
Pauleen Edmonds, President of the Community Foundation of Ellis, requested consideration of $12,500.00 in the City's 2027 budget. The Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Ellis residents through giving. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.
Notable discussions included the Foundation's need for continued support of the food pantry, which currently serves 72 families and 29 children. Rising food costs have made it increasingly difficult to maintain adequate supplies.
Ms. Edmonds also discussed potential improvements to the playground equipment at South Park and the possibility of collaborating with multiple entities, including the City, to pursue grant funding opportunities. Long-term goals include installing a splash pad and basketball courts on the vacant City-owned lot east of South Park.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
Tracey Andrews, Director of the Ellis Public Library, presented the library's 2027 budget request of four mills of the assessed valuation, $2,500.00 for employee benefits, $2,500.00 for programming/project funding, $2,000.00 for personnel, $5,000.00 for capital improvements, and $5,000 for legal fees for a total funding request of $17,000.00. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
Dan Pyle presented the Ellis Recreation Commission's 2027 Budget Request. The Commission requests $10,000.00 to help support the renovation and ongoing upkeep of City-owned ball fields. Council took no action and will consider the Commission's request during budget preparation.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request
Alicia Flower, Director of the Ellis Alliance, requested consideration of $11,000.00 in the City's

2027 budget. The Alliance's mission is success through cooperation. Member organizations include the Ellis Area Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation of Ellis, and the Ellis Development Corporation. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.

Notable discussions included the installation of a Blessings Box in front of the Ellis Alliance building. The Blessings Box will serve as a community resource where individuals may access nonperishable food items. The program is intended to provide immediate assistance to community members experiencing temporary hardship while encouraging community support and involvement. The Alliance also announced the availability of free Roth ID Tags for child safety harnesses and car seats. These tags contain a child's emergency contact information and any known medical conditions or allergies, allowing first responders to access critical information in the event of an accident or emergency when a parent or guardian is unable to respond. Tags are available free of charge at the Ellis Alliance office.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request

Jenny Bates, Area Director, presented the 2027 budget request from Big Brothers Big Sisters. Ms. Bates projects 169 youth in Ellis County will be served in 2026, with 13 of those being in Ellis. The organization requests $2,500.00 from the City for consideration in the 2027 budget. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request

Glen Keller, Chairman of the Ellis Railroad Museum, presented the 2027 budget request of $16,000.00 for consideration. The Museum strives to preserve the history of the railroad in Ellis. Council took no action and will consider the request during budget preparation.

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Financial

Kim Bollig of Adams Brown LLC presented the 2025 Agreed-Upon Procedures reports for the Community Foundation of Ellis, Ellis Alliance, Ellis Railroad Museum, and the Chrysler Boyhood Home and Museum.

The Community Foundation of Ellis had no findings. The Ellis Alliance had four exceptions identified, including a duplicate expenditure that was recorded twice, discrepancies involving payroll liability accounts, payroll expense accounts, and payroll tax withholdings. The Ellis Railroad Museum had one exception related to wages and payroll tax expenses not reconciling with the general ledger. The Chrysler Boyhood Home and Museum had one exception, noting that an employee's K-4 withholding form was not on file.

Ms. Bollig then reviewed the City's 2025 audit report. The City received an unmodified opinion, indicating the 2025 financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects. No audit findings or statutory violations were reported.

The audit report also included the Ellis Public Library. Two findings were noted for the Library: certificates of deposit totaling $5,170 were not recorded in the Library's financial records, and a material journal entry for encumbrances totaling $59,730 was omitted. The audit report will be presented to the City Council for consideration and approval at its next meeting.

Fire Department: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works: Special Project

John Horesky of Midwest Energy informed Council, at the direction of the corporation, banners displayed on Midwest Energy-owned light poles within the City will be limited to one City banner and one banner from a designated local organization per pole. With 76 eligible light poles throughout the City, a maximum of 152 banners may be displayed.

In response to these limitations, Council discussed potential options with Jenni Holmgren of the VFW Auxiliary to accommodate the Home Town Hero Banner Program while remaining compliant with Midwest Energy's requirements. One option discussed was rotating the banners midway through the display season to allow all veterans and service members to be recognized.

Council requested Public Works Director Steve Homburg conduct a trial around August 1 to determine the staff time and resources required to remove the initial set of Home Town Hero banners and replace them with the remaining purchased banners. This approach would allow one group of honorees to be displayed from mid-April through early August and a second group from early August through mid-November.

The VFW Auxiliary was directed to submit a Bucket Truck Assistance Request Form through City Hall. Once the time requirements and associated costs are determined, the matter will be brought back to Council for consideration of cost recovery options or a possible amendment to the City's Bucket Truck Assistance Policy.

It was also noted that a representative from KDOT has authorized the placement of two Home Town Hero banners on KDOT-owned poles. This authorization will remain in effect unless otherwise directed by KDOT.

NEW BUSINESS

Water: Acquisition

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented a bid for electronic water meters. The City budgets funds each year to continue to replace the standard water meters. Electronic meters are more accurate and detect leaks faster than standard meters. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the purchase of electronic water meters from Metron-Farnier, in the amount of $52,019.00 plus freight, with funds to come from the Water Depreciation Reserve fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Cemetery: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented a quote for Bell Tower repairs. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the quote from Rick Cunningham to repair the Cemetery Bell Tower, in the amount of $4,000.00, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement – Cemetery fund.

General Government: Financial

Council Member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 640, authorizing City employees to use City credit cards. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: License/Permit

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Fireworks Permit Applications for the Ellis Softball and Baseball Association at the Ellis County Fairgrounds. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Grants

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler requested Council's consideration to apply for the Kansas Infrastructure Hub Grant Assistance Program to provide administrative support for the recently awarded Cybersecurity Grant. Ms. Scheibler explained, due to the federal funding requirements associated with the grant, numerous compliance, reporting, and documentation obligations must be met. Ms. Scheibler explained, while staff are capable of managing the federal compliance, reporting, and documentation requirements associated with the grant, doing so would place a significant strain on existing staff resources and daily operations. She noted assistance from a grant administrator would be an extremely valuable resource, helping ensure all grant requirements are met while allowing staff to remain focused on providing essential City services.

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to authorize City staff to apply for the Kansas Infrastructure Hub Grant Assistance Program for grant administration support. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Parks: Event Request

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland Event Request Application for the use of Campsite #15 at the Ellis Lakeside Campground on June 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. The motion also included directing Public Works to barricade the designated area and waiving all fees associated with the use of the campsite. Council Member

Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Streets: City Code

Mayor Martin LaBarge opened a discussion regarding the practice of truck dolly-down activities occurring on City streets, specifically along 2nd Street, 3rd Street, and Madison Avenue. Following discussion, the consensus of Council was to direct City Attorney Olavee Raub to research potential amendments to the City Code that would prohibit dolly-down activities on City streets. Ms. Raub will present her findings and recommendations to Council at a future meeting.

General Government: Financials

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented Council with a proposed three-year renewal agreement from Equity Bank, where the City's public funds are currently held. Ms. Scheibler also reviewed several potential investment opportunities for Council's consideration, noting the City is not currently bound by any long-term investment commitments.

Ms. Scheibler stated her goal is to ensure the City remains a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars by maximizing returns on available funds while maintaining the flexibility needed to support community improvements and future capital investments.

Following discussion, Council expressed support for Ms. Scheibler to continue researching and evaluating available banking and investment options to identify opportunities that may increase returns on City funds while remaining compliant with applicable laws and investment policies.

Parks: Repairs/Maintenance

Mayor Martin LaBarge asked Council to consider authorizing Public Works to contract with Harold Honas for the use of a winch truck to assist with the removal of fallen trees located within sections of Big Creek on City-owned property.

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve a contract with Harold Honas for winch truck services, not to exceed four hours at a total cost of $560, for the removal of fallen trees from Big Creek. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Steve Homburg presented the Comparative Water Report and provided an update on Public Works activities. Mr. Homburg also requested authorization to attend Floodplain Manager Training in Lawrence on September 1.

Council Member John Walz moved to authorize Mr. Homburg to attend the Floodplain Manager Training. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith provided the Mid-Month Incident Report for June and his Department update.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the April Financial Statements, comment cards regarding the Ellis Lakeside Campground, and provided an update on Clerk's Department activities.

Ms. Scheibler informed Council of the KSN Summer Road Trip event scheduled for June 16 and requested permission to close City Hall at 3:30 p.m. to allow City staff to participate in the event by distributing cotton candy and engaging with community members and visitors. Council provided its consent.

Ms. Scheibler also reminded Council of the Budget Work Session scheduled for June 23 at 5:00 p.m. and the Special Meeting scheduled for June 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Additionally, Ms. Scheibler advised Council that registration and hotel reservations for the League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show will open on July 1. Council members interested in attending were encouraged to notify the Clerk's Department as soon as possible so appropriate accommodations and registrations can be arranged.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub thanked Council for allowing her to attend the CAAK Conference. She noted this was one of the better conferences she had attended.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor Martin LaBarge asked Council to consider transitioning from paper council packets to a digital packet system for Council meetings. Following discussion, a majority of the Council expressed support for conducting a trial of the digital format. Council directed City Clerk Ashley Scheibler to research available options and equipment needed to provide Council members with secure and convenient electronic access to meeting materials.

Mayor LaBarge also reminded Council of the first Coffee and Donuts Conversation scheduled for July 11 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Ellis Public Library. Council Members Jolene Niernberger and David McDaniel will participate in the inaugural event, providing community members with an opportunity to discuss concerns, share ideas, ask questions, and learn more about current and upcoming City projects.

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 Public Works Director Steve Homburg present for 7 minutes. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. The open meeting resumed at 9:07 p.m.

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member John Walz moved to authorize the City to participate in the class action litigation related to PFOS chemicals and to authorize Mayor Martin LaBarge to execute the associated retainer agreement. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

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 9:09 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes
June 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Martin LaBarge called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also, present were Public Works Foreman Jacob Schartz, Assistant City Clerk Verda Flinn, and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council member Dava Gaschler, City Attorney Olavee Raub, and Public Works Director Steve Homburg were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PRESENT
Corina Cox

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING
Mayor LaBarge stated the purpose of the special meeting is to conduct a public hearing and consider matters related to the City's CDBG application and Booster Pump Station Project, including approval of the required resolutions, review and selection of a Grant Administrator, approval of associated contracts, and execution of the necessary contract documents.

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG Application
General Government: Financial
Mayor Martin LaBarge requested a motion to open the public hearing regarding the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Council Member David McDaniel moved to open the public hearing, and Council member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0, with Council Member Dava Gaschler absent. The public hearing opened at 6:02 p.m.
Corina Cox, Funding Administrative Specialist with Wilson & Company, Inc., presented an overview of the CDBG application to Council. She reported the Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Survey had been approved, with the survey documenting an LMI population of 61.65% based on responses from 125 households. The estimated total number of beneficiaries within the project service area is 1,888 residents, including 1,164 who qualify as low-to-moderate income. Ms. Cox explained the final step in the application process was obtaining Council approval to submit the application.
There being no public comments, Mayor LaBarge requested a motion to close the public hearing. Council member David McDaniel moved to close the public hearing, and Council member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. The public hearing closed at 6:15 p.m.

General Government: Financial
Council member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 641 Certifying the City of Ellis has legal authority to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Financial
Council member Devin Henderson moved to approve Resolution No. 642 Assuring Funds Will Continually Provide for the Operation and Maintenance of Improvements to the Water System funded by CDBG Funds. Council member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Council reviewed the submitted Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for grant administration services associated with the City's CDBG application for the Booster Pump Station Project, contingent upon the City receiving a grant award. After reviewing the proposals, Council completed a joint scorecard evaluation of each submission using five established selection criteria.

Council member David McDaniel moved to approve Great Plains Development, Inc. as the City's Grant Administrator for the Booster Pump Station CDBG application in the amount of $37,000.00, contingent upon the City receiving grant funding, with funds to come from the Water Depreciation Reserve Fund. The motion also authorized Mayor LaBarge to execute all necessary contracts and related documents. Council member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1, with Council member Jolene Niernberger voting in opposition.

General Government: Financial

Council member John Walz moved to approve the Contract from Wilson and Company, Inc., to provide engineering services for the Booster Pump Station construction phase, in the amount of $52,500.00, with funds to come from the Water Depreciation Reserve fund. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Devin Henderson moved, and Council member David McDaniel seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge
Mayor

Ashley Schreiber
City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
July 6, 2026

At the scheduled meeting time of 6:30 p.m., a quorum of the City Council was not present; therefore, the meeting could not be called to order. The meeting was delayed until 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT

Sarah Meitner, Jenni Holmgren, John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, Marvin Honas, Glen Keller, Sylvia Deutscher and David Clingan.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 15, 2026, the Minutes from the Special Meeting on June 26, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2240. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

General Government: Financial – Budget Request

Marvin Honas, representing the Ellis Alumni Foundation, requested Council consider an earmarked donation to assist with the installation of ADA-accessible entrance doors at the Ellis Railroad Museum. The proposed project includes motorized door openers with push-button controls to improve accessibility. The estimated project cost is $8,385. No action was taken. The Council will consider the funding request during the 2027 budget process.

General Government: Financial – Budget Request

Sarah Meitner, Executive Director of the Heartland Community Foundation, thanked Council for its previous $2,500 contribution and requested the same amount as a matching donation for the 2027 Match Month initiative. She explained that the Dane G. Hansen Foundation has committed to providing a $2-to-$1 match for all donations made during February 2027. Since 2017, the Heartland Community Foundation has awarded $134,772 in grants benefiting the Ellis community, funding projects that enhance the quality of life for local residents. No action was taken. Council will consider the funding request during the 2027 budget process.

SPECIAL ORDER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to accept the 2025 financial audit report from Adams Brown as presented at the June 15th Council meeting. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: City Code

City Attorney Olavee Raub presented examples of restricted parking ordinances for trailers on public right-of-way streets. Council Member David McDaniel moved to direct City Attorney Olavee Raub to draft an ordinance reflecting the example of 14-314, prohibiting trailer parking

on 2nd, 3rd and Madison streets. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks: Lease

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler, accompanied by Jenni Holmgren of the VFW Auxiliary, asked Council to consider allowing Ms. Scheibler to contact Union Pacific Railroad regarding the possibility of extending the existing Memorial Park lease agreement to include the property immediately west of the park. Ms. Scheibler explained that the City currently maintains the vacant lot and has billed Union Pacific Railroad for mowing violations; however, payment has been difficult to obtain. Extending the lease would allow the City to continue maintaining the property while providing greater oversight of the area.

Ms. Scheibler also presented a conceptual vision for the property, proposing its development into a Veterans Park. The concept includes Hometown Hero banner displays, a pavilion for community gatherings and ceremonial events, and a public restroom facility. It was the consensus of Council to authorize Ms. Scheibler to contact Union Pacific Railroad regarding a potential lease extension.

Tourism: Contract

Glen Keller, a Member of the Tourism Committee, requested Council consider purchasing a Membership with Northwest Kansas Travel Council, Inc. Membership includes inclusion in the organization's *Ultimate Guide*, with approximately 12,000 printed copies distributed, as well as digital exposure to promote Ellis and its local attractions. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the $175.00 Membership fee, with funds to come from the Tourism Fund. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 4–0.

General Government: License/Permit

Council Member Devin Henderson moved to approve the Noise Permit Application and Traffic Control Application for the Ellis Jr. Free Fair events scheduled from July 20 – 26th. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: Event Request Application

Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the Event Request Application submitted by the Ellis United Methodist Church, with the event to be held on August 30, 2026, at Creekside Park. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Museums: Repairs/Maintenance

Council reviewed the bids previously obtained by Public Works Director Steve Homburg for repairs to the building located behind the Chrysler Home. After further review, Council determined one bid was outdated, and neither bid fully reflected the scope of work desired for the project. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to reject the submitted bids and direct City Clerk Ashley Scheibler to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) outlining the desired improvements for the building behind the Chrysler Home. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 4–0.

Streets: Repair/Maintenance

Public Works Foreman Jake Shartz informed Council of concerns regarding the condition and configuration of the 500 block of West 3rd Street. Council directed City Clerk Ashley Scheibler to determine how the area is currently platted. No action was taken.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Foreman Jake Schartz presented the Comparative Water Report and provided an update on Public Works activities.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the June Monthly Incident Report and provided an update on departmental activities. Chief Smith also shared correspondence with Council explaining free helmets provided by the Ellis County Health Department are available only at free community events due to limited supplies.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the Ellis Lakeside Campground comment cards, committee minutes, the May Health Savings Report, and provided an update on activities within the Clerk's Department. Ms. Scheibler also announced the Ellis Jr. Free Fair will sponsor a Free Swim Day at the Ellis Municipal Pool on July 21, 2026, to kick off the fair festivities. She further advised that the Ellis Municipal Pool will be closed on July 25, 2026, to allow pool staff to participate in fair activities. Finally, Ms. Scheibler reminded Council of the Coffee and Donuts event scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ellis Public Library.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Martin LaBarge asked for a motion to recess into executive session at the request of City Attorney Olavee Raub. Council Member Devin Henderson moved for City Council to recess into executive session to discuss the Public Works Department personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(1), with City Attorney Olavee Raub present for 30 minutes. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. The open meeting resumed at 9:08 p.m. No action was taken in executive session. Mayor Martin LaBarge declared a brief recess at 9:08 p.m. to allow staff time to gather additional information. Council Member Devin Henderson moved to recess to allow staff time to gather additional information. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 9:18 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Martin LaBarge asked for a motion to recess into executive session at the request of City Attorney Olavee Raub. Council Member Devin Henderson moved for City Council to recess into executive session to discuss the Public Works Department personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(1), with City Attorney Olavee Raub present for 5 minutes. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. The open meeting resumed at 9:23 p.m.

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member David McDaniel moved to accept the resignation of Public Works Director Steve Homburg effective at 11:15 a.m., July 1, 2026. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the payment of all accrued leave benefits to Mr. Homburg. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Council Member Devin Henderson moved to advertise for the position of Public Works Director. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Council Member David McDaniel moved to appoint Public Works Foreman Jacob Schartz as Interim Public Works Director at a wage of $33.71 per hour, retroactive to June 26, 2026. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member David McDaniel moved, and Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes
July 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Martin LaBarge called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Dava Gaschler, David McDaniel, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also, present were City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council Member Kevin LaBarge, City Attorney Olavee Raub, Police Chief Avery Smith, and Interim Public Works Director Jake Schartz were absent.

PUBLIC PRESENT

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING
Mayor Martin LaBarge stated the purpose of the special meeting was to consider approval of an application for a license to sell cereal malt beverages submitted by the Ellis Volunteer Fire Department, finalize the 2027 budget appropriations, and approve the Revenue Neutral Rate notification to be submitted to the Ellis County Clerk.

Fire: License/Permit
Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the Application for a License to Sell Cereal Malt Beverages for the Ellis Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Budget
City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council of the remaining funds available for appropriation in the 2027 budget. After discussion, Council designated the remaining funds to the Ellis Public Library appropriation, the Capital Improvement Museum Fund, and the Capital Improvement Cemetery Fund.

General Government: Budget
Council Member John Walz moved to notify the Ellis County Clerk that the City of Ellis intends to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2027 budget, with the public hearing to be held on August 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT
Council Member Dava Gaschler moved, and Council Member Devin Henderson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge
Mayor

Ashley Scheibler
City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
July 20, 2026

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
Pauleen Edmonds, Glen Keller, Karen Day, Donna Honas, Barbara Perkins, Sharon Dodson, Michael Berges, Darin Myers, Ellen Riedel, Fred Landess, Indiana Landess, David Clingan and Kenton Russell.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 6, 2026, the Minutes from the Special Meeting on July 16, 2026, Bills Ordinance #2241, Manual Journal Entries for May 2026, and Manual Journal Entries for June 2026. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Karen Day, Director of the Walter P. Chrysler Boyhood Home & Museum, informed Council the Walter P. Chrysler Car Club will host its National Car Show in Ellis from June 15–19, 2027. Additional information regarding the event will be provided as planning progresses and the event date approaches.
Glen Keller, Chairman of the Ellis Railroad Museum, informed Council that air conditioning will be installed at the Ellis Railroad Museum during the upcoming week.

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: City Code
City Attorney Olavee Raub presented proposed Ordinance No. 1505, which prohibits the parking of fifth-wheel trailers on public roadways within the City of Ellis. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1505. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Council authorized the Public Works Department to order and install signs designating the restricted parking areas.

Streets: Repair/Maintenance
City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented Council with the Ellis County Appraiser's recommendation regarding the designation of the 500 block of West 3rd Street in the public records. Mayor LaBarge read the recommendation aloud. The Ellis County Appraiser's opinion was, because the roadway is designated as a public right-of-way within the city limits, it should be treated as such and maintained by the City in a manner it deems appropriate. Following discussion, Council authorized the Public Works Department to repair the 500 block of West 3rd Street and assume responsibility for its ongoing maintenance.

General Government: Financial

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the proposed Public Funds Banking Agreement between the City of Ellis and Equity Bank. Following discussion, Ms. Scheibler recommended Council approve the four-year agreement, effective August 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030, and continue investing a portion of the City's public funds through the Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS) program with Equity Bank. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Public Funds Banking Agreement between the City of Ellis and Equity Bank for the term of August 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030, and authorize the City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the City. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to authorize the City Clerk to invest $500,000.00 in a six-month CDARS certificate of deposit with Equity Bank at an annual interest rate of 3.75%. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Contracts

Michael Berges, Ellis County Commissioner, addressed Council regarding the proposed Ellis County EMS/Fire facility project in Ellis. Mr. Berges explained the project is in the early planning stages and no specific location or project cost has been determined. Mr. Berges stated Ellis County's assumption of countywide dispatch services has prompted the County Commission to evaluate the long-term needs of its emergency service facilities and develop a plan for future improvements. As part of those discussions, the County is considering issuing a $10 million bond with a 10-year repayment term to help fund the project and reduce the immediate financial burden. During discussion, Council asked whether the proposed facility could include additional bays to house the City's Fire Department. Mr. Berges responded, at this time, including City Fire in the project is not being considered. Ellis County Administrator Darin Myer addressed concerns circulating within the community that Ellis would lose its County EMS facility, stating those rumors are inaccurate. Mr. Myer assured Council County EMS services will continue to be based in Ellis, although they may be relocated to a different facility. Mr. Myer also discussed the cooperative relationship between Ellis County and the City of Victoria for fire and emergency services. He explained the partnership has allowed Victoria to benefit from the use of County equipment and resources during fire and emergency responses. Mr. Myer noted, if the City of Ellis is interested, a similar collaborative arrangement with Ellis County could be explored in the future. Council then asked Mr. Myer to provide an update on the 10th Street Bridge project. Mr. Myer reported Ellis County submitted a BUILD Grant application approximately three weeks ago seeking $10 million to assist with funding three bridge replacement projects throughout the county, including the 10th Street Bridge. Mr. Myer further stated, if the County is not awarded the grant, funding has already been identified to move forward with the 10th Street Bridge project. He advised the City of Ellis to plan budgeting for its share of the project costs to ensure the bridge replacement can proceed in accordance with Council's expectations.

General Government: Contracts

Ellen Riedel addressed Council in opposition to the proposed Ellis County EMS/Fire Facility project. Ms. Riedel informed Council she had collected approximately 300 signatures on a petition opposing construction of the proposed facility in Ellis. Ms. Riedel encouraged Ellis County to continue maintaining its existing County EMS/Fire facilities. She requested the County obtain additional cost estimates for the proposed project. She stated, based on information she had received from contacts in Oklahoma, similar facilities have been constructed at a significantly lower cost and expressed concern about the financial burden the proposed project could place on taxpayers.

General Government: Contracts

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council, as implementation of the Edmunds GovTech software continues, it was determined uAttend is unable to generate the payroll export files required for proper integration with the City's new accounting and payroll software. Based on

this limitation, Edmunds GovTech recommended the City rescind its previous approval of the month-to-month agreement with uAttend and instead enter into a month-to-month agreement with Lathem PayClock Online Enterprise to streamline payroll processing and ensure compatibility with the new system. Council Member John Walz moved to rescind the City's previous approval of the month-to-month agreement with uAttend for employee timekeeping software and authorize the City Clerk to enter into a month-to-month agreement with Lathem PayClock Online Enterprise. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Streets: Survey

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented Council with a draft public survey designed to gather input from Ellis residents and business owners regarding the reconstruction of Washington Street from the south end of the bridge to the four-way intersection at 10th Street. The survey will solicit public feedback on preferred roadway reconstruction options. Staff anticipates distributing the survey with the quarterly *Town Crier*, scheduled for release on September 1. The survey will be available both by mail and in a digital format to encourage public participation. Upon completion of the survey, the results will be compiled and presented to the Council for consideration in determining the preferred reconstruction option for the project. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize staff to distribute the Washington Street Improvement Survey via mail and online platforms to solicit public feedback and assist the City Council in evaluating future street repair options with the addition of images to represent the option descriptions. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Street: Repair/Maintenance

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to ratify the invoices from Ergon Asphalt and Emulsions in the total amount of $19,368.61 for oil for the annual street maintenance project, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement – Street fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Pool: Repair/Maintenance

Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz presented a bid for recoating the Ellis Municipal Swimming Pool. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve the quote from Carrothers to recoat the Ellis Municipal Pool in the amount of $39,500.00, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement - Pool fund. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Parks: Equipment

Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz presented a quote for the purchase of a new mower to support mowing operations at the City's campground, wastewater treatment plant, water well sites, and cemetery. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Gottschalk Equipment Sales for a HyperDrive 60RD mower in the amount of $16,082.63, with funding to come from the Special Machinery Fund. The motion failed for lack of a second. Following discussion, Council noted the City's procurement policy requires a minimum of two bids for equipment purchases.

Sanitation: Repair/Maintenance

Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz requested Council's guidance regarding whether the City should repair privately owned trash dumpsters used for residential/business refuse collection. City Attorney Olavee Raub advised that the issue involves two distinct situations. She explained, because the City requires residents who choose to use a dumpster instead of a polycart to provide their own refuse container, the City is not responsible for repairing damage resulting from normal wear and tear or exposure to the elements. However, if a privately owned dumpster is damaged by City personnel during the course of collection, the City should repair the damage at no cost to the property owner.

Public Works: Personnel
Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to ratify the previously approved hourly wage for the Interim Public Works Director, adjusting the rate from $33.71 per hour to $33.63 per hour, consistent with Line 31A of the Council-approved Wage Distribution Chart as of June 26, 2026. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Financial
Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve Resolution No. 643 authorizing City employees to use the City credit cards. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Police: Acquisition
Police Chief Avery Smith presented a quote for the purchase of a new patrol vehicle. Following discussion, Council noted the City's procurement policy requires a minimum of two bids for equipment purchases and directed Chief Smith to obtain an additional quote and present both bids for consideration at the next regular Council meeting.

Police: Acquisition
Police Chief Avery Smith presented quotes for Firearms Equipment. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Loyal 9 Manufacturing in the amount of $13,165.00 with funds to come from the Special Machinery fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Streets: Signs
Police Chief Avery Smith and Council Member John Walz compiled quotes for solar radar signs; each sign runs approximately $3,000.00. After Council discussion, no further action was taken.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works
Interim Public Works Director Jake Schartz presented his department update.

Police
Police Chief Avery Smith presented the Mid-Month Incident Report for July and provided an update on departmental activities. Chief Smith announced the Police Department's annual school supply drive will begin soon, with all donated supplies to be divided equally between USD 388 and St. Mary's Catholic School. Additional information, including collection dates, will be announced at a later time.

City Clerk
City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the Ellis Lakeside Campground comment cards, the May and June financial statements, committee meeting minutes, and the June Health Savings Report, and provided an update on activities within the Clerk's Department. Ms. Scheibler updated Council on the Congregational Church roof repair project. City Attorney Olavee Raub advised the next step is to schedule a meeting with Roofmasters to discuss the roof conditions before proceeding with the installation of the gutter system. Ms. Scheibler also presented a summary of grant funding awarded to the City since February 2019. The report showed City projects have been funded through approximately 93.94% grant funding and 13.37% City funds, resulting in more than $2.8 million in grant awards with approximately $473,000 contributed by the City. She noted securing grant funding has enabled the City to complete significant infrastructure improvements while minimizing the financial impact on local taxpayers by planning for required matching funds over several years. Additionally, Ms. Scheibler reported, since the grant summary was prepared, the City has been awarded a Dane G. Hansen Foundation grant to assist with the Booster Pump Station project and a Historic Preservation Fund grant to support the designation of a historic district in downtown Ellis. Ms. Scheibler further informed Council, due to recent legislative changes, the City's dam has been placed on a scheduled rotation for Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources Dam Safety inspections. The City's next inspection is anticipated to occur in 2029, with a more specific schedule to be provided as the date approaches. Lastly, Ms. Scheibler announced all

City staff would participate in the quarterly safety meeting on July 22 at 12:30 p.m., with the training focused on workplace stress awareness. To conclude her report, Ms. Scheibler requested Council's consent to allow the Ellis Municipal Pool to host a Night Swim event on August 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Council expressed its consensus in support of the event.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub reported the court-appointed appraisers have completed their inspection of the property as part of the eminent domain proceedings. She advised the hearing will be held at the subject property and is anticipated to take place during the second week of August, although the date has not yet been finalized.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor Martin LaBarge reported the City has received five applications for the Public Works Director position. Interviews are scheduled for July 28 and 29. Council Member David McDaniel provided a recap of the City's first Coffee and Donuts session, noting the event was well attended with approximately 30 participants. Topics discussed included County EMS/Fire discussion, street maintenance, the library mill levy, technology improvement expenditures, concerns regarding law enforcement, the positive impact of recent scooter regulations, the Trego County Well Line Project, grain dumping by the cooperative, council term limits, speed limits on Monroe Street, the possibility of hiring local youth to assist with summer mowing, the City's complaint and work order process, and the testing of water valves and fire hydrants. Following the Mayor's updates, Council Member David McDaniel informed Council the Governor's Appointed Water Task Force will be holding a meeting in Hays on July 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Council Member Kevin LaBarge asked Public Works about installing stop signs at 5th and Jefferson Street. There have been incidents at that corner in the past.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved, and Council Member John Walz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
August 3, 2026

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA
Mayor LaBarge requested an amendment to the agenda to add "Special Order: Consideration to Hire Public Works Director" and to modify the Library Board appointment under the Mayor's Updates and Announcements section by changing the name from Tiffany Cox to Britney Cox.

PUBLIC PRESENT
Anita Krueger, Sebastian Footh, Glen Keller, Danielle Footh, Cindy Carter, John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, and David Clingan.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 20, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2242. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Anita Kroger thanked Mayor Martin LaBarge for his assistance in enforcing a City ordinance and addressing a concern involving a neighboring property. Ms. Kroger stated, after reviewing the City Code, she observed that the Public Works Department handles large, rotting piles of grass. She noted a neighboring property has a similar pile that has developed an odor and attracted numerous flies. Ms. Kroger stated she had offered to purchase a grass cart for her neighbor but was unable to do so due to City policy. She asked what solutions may be available to address and rectify the situation.

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Personnel: Entry
Mayor Martin LaBarge introduced Sebastian Footh and requested Council consider a motion to hire him as the new Public Works Director. Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve Sebastian Footh for the position, and Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Sebastian Footh's appointment will take effect on August 24, 2026.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Parks: Equipment
City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented two quotes for the purchase of a new mower to support mowing operations at the City's campground, wastewater treatment plant, water well sites, and cemetery. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the quote from Gottschalk Equipment Sales for a HyperDrive 60RD mower in the amount of $16,082.63, with funding to come from the Special Machinery Fund. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Police: Acquisition
Police Chief Avery Smith presented six quotes for the purchase of a new patrol vehicle. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford Explorer with upfitting from

JR Audio, in the amount of $64,165.00, with funds to come from the Special Machinery fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Streets: Signs

Police Chief Avery Smith asked Council to consider the proposed street sign in conjunction with recently adopted Ordinance No. 1505, which prohibits the parking of fifth-wheel trailers on public roadways within the City of Ellis. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council to authorize Chief Smith to order the necessary signs for placement and display.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: City Code

Council Member John Walz moved to approve Ordinance No. 1506 adopting the 42nd edition of the Uniform Public Offense Code. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: City Code

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve Ordinance No. 1507 adopting the 53rd edition of the Standard Traffic Ordinance. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Event Request Application

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the Just Breathe Disc Tournament's Event Request Application for the Creekside Pavilion on August 9 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Inspections: Contracts

Council Member John Walz moved to authorize Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz to contact the City of Hays to explore contracting for building inspection services and support. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Cemetery: Survey

Council Member John Walz moved to approve the distribution of the Mount Hope Cemetery survey. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1, with Council Member David McDaniel voting in opposition.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

In the absence of Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz, City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the Public Works Department update.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the Monthly Incident Report for July and provided an update on departmental activities. Council directed Chief Smith to obtain more valid quotes for radar signs to present at the next council meeting.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the Ellis Lakeside Campground comment cards and provided an update on activities within the City Clerk's Department. Ms. Scheibler also asked Council to consider establishing a consistent schedule for the quarterly Coffee and Donut Hour. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council not to establish specific dates in advance due to scheduling conflicts and availability. Dates for each Coffee and Donut Hour will instead be determined closer to each event. Ms. Scheibler informed Council the City was recently contacted by KMIT regarding participation in its Post-Offer Employment Testing (POET) Program for new hires. Under the program, applicants would receive a conditional offer of employment contingent upon successfully completing a post-offer physical assessment. The assessment is designed to determine whether an applicant can safely perform the essential functions of the position as outlined in the applicable job description. The cost of the assessment is $175 per new hire, with KMIT covering $100 and the City of Ellis responsible for the remaining $75. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the City's participation in the KMIT POET Program. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Ms. Scheibler also informed Council that Union Pacific Railroad had responded to

Council's request regarding an extension of the city's current lease. Their representative requested clarification as to whether Council would be interested in leasing additional property extending from Dorrance Street to the creek, in addition to the originally requested property extending from Memorial Park to Dorrance Street. Council requested Ms. Scheibler obtain cost comparisons for both sections of property. Upon review of the cost comparisons, Council will determine which section, or sections, it wishes to pursue.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub reported on the notice of the Appraisers' Hearing regarding the Trego Well Line Project easements. Ms. Raub also provided an update regarding repairs to the roof of the Congregational Church, noting she and Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz would meet with Roofmasters on Friday morning. Ms. Raub stated City Clerk Ashley Scheibler was welcome to attend the meeting as well. Lastly, Ms. Raub informed Council that questions had arisen regarding the lease for cellular equipment located on the City's water tower. Verizon has requested the City consider renewing the lease, as the current agreement is in its final renewal term. If Council wishes to negotiate a new lease, it will need to determine the desired lease amount. Ms. Raub also reported that Verizon is working to replace equipment on the water tower. Under the current agreement, Verizon is required to provide a structural analysis and construction drawings for the proposed work. Ms. Raub and Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz expressed that they did not feel comfortable reviewing the structural analysis and construction drawings without assistance from a qualified professional. Ms. Raub requested Council consider identifying an engineer or other qualified professional, potentially from the Hays area, to assist with reviewing the submitted construction drawings and structural analysis reports. Council provided their consent for her to negotiate with Verizon and begin proceeding with lease renewals.

Mayor LaBarge then asked to address Ms. Kroger's question raised during public comment. Ms. Raub stated the matter would fall under Section 8-201(g) of the City Code and the same process used for the previous vehicle incident would apply. She explained that a complaint from two or more citizens would be required before the matter could be referred for investigation.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge asked Council to consider appointing Britney Cox to the Ellis Library Board. Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the appointment of Britney Cox to the Ellis Library Board. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Council Member John Walz asked Mayor LaBarge to set up a fact-finding meeting with Darin Myers, Ellis County Administrator, to discuss in further detail the proposed Ellis County EMS/Fire station.

Council Member David McDaniel reported he attended his first Public Transportation Task Force meeting in Hays. The meeting included a discussion regarding ACCESS and recent funding reductions that have resulted in the elimination of Sunday routes. These reductions have left many individuals without transportation options for employment and other essential needs. ACCESS is currently facing an estimated $102,000 funding shortfall and will be seeking assistance from local cities and counties. Mr. McDaniel also requested an update regarding the Chrysler House painting project. Ms. Scheibler stated no bids were received and, as a result, the project did not move forward. Staff will contact the previous bidders to obtain updated bids and ensure bids are available for consideration at the next Council meeting so the project can move forward. Mr. McDaniel also requested an update regarding the inventory process for the Congregational Church. It was noted the committee is expected to meet in mid-September or October to complete the inventory process.

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 7:42 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
August 17, 2026

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
Sebastian Footh, Lyle Johnston, Pauleen Edmonds, Glen Keller, John LaShell, and Vaughn Snyder.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 3, 2026, and Bills Ordinance #2243. 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

General Government: Grants
Shannon Praete with the Kansas Infrastructure Hub introduced herself to Council. She noted she has assisted the City with recent grant opportunities and looks forward to continuing to work with the City. Ms. Praete serves as a Grant Management Specialist with the Hub and provides Technical Assistance (TA) to communities throughout Northwest Kansas. In this role, she assists communities with identifying grant and funding opportunities, understanding federal and state infrastructure program requirements, navigating grant applications and pre-award preparation, managing post-award compliance and reporting, connecting communities with appropriate agencies and technical experts, and identifying potential funding sources for specific infrastructure needs.

Parks: Project
Pauleen Edmunds, President of the Community Foundation of Ellis, presented Council with a proposed design to replace the outdated playground equipment at South Side Kids Zone, located at 20th and Walnut Street. The proposed project is intended to create a more inclusive, accessible, and engaging playground for children of varying ages and abilities, including ADA-accessible features. Ms. Edmunds requested Council's consent to move forward with the proposed project. It was the consensus of Council to allow the Community Foundation of Ellis to continue working through the various phases of the project and proceed with plans to replace the outdated playground equipment. Ms. Edmunds also asked Council to consider donating to the playground improvements during this year's October Match Month, noting donations made during the campaign will receive a 2:1 match.

Tourism: Event
Glen Keller, representing the Tourism Committee, presented Council with a request for $240.00 to host a luncheon for the Wichita Model A Club, which is scheduled to visit Ellis on September 26 to tour the Ellis Railroad Museum and the Walter P. Chrysler Boyhood Home. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the request in the amount of $240.00, with funds to

come from the Tourism Fund. Council Member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Pauleen Edmunds, representing the Community Foundation of Ellis, then addressed Council and requested Council consider participating in the October Match Month campaign again to help support the replacement of wheels on the miniature train.

Cemetery: Repairs/Maintenance

John LaShell, President of the Cemetery Committee, addressed Council regarding issues surrounding trees at Mount Hope Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee recently met with representatives from K-State Research and Extension, who provided guidance regarding the condition of the existing trees and recommendations for future tree plantings at the cemetery. Mr. LaShell also asked Council to consider amending the committee's requirements to allow a current Council Member to serve on the committee.

Fire Department: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Museums: Repairs/Maintenance

Council reviewed bids for repairs to the building located behind the Chrysler Home. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the bid from Lyndell Rorabaugh in the amount of $5,800.00 for repairs to the building behind the Chrysler Home, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement Special Projects fund. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5–0.

General Government: Repairs/Maintenance

City Attorney Olavee Raub disclosed the findings from the meeting held with Dustin Pfeifer of Roofmasters Roofing regarding previously observed deficiencies associated with the congregational church roof. Ms. Raub explained that the roof deficiencies would be corrected accordingly; however, two additional items needed to be addressed. First, an existing exhaust pipe must be relocated, as it is currently impeding the installation of guttering. Second, Council will need to select a gutter color for installation on the roof. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize Public Works to obtain bids from a licensed plumber for the relocation of the existing exhaust pipe. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Following the motion, Council discussed whether the gutter color should accent the shakes or harmonize with the limestone rock, similar to the color currently installed. City Clerk Ashley Scheibler stated physical samples are available for review in the Clerk's Office. Council Members may review the samples and prepare to make a final selection at the next Council meeting. No further action was taken.

Streets: Signs

Police Chief Avery Smith provided Council with updated quotes for radar signs. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve the quote from EpicStar LED LLC in the amount of 3,635.00 with funds to come from the Capital Improvement Special Project fund. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Grant

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council that the City has been awarded a Grant Administrative Program Grant to assist with contracting with a grant administration company to help navigate and administer the awarded Cybersecurity Grant. Ms. Scheibler requested Council approval to solicit bids for grant administration services. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize City staff to solicit bids for grant administrative assistance in support of the Cybersecurity Grant. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Streets: Grant

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council that the City is ready to solicit bids for the construction phase of the 2nd Street Improvement Project. Ms. Scheibler requested Council approval to proceed with the bidding process. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to

authorize City staff to solicit bids for the construction phase of the 2nd Street Improvement Project. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Committee

Council Member John Walz moved to designate Council Member David McDaniel as the voting delegate and Council Member Jolene Niernberger as the alternate voting delegate at the League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Conference in October. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Water: License/Permit

Keith Pfannenstiel, on behalf of the Ellis Jr. Free Fair, 801 Cottonwood, has applied for a permit to drill a private water well on their property. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Application for a Permit to Drill a Private Water Well from Keith Pfannenstiel on behalf of the Ellis Jr. Free Fair at the Ellis Fairgrounds located at 801 Cottonwood. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Parks: Repair/Maintenance

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented two quotes for Engineered Wood Fiber mulch to be installed at the newly completed Ellis Lakeside Playground. It was noted that the playground area has experienced patches of grass and weed growth. Due to the specific mulch requirements for the playground, the City did not have the required material on hand. Council discussed the need to explore preventative maintenance options to address the existing grass and weed growth and help prevent it from reappearing before applying an additional layer of mulch. Public Works and Ms. Scheibler will research available options and present their findings at the next Council meeting.

Sewer: Repair/Maintenance

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler and City Attorney Olavee Raub informed Council that the newly acquired sewer plant blower failed mid-June and required immediate replacement to prevent further issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. As the replacement was necessary prior to Council approval, ratification of the purchase was required. City staff are currently working with Aerzen to determine the warranty coverage associated with the faulty blower. Council Member David McDaniel moved to ratify the purchase of a sewer plant blower from Aerzen in the amount of $15,729.76, plus freight, with funds to come from the Sewer Depreciation Reserve Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Cemetery: Contract

Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz asked Council to consider adjusting the grave opening and closing rates for St. John Cemetery due to the increasing costs associated with materials, labor, and time. Mr. Schartz stated, on average, three Public Works employees are required to complete the work, utilizing a backhoe, dump truck, and jackhammer. He further noted that the backhoe requires approximately 30 minutes of travel time each way to the cemetery. Council inquired about the current rates and directed City Clerk Ashley Scheibler to prepare a fee schedule outlining the existing rates for Council's review and consideration at the next Council meeting.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Interim Public Works Director Jacob Schartz presented his department update and informed Council that Curt Deines, Superintendent of Planning and Development for the City of Hays, has agreed to assist the City of Ellis with building inspections. Mr. Deines stated a minimum charge of $150 for two hours would be assessed to the City for each trip to Ellis. Mr. Schartz noted coordinating and scheduling multiple inspections during each visit would be beneficial, as it could help reduce the inspection costs passed on to residents. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to authorize Public Works to contract with Curt Deines at a minimum rate of $150 per two hours for building inspection services. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the Mid-Month Incident Report for August and provided an update on departmental activities.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the Ellis Lakeside Campground comment cards and committee minutes and provided an update on activities within the City Clerk's Department. Ms. Scheibler reported that the night swim event held August 8 was very successful, with 237 patrons attending throughout the day. She expressed interest in continuing to offer additional night swim sessions during the next season. Ms. Scheibler also requested Council's consensus to apply for the 2027 IIMC Conference Scholarship, which would provide an opportunity for her continued professional growth and development in the municipal clerk profession. She noted her attendance at the conference would be contingent upon receiving the scholarship. Council provided consensus for Ms. Scheibler to apply for the scholarship.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge asked Council to consider appointing Tammy Wolf to the Spruce Villa Housing Authority Board. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the appointment of Tammy Wolf to the Spruce Villa Housing Authority Board. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Following the appointment, Mayor LaBarge moved into discussion regarding Mount Hope Cemetery, referencing recent conversations with the Cemetery Committee concerning the authority to remove trees within the cemetery. City Attorney Olavee Raub confirmed that the Public Works Director and Mayor have the discretion to remove trees that interfere with or prevent the development of future burial plots when immediate attention is required. All other tree removal requests or maintenance changes must be brought before the governing body for consideration and approval.

Mayor LaBarge then provided an update regarding the meeting held with Ellis County Administrator Darin Myer concerning the Ellis County EMS/Fire Building. Mr. LaBarge stated Mr. Myer plans to attend a Council meeting in September to continue discussions regarding the project.

Lastly, Mayor LaBarge directed City Attorney Olavee Raub to draft a proposed Code of Conduct for the Ellis Lakeside Campground. Council had previously requested that the Campground Committee develop a Code of Conduct between October 2025 and February 2026; however, no proposed code has been presented. Mayor LaBarge noted that the campground has recently experienced several situations in which a dedicated Code of Conduct would be beneficial in clearly establishing and enforcing campground rules and regulations. Ms. Raub will provide a draft for review at the next council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member John Walz moved, and Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler, City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
September 8, 2026

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
Diana Staab, Mark Schaukowitch, Kent Miracle, and David Clingnan.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council member David McDaniel moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 17, 2026, Bills Ordinance #2244, Manual Journal Entries for July 2026, Approval of Event Request/Permit for Public Property Application, Traffic Control Application for Event Request, and Noise Permit Application – Ellis Polar Express, Approval of Event Request/Permit for Public Property Application - Mothers of Cross Country Team, and Approval of Resolution No. 644 Authorizing Use of City Credit Cards. Council member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Election Candidate
Mark Schaukowitch, 110th District Representative, spoke about his campaign and provided council with what is most important to him for smaller municipalities in rural Kansas.

General Government: New Homes
Kent Miracle, Prime Craftsman Homes, spoke to council regarding his company and the possibilities of manufactured homes within the City of Ellis. Mr. Miracle invited council and residents of Ellis to Wichita to tour their showroom and factory.

Campground: Event Request
Diana Staab, representative for the Girl Scouts, presented a request regarding the Girl Scouts Junior 3 Part Campout scheduled for October 3. Ms. Staab requested that the camping fee be waived for the event. The area requested by Ms. Staab is owned by the Ellis Railroad Museum; therefore, Council was unable to approve the use of that specific area for camping. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to waive the camping fee for the Girl Scouts once an agreement was reached regarding an available camping location. Council Member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Museums: Repairs/Maintenance
Council reviewed paint samples provided by Roofmaster Roofing for the guttering at the Congregational Church. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the gutter color of Rafia Beige. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Campground: Contracts
Chief Avery Smith presented the Draft Code of Conduct for Ellis Lakeside Campground. Council directed Chief Smith to take it back to the Campground Committee for review and revisions

based on council discussions.

Campground: Repairs /Maintenance

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh informed Council he would be spraying Roundup on weeds inside the campground playground area. Council Member David McDaniel asked for a sign to be displayed when spraying to keep visitors out of the area. Council directed Sebastian to acquire quotes for additional mulch to present at the next council meeting.

Cemetery: Fee Schedule

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh informed Council of the fees that are associated with grave openings and closings. Mr. Footh asked Council to consider adjusting the fee schedule for St. Johns Cemetery. Council directed Mr. Footh to come with an estimate of cost for employees to dig and cover graves at St. Johns Cemetery and present at the next council meeting for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Clerk Danielle Schaus informed Council of the need to increase the city credit card limit for the shared balance between departments. Ms. Schaus stated multiple times a year she will need to make double payments or prepay on the city credit card statement because of the low credit limit. Ms. Schaus asked Council to consider increasing the city credit card limit to $10,000. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize City Staff to contact Equity Bank to request an increase to the City's credit card limit to $10,000 and to authorize Mayor LaBarge and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler to execute any documents necessary to complete the request. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Police: Uniforms

Police Chief Avery Smith reviewed a quote from Baysinger's Uniforms & Equipment for new body armor for their department employees. Mr. Smith advised Council that three of them have expired, which requires replacement. Council Member Devin Henderson moved to approve the quote from Baysinger's Uniforms and Equipment, in the amount of $4,554.00, with funds to come from the Special Machinery fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented his department update. Mr. Footh informed Council that Luke Karlin would be visiting the Congregational Church in the coming weeks to inspect the flat roof and provide recommendations regarding the necessary repairs.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the Monthly Incident Report for August and provided an update on departmental activities.

City Clerk

Clerk Danielle Schaus presented the Ellis Lakeside Campground comment cards and provided an update on activities within the City Clerk's Department. Ms. Schaus discussed the possibility of entering into a contract with Tim Moore, a volunteer assisting with the City's TNR Program. Council directed City Attorney Olavee Raub to draft a contract for consideration at the next Council meeting. Ms. Schaus also informed Council that the Budget and Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) Hearing would be held on September 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge informed Council that he attended the LKM online meeting. He requested a work session with the Ellis City Fire Department, which is scheduled for September 23 at 7:30 p.m. Mayor LaBarge also informed Council that Coffee and Donuts is scheduled for October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Council Members John Walz and Dava Gaschler will be in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved, and Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Danielle Schaus, Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes
September 11, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Martin LaBarge called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Kevin LaBarge, David McDaniel, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also, present was City Clerk Ashley Scheibler. Council Member Dava Gaschler, City Attorney Olavee Raub, Police Chief Avery Smith, and Public Works Director Sebastian Footh were absent.

PUBLIC PRESENT
Jami Benyshek, Gary Weigel, Clarene Weigel and Shirley Tieperman.

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING
Mayor Martin LaBarge stated the purpose of holding a Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing, considering a resolution to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, a 2027 Budget Hearing, and consideration of adoption of the Budget Document at City Hall.

PUBLIC HEARING – REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE
General Government: Financial
Mayor Martin LaBarge requested a motion to open the public hearing to discuss the Revenue Neutral Rate. Council member David McDaniel moved to open the Revenue Neutral Rate hearing. Council member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Council member Dava Gaschler was absent. The public hearing opened at 5:31 p.m.
City Clerk Ashley Scheibler stated the Revenue Neutral Rate hearing is required under K.S.A. 79-2988. The City plans to adopt a budget in excess of the Revenue Neutral Rate, but maintain the same mill levy as the 2026 proposed budget.
Shirley Tieperman discussed the significant increase in property tax values. Council informed Ms. Tieperman that property values are determined by the Ellis County Appraiser.
Gary Weigel discussed difficulties he experienced in obtaining Kansas property tax relief for seniors. Council encouraged Mr. Weigel to continue advocating for senior property tax relief and to voice his concerns at the county and state levels.
There being no further comments, Mayor LaBarge asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Council member David McDaniel moved, and Council member Devin Henderson seconded a motion to close the Revenue Neutral Rate hearing. The motion carried 5-0. The public hearing closed at 5:45 p.m.

General Government: Financial
Council member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 645 authorizing the City of Ellis to levy a property tax exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Council members Kevin LaBarge, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, John Walz, and David McDaniel all voting in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2027 BUDGET DOCUMENT
General Government: Financial
Mayor Martin LaBarge then requested a motion to open the public hearing to discuss the 2027 budget document. Council member Devin Henderson moved to open the 2027 budget hearing. Council member Kevin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. The public hearing opened at 5:47 p.m.
City Clerk Ashley Scheibler stated the proposed budget has been published for the required

amount of time and that tonight is an opportunity for the citizens of Ellis to comment on the proposed budget for 2027.

There being no comments, Mayor Martin LaBarge asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Council member David McDaniel moved, and Council member Devin Henderson seconded a motion to close the 2027 budget hearing. The motion carried 5-0. The public hearing closed at 5:52 p.m.

General Government: Financial

Council member John Walz moved to approve the 2027 City of Ellis budget document as presented. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member David McDaniel moved, and Council Member Devin Henderson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
September 21, 2026

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC PRESENT
Doug Goetz, Hannah McKnight, David Clingan, and Ken Rahjes.

CONSENT AGENDA
Council Member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 8, 2026, Minutes from the Special Meeting on September 11, 2026, Bill Ordinance #2245, Manual Journal Entries for August 2026, Approval of Event Request/Permit for Public Property Application and Noise Permit Application – Walter P. Chrysler Car Club, Approval of Event Request/Permit for Public Property Application and Traffic Control Application – USD 388. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Public Hearing – Proposed KDHE Loan Submission

Water: Loan
Mayor Martin LaBarge requested a motion to open the public hearing to discuss the proposed KDHE Loan Application in support of the Booster Pump Station project. Council Member David McDaniel moved to open the public hearing. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. The public hearing opened at 6:32 p.m.
Corina Cox of Wilson and Company, Inc., summarized the KDHE Loan Application process and informed Council the City of Ellis intends to apply for KDHE loan funding in the amount of $1,121,700 to assist with financing the Booster Pump Station Project. Forty percent of the loan amount is eligible for forgiveness, provided all applicable requirements are met. Ms. Cox stated the anticipated funding timeline is January 2027, at which time the City will receive the necessary documentation and additional information regarding the award. She noted one item requiring attention prior to the anticipated KDHE award notification is the City's Water Conservation Plan.
City Clerk Ashley Scheibler will work with the Kansas Water Resources Authority (KWRA) and the Kansas Water Office (KWO) to update the City's Water Conservation Plan in preparation for the anticipated January award announcement.
There being no comments from the public, Mayor Martin LaBarge asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Devin Henderson moved, and Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded a motion to close the public hearing. The motion carried 6-0. The public hearing closed at 6:40 p.m.

Water: Financial
Council Member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 646 Authorizing the Completion of an application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding a loan from the

Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Kevin LaBarge, Dava Gaschler, David McDaniel, Devin Henderson, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz all voting in favor of the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Water: Contract

Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve the Contract with Wilson and Company Inc. for Administration in the amount of $8,500, with funds to come from the Water Depreciation Reserve fund, and to authorize the Mayor to sign all respective documents. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Election Candidate

Ken Rahjes, 110th District Representative, discussed his campaign and shared with Council issues he considers most important to smaller municipalities and rural communities across Kansas.

Fire Department: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine submitted his monthly report for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Contract

City Attorney Olavee Raub presented a draft of the proposed Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) contract for Council's consideration. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the TNR Contract with Mr. Tim Moore at a rate of $20 per day. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Cemetery: Fees

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented a cost estimate sheet regarding the City's expenses associated with providing grave opening and closing services for St. Johns Cemetery. Council reviewed the information and directed Mr. Footh to develop specific, current costs of service for designated grave opening and closing services. The updated cost information will allow the City to review and adjust applicable fees as necessary to more accurately reflect current labor, equipment, materials, and other operating expenses associated with providing these services. Updated rates will be presented to Council for further consideration at the next meeting.

Museums: Repairs/Maintenance

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council additional approval is necessary because some of the existing siding boards on the Chrysler Boyhood Home Museum required replacement during the painting project. Council Member David McDaniel moved to approve an invoice from Lyndell Rorabaugh, in the amount of $50, for the replacement of siding on the Chrysler Boyhood Home Museum, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement Special Projects Fund. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Streets: Contract

Doug Goetz of Wilson & Company, Inc. informed Council that the City entered into a KDOT Cost Share Agreement, which authorized Wilson & Company to obtain KDOT approval for the City to proceed with the construction bidding process. Mr. Goetz explained, pursuant to the KDOT Cost Share Agreement, the project must be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Following completion of the bidding process with a targeted start date of early March 2027, Wilson & Company prepared a bid tabulation for Council's review. The bid tabulation identified Morgan Brothers Construction of LaCrosse, Kansas, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Morgan Brothers Construction is currently completing a walking trail project for the City of Hays and is KDOT-pre-certified. Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to accept the bid from Morgan Brothers Construction in the amount of $469,049.68, contingent upon KDOT concurrence, and authorize the Mayor and City Staff to execute any required documents. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: New Homes

Council discussed next steps for potentially bringing Prime Craftsman Homes (PCH) to Ellis as early as January 2027 to showcase its homes and discuss opportunities for affordable housing development within the community. Mayor LaBarge noted Council members attending the League Annual Conference in Wichita will have an opportunity to tour PCH's facility and view examples of its homes and other facilities. Council Member Dava Gaschler emphasized the importance of thoroughly vetting the company, including reviewing the quality, reputation, and reliability of its homes and services. David Clingan of Grow Hays emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum with PCH to explore opportunities for bringing affordable housing to Ellis. He noted availability of affordable homes could help attract new residents to the community and provide additional housing options for individuals and families already residing in Ellis. PCH has indicated they are willing to absorb a significant portion of the project costs and is committed to maintaining an affordable housing goal for the community. Council discussed continuing to evaluate the opportunity while ensuring the company, housing products, costs, and proposed arrangements are thoroughly reviewed before moving forward. Council Member Jolene Niernberger stated she would also like the proposed project to be presented to the Planning Commission for its review, input, and consideration. No further action was taken.

Water: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented Council with two bids for the replacement of a failed water pump at the Water Treatment Plant. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Standard Drilling and Water Well Service, LLC, in the amount of $3,200, with funds to come from the Water Depreciation Reserve Fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

General Government: Policy

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council, due to the City's transition to new accounting and payroll software, the system will no longer calculate additional accrued sick leave based on an accrual date of the first day of each month. Instead, sick leave will need to be accrued during the first pay period of each month. This change requires an addendum to the City's Personnel Policy to reflect the revised accrual method. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the Personnel Policy Addendum as presented. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented his departmental update to Council. Mr. Footh informed Council the City's 1995 F-150 has been deemed unsafe for operation and recommended the vehicle be decommissioned. Council Member John Walz moved to authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the 1995 F-150 for sale through Purple Wave. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. Following approval to sell the 1995 F-150, Mr. Footh requested authorization to solicit bids for a replacement vehicle and present the available options and associated costs to Council at its next meeting. By consensus, Council authorized Mr. Footh to obtain bids for a replacement vehicle and bring the information back to the Council for consideration.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented his Mid-Month Incident Report for September and provided an update on departmental activities.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented Ellis Lakeside Campground comment cards, committee minutes, August Financial Statements, and provided an update on activities within the City Clerk's Department. Ms. Scheibler also informed Council the Congregational Church Inventory Committee has made progress toward beginning the inventory process at the church, with September 30 tentatively scheduled as the start date. Additionally, Ms. Scheibler reported she

has authorized City staff to participate in this year's Homecoming Parade. City staff will distribute mini flyers promoting the City's Alley Cleanup schedule, which is scheduled to begin October 5.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub provided Council with an update regarding the Trego Well Line Project, stating a hearing to confirm the appraiser's award is scheduled for Monday, September 28. Upon approval by the judge, the City will proceed with the payment process for the final easement.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge reminded Council of the Work Session with the Ellis City Fire Department on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. Mayor LaBarge also reminded Council Coffee and Donuts is scheduled for October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with Council Members John Walz and Dava Gaschler in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor 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 contract terms for Verizon tower lease pursuant to the attorney-client privilege exception, K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(2), with City Attorney Olavee Raub and City Clerk Ashley Scheibler present. The open meeting will resume at 8:12 p.m. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. No action was taken in executive session, and the open meeting resumed.

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 8:12 p.m.

Martin V. LaBarge

Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

Ashley Scheibler

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler

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ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

October 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Under New Business, add: Discuss KDHE Loan Term for Booster Pump Station Project. Correction under Police Reports: adjust monthly report from October to September.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Glen Keller, Bruce Riedl, Callie Miller, John Leiker, Tammy Leiker, and Eli Deutscher.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Devin Henderson moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 21, 2026, Bill Ordinance #2246. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eli Deutscher addressed Council regarding concerns with the Ellis Lakeside Campground and guests utilizing the campground. Mr. Deutscher reported, on two separate occasions, his dog had been attacked by unleashed dogs belonging to campground guests. He asked Council to consider implementing stricter guidelines and regulations for individuals utilizing the campground to help address these concerns.

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

SPECIAL ORDER

General Government: Housing

Callie Miller, Director of Housing Opportunities Inc. (HOI), addressed Council regarding their nonprofit organization and mission to help address housing shortages for individuals age 55 and older. Ms. Miller informed Council HOI has developed senior housing communities in Russell, Kansas, and is currently developing The Grove in Hays, Kansas. Ms. Miller explained HOI typically develops 16 or more units at a time. Each unit consists of two bedrooms, one bathroom, a garage, and a tornado shelter. Depending on the development, units may be sold or rented at affordable rates to seniors. HOI maintains the rental properties and provides services including lawn care, trash service, and snow removal. Estimated monthly rental rates for The Grove in Hays are approximately $625 to $675, while rental rates for the Russell development have ranged from approximately $550 to $600 per month. Ms. Miller concluded her presentation by offering Council members the opportunity to tour some of HOI's existing housing units for anyone interested in learning more about the developments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cemetery: Fees

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented a cost estimate outlining the City's expenses associated with providing grave opening and closing services at Mount Hope, St. Mary's and St. John's Cemeteries. Following discussion regarding labor, materials, and equipment costs, Council determined St. John Cemetery should have a separate fee structure to more accurately reflect the costs associated with providing these services. Council Member John Walz moved to increase all grave opening and closing fees for St. John Cemetery by $100. Council Member

Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1, with Council Member Dava Gaschler abstaining.

Campground: Repairs/Maintenance

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented Council with updated quotes for playground mulch needed to complete repairs to areas surrounding the newly installed playground equipment at the Ellis Lakeside Campground. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the quote from Playscapes Recreation, LLC in the amount of $2,775.00 with funds to come from the Special Parks and Recreation fund. Council Member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Buildings: Repairs/Maintenance

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented bids for repairs to the flat roof of the Congregational Church. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the bid from Karlin Roofing in the amount of $2,900.00, with funds to come from the Capital Improvement Special Projects fund. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Code: Ordinance

City Attorney Olavee Raub informed Council the Planning Commission had reviewed the proposed ordinance revising requirements for installation of mailboxes within new development areas. The Planning Commission approved the proposed ordinance at its September 28 meeting and recommended it to Council for consideration and approval.

Council Member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve Ordinance No. 1508, revising the requirements for installation of mailboxes within new development areas. Council Member Dava Gaschler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Police: Equipment

Police Chief Avery Smith presented quotes for the purchase of ammunition. Following discussion, Council directed Chief Smith to utilize his budget authority to purchase the appropriate brands and quantities of ammunition necessary to support both training exercises and active-duty needs.

Public Works: Equipment

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented bids for replacement of end-of-life vehicles. Council Member John Walz moved to approve the purchase of a 2018 Ford F-250 from Lewis Ford of Dodge City in the amount of $35,388 and a 2016 Ford F-150 from World of Wheels in the amount of $16,995, for a total purchase amount of $52,383, with funds to come from the Special Machinery Fund, contingent upon satisfactory test drives of both vehicles. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Water: Loan

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler informed Council during the public hearing held at the previous meeting, City staff inadvertently failed to address the loan repayment term the Council wished to select for the KDHE loan application in support of the Booster Pump Station Project.

Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to approve a requested 20-year loan repayment term for the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund application in support of the Booster Pump Station Project. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director Sebastian Footh presented his department update to Council, noting the Public Works Department will begin accepting applications for a General Public Works Employee position beginning October 6. Mr. Footh also informed Council the VFW will donate $2,000 to the City to assist with the replacement of trees at the Ellis Lakeside Campground. Additionally, Midwest Energy has informed the City, in recognition of America's 250th anniversary, they will donate an oak tree to be planted at the Ellis Lakeside Campground.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the September Monthly Incident Report and provided an update on departmental activities. Chief Smith informed Council of ongoing challenges with spam calls received by the Ellis Police Department and requested Council consider allowing him to contact Golden Belt Telephone to add its monthly telemarketer service in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted calls received by the department. Council Member Dava Gaschler moved to authorize Police Chief Avery Smith and appropriate City staff to contract with Golden Belt Telephone for its telemarketer service at a cost of $3 per month. Council Member David McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

City Clerk

City Clerk Ashley Scheibler presented the Ellis Lakeside Campground comment cards and provided an update on departmental activities. Ms. Scheibler also informed Council the Congregational Church Inventory Committee had completed the inventory process. Additionally, Ms. Scheibler presented a proposed City of Ellis logo for Council's consideration. She explained the proposed logo was developed through a collaborative effort among City staff and department heads in response to the lack of a consistent City identity across departments. Current vehicle markings, business cards, apparel, and other City materials vary in design and do not provide a uniform representation of the City as one organization.

Ms. Scheibler stated the goal was to create a clean, professional, and recognizable identity that could represent all City departments while providing some separation from the traditional imagery commonly associated with Ellis. The proposed logo was designed to establish a unified City brand that could be consistently used on City vehicles, business cards, apparel, documents, signage, and other City materials moving forward. Ms. Scheibler requested Council's consideration of formally adopting the proposed logo as the official logo of the City of Ellis. Council Member John Walz moved to adopt the City of Ellis logo as presented. Council Member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Attorney

City Attorney Olavee Raub presented Council with a memorandum providing updates on the Trego Well Line Project, Verizon Tower Lease, and Municipal Court Judge matters.

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor LaBarge reminded Council of Coffee and Donuts is scheduled for October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with Council Members John Walz and Dava Gaschler in attendance. Council also discussed arrangements for those attending the League Annual Conference on October 8, noting that attendees will meet with Prime Craftsman Homes to tour proposed manufactured homes prior to attending the conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 8:19 p.m.

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Martin V. LaBarge, Mayor

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City Clerk Ashley Scheibler