

City of Smith Center
City Council Meeting Minutes
November 24th, 2025

I. Call to Order

Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 24th, 2025, at the Srader Building.

Attendance

Governing Body Members: Tracy Kingsbury, and Chris Cole, Ty Wallgren, Don Wick and Bryce Wiehl.

Others: Jill Conaway, Tabitha Owen, Melissa Colby, Kim Maudlin, Rick Hileman, Joshua Niles, Brittany Niles, Dana Peterson, Melissa McAllister, Anne Dietrich, Pam Gible, Rick Linneman, John Ballhorst, Alicia Strother, Kendra Alton, Brian Baetz, Javenia Stansbury, Rylee Stansbury, Kelsey Shellito, Penny LeVan, LaVeta Favinger, Jodi Boyle, Kaley Saathoff, Sean Saathoff, Ryan Lewis, Colbie Lewis, Sierra Wilson, Brad Bryant, Jan Ellenberger, Alaina Hughes, Kim Phelps, Julie Kuhlmann, Gale Gwennap, Lori Bortz, Joel Brewer, Sherry Weatherholt, Ricky Konshak, Kyle Petrik, Ron Peterson, Sarah Manchester, Jared Place and Margaret Doxey.

II. Consent Agenda

Following review, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Following review, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Wallgren, to approve the vouchers and receipts. Motion carried.

III. Previous/ Ongoing Business

Dana Peterson, representing Bright Beginnings, presented the board with financial statements regarding the request made at the previous council meeting. The board had previously requested letters of support from the in-home daycare providers. Bright Beginnings was unable to obtain letters of support from the in-home daycare providers. The council discussed the continued request for the \$6,000.00 per month donation to Bright Beginnings and after discussion with the audience the council unanimously decided to not proceed with that request.

The council then reviewed the renewal rates for the city employees' health insurance premiums. Upon review a motion was made by Wallgren to renew the United Health Care premium at \$335,540.52. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried.

Two cereal malt beverage license renewal applications were provided to the city for review. A motion was made by Kingsbury and seconded by Wallgren to approve the cereal malt beverage license renewals for Dollar General and Alta. The motion carried.

IV. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

- a. Economic Development- No one from the board was able to be present at this meeting. The council reviewed the action items provided in their board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Cole to add Brittany Niles to the Heritage Townhomes bank accounts at Guaranty Bank. The motion was seconded by Wallgren and the motion carried.
- b. Golf Course-No one from the board was able to be present at the meeting. Prior to the council meeting the golf course board provided estimates for a new and used sprayer. The golf course has currently raised all but \$5,000.00 for the purchase of the used sprayer and asks the city for assistance in the purchase. The golf course intends to sell two mowers and potentially a tree spade to reimburse the city for the purchase of the sprayer. A motion was made by Wick to supply the golf course with the additional \$5,000.00 needed to purchase a used sprayer. The motion was seconded by Cole and the motion carried.

V. Guests

John Ballhorst then spoke before the council to show his concern regarding the old hospital that is planned to be turned into apartments. Ballhorst requested more information be provided to the public regarding the project.

VI. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports Continued

Planning Commission - The council then reviewed the minutes from the Smith Center Planning Commission wherein the board recommended changing the zoning of the old hospital from R2 to R3. After discussion the council decided to table the decision to re-zone the old hospital until they can review engineering plans. Within the minutes of the Planning Commission, the board recommended Addie Thayer be placed on the board. A motion was made by Kingsbury and seconded by Cole to add Addie Thayer onto the Planning Commission board.

Police – Chief Marshall updated the council regarding the new police vehicle stating it would be going for its upfitting next week.

City Clerk – Niles notified the board regarding the funding of the main street Christmas Lights Project. Niles also requested Conaway to continue to get

paid at an hourly rate whenever needed for assistance and/or questions. The council unanimously agreed.

VII. Guests Continued

Julie Kuhlmann showed her concerns regarding the feral cat issue in Smith Center. The topic was discussed thoroughly with the council and the audience. The council agrees the city needs to find a solution and will work to do so.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Wallgren and seconded by Kingsbury. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.