

City of Smith Center
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2026

I. Call to Order

Council President Cole opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Srader Building.

Attendance

Council Members: Don Wick, Chris Cole, Tracy Kingsbury and Ty Wallgren.
Others: Jamie Marshall, Kim Maudlin, Melissa Colby, Scott Roth, Tabitha Owen, Kim Phelps, Josh Niles and Brittany Niles.

II. Consent Agenda

Following review, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve February 09, 2026, meeting minutes and the vouchers and receipts. Motion Carried.

III. Previous/Ongoing Business

Storage/Shipping Containers

The council reviewed a copy of Ordinance No. 937 and discussed property owners who are currently in violation. The council admits there has been some leniency regarding this ordinance and that the ordinance itself needs updated with new verbiage adding temporary usage for construction, moving and/or temporary storage. The council states that the ordinance should specify time constraints and each request should be subject to a permit with a fee attached. Wallgren suggested Niles send out a letter as a courtesy giving 60 days to remove the container before they will be cited for violating. Owen will provide the council with verbiage options to review.

Backhoe Update

Niles presented the council with the final price for the purchase of the new backhoe from Foley Implement. Cole stated that the city would list the old backhoe on auction in the spring, along with some other items the city was wanting to sell.

Golf Course Door

The council was presented with a bid for the replacement of the north door of the clubhouse. Cole states the council does not need to approve the purchase of the steel door, just to have the board of the golf course board approve.

IV. New Business

Minibikes

The council discussed a group of minibikes in the city that the council have received a few complaints. The complaints entail noise, tricks and unsafe driving. Marshall agreed to talk to said cyclists.

V. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

Economic Development

Scott Roth presented two grant applications that Economic Development approved. The first grant application was the Residential Cleanup Grant in the amount of \$2500 for Shawn Stansbury at 216 N. Grant. Kingsbury made a motion to approve the Residential Clean up Grant submitted by Shawn Stansbury, Wallgren seconded the motion and it carried. The second application was submitted by Julie Kuhlmann at 127 S. Main Street in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Commercial Property Revitalization grant. A motion was made by Wallgren to approve the grant application submitted by Julie Kuhlmann at 127 S. Main in Smith Center. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried. Roth also states that the Economic Development Board has agreed to donate \$2,000.00 towards the request made by the Chamber of Commerce to increase the funds donated by the city to \$18,000.00 from the \$15,000.00 a year previously. A motion was made by Wick to approve the donation to the Chamber of Commerce to \$16,000.00 with Economic Development providing an additional \$2,000.00 for a total increase of \$3,000.00. The motion was seconded by Kingsbury and the motion carried.

Western Plains

The council reviewed minutes submitted by Western Plains Housing authority regarding the replacement of the maintenance position. A motion was made by Cole to follow the decision of the Western Plains board and hire Larry Pennington in the maintenance position at twenty dollars per hour. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried.

Police Department

Chief Marshall updated the council on three recalls on the 2013 Dodge Charger. Marshall states the office is working to get the recalls taken care of. Jamie also mentioned that he is still waiting on the Tahoe to be complete and they are working to schedule the scooter safety course at the grade school and jr. high. Josh Niles discussed the possibility of creating an ordinance regarding helmet requirements. Brittany Niles agreed to investigate other helmet ordinances from other cities and provide that to the council for the next meeting.

City Clerk

Brittany updated the council on a visit from Derek White with Nex-tech regarding the need to upgrade 3 computers and 2 laptops to Windows 11 Pro. Niles states that during the visit, Derek mentioned the requirement for getting a new server as the current one is nearly completely broken. After discussion the council decided to table the decision on the new computers and wait until the bid is received for the new server as well. Niles then gave the council a letter of resignation for Trace Haven. The council thanks him for his time and wishes him the best in his new endeavors.

VI. Governing Body Reports

- a. Cole- Updated the council on the Pancake feed put on by the Fire Department. Cole thanks the community for everyone's support for another successful year.
- b. Kingsbury- Updated the council that there is a pump down at the golf course and that is he working to get it fixed.

VII. Executive Session

Chris made a motion to hold an executive session at 7:09 PM for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. The motion was seconded by Wick. Executive session ends at 7:19 P.M.

VIII. Department Reports continued

After executive session, the council stated they needed a motion to accept the resignation submitted by Trace Haven. Kingsbury made a motion to accept the resignation from Trace Haven. The motion was seconded by Wick, motion carried.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Kingsbury, seconded by Wick, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Attest:

Brittany Niles, City Clerk