City of Smith Center
City Council Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2026

I. Call to Order

Bryce Wiehl opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the Srader Building.

Attendance

Governing Body Members: Tracy Kingsbury, Chris Cole, Don Wick and Everett Mansholt. Absent: Ty Wallgren
Others: Bryce Wiehl, Brittany Niles, Kim Maudlin, Melissa Colby, Josh Niles, Jamie Marshall, Kim Phelps, Valerie Haskett, Jerald Ratliff and Tabitha Owen

II. Consent Agenda

Following review, a motion was made by Wick, seconded by Kingsbury, to approve the previous meetings' minutes. Motion carried. Cole then made a motion to approve the Vouchers and Receipts as presented. Wick seconded the motion and carried the motion.

III. Previous/ Ongoing Business

a. Library Handicap Door – The bid from Center Glass was presented again to the council for the replacement of the handicap door at the Library. Previously it had been submitted, but the council was waiting for an additional bid from another party. The council never received the other bid. Wiehl asks if the Srader Foundation would be interested in helping with the cost. Niles agreed to inquire with the Srader Foundation. A motion was made by Cole to approve the door replacement from Center Glass in the amount of $4800.00 and to request a ½ reimbursement from the Srader Foundation. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried.
b. The council was then provided with 3 pay requests for invoices submitted for engineering services by Wilson & Company for #3198. A motion was made by Kingsbury to approve the pay requests for invoice #148567 in the amount of $20,948.00. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried. Another motion was then made by Kingsbury to approve the pay request for invoice #149985 in the amount of $18,891.46. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried. Lastly, a motion was made by Kingsbury to approve the third pay request for invoice #152180 in the amount of $15,661.86. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried.
c. Niles then presented the council with the second amendment to the loan agreement by and between The Kansas Department of Health and Environment acting on behalf of The State of Kansas and the City of

Smith Center, Kansas. The amended loan agreement decreases the loan amount from $1,088,829.00 to $809,156.57, due to decreased estimated costs. A motion was made by Wick to approve the second amendment to the loan agreement, with the decreased loan amount. Cole seconded the motion and it carried.

IV. New Business

a. Niles presented the council with an invitation submitted by the Smith County Community Foundation for a strategic-doing county meeting. Council members that are available will try and attend.

b. Jerald Ratliff comes to the council as a guest on behalf of the swimming pool committee. Following a previous meeting with the pool committee, Jerald and the committee had some suggestions on moving forward regarding the dedication ceremony for Arloa Barnes and her family, as well as potential ideas on what any extra raised funds could be utilized for. Jerald says that the committee would like the ceremony to take place during the opening weekend of the pools 2027 season. During the discussion, council members and Jerald discussed naming potentially the block or at minimum the park in remembrance of Arloa Barnes. The council requests that the pool committee come up with a complete plan for the dedication ceremony and bring it back to council on a later date. Jerald thanks the council and leaves the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

c. Niles presented the council with the current water, sewer and bulk water rates. Upon discussion, Niles requests to complete a utility study of the surrounding municipalities to ensure the city of Smith Center rates remain fair and comparable. The council unanimously agrees to complete the study.

d. A cereal malt beverage license application had been submitted for S Mart 9, formerly Alta. After ensuring all items were in order, a motion was made by Wick and seconded by Kingsbury to approve the cereal malt beverage license.

V. Department Reports/Committee & Board Reports

a. Economic Development

i. Valerie presented a new grant program for residential revitalization. The program outlines a forgivable loan up to $10,000.00 for new construction. A motion was made by Kingsbury to approve the New Construction Housing Program with an initial budget of $30,000.00. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried.

ii. The Economic Development board then requested approval for the Residential Revitalization application submitted by Denton and Stacy Schoen for 215 W. Court to replace siding, windows and doors. A motion was made by Wick and seconded by Cole to approve the Residential Revitalization application for up to $3,000.00 for Denton and Stacy Schoen at 215 W. Court. Motion carried.

iii. Valerie then updated the council on several updates to the Commercial Equipment/Technology Grant program including but not limited to removing the requirement for a business plan and a reduction in the narrative requirements. A motion was made by Cole and seconded by Kingsbury to approve the changes to the Commercial Equipment/ Technology Grant program. Motion carried.

iv. Valerie then requested a reimbursement for mileage for trips made to Courtland for the CEC conference. A motion was made by Everett and seconded by Kingsbury to approve mileage reimbursement. Motion carried. It was the general census of the council to no longer require a motion when reimbursing for mileage.

v. The Economic Development board also had two Workforce Recruitment applications turned in. Upon discussion, a motion was made by Cole to approve the $1500.00 workforce recruitment application submitted by the City of Smith Center for the Maintenance Supervisor position. Mansholt seconded the motion made by Cole and following a roll call vote, Wick – yay, Cole – yay, Kingsbury – yay, and Mansholt-yay, the motion carried. The next application was submitted by Landmark Implement also in the amount of $1500.00. A motion was made by Wick to approve the workforce recruitment application submitted by Landmark Implement for the Service Manager position. The motion was seconded by Kingsbury and the motion carried.

vi. Nex on the agenda, the Economic Development board requests approval for the SCWRIP application submitted by Landmark Implement for the Service position in the amount of $7,000.00. A motion was made by Cole to approve the SCWRIP application submitted by Landmark Implement. The motion was seconded by Wick and the motion carried.

b. Police Department- Chief Marshall notifies the council regarding a residential structure fire that happened in the middle of the night. He requests the approval from the council to discuss with the commissioners as well as the fire chief to ensure the fire whistle will blow no matter time of day when it is regarding a structure fire. The council agrees for Chief Marshall to work with the appropriate parties to change the restrictions on the blowing of the fire whistle.

c. Clerk- Niles updates the council that the budget hearing for the city and the Recreation Commission have been set for the second council meeting in the month of August.
d. Treasurer- Colby requests permission from council to approve Mapes & Miller to proceed with reconciliation assistance that is outside the scope of the regular audit, which can cost between $7,000 and $10,000. A motion was made by Wick and seconded by Mansholt to approve the additional assistance offered by Mapes & Miller.
e. Mansholt- Requests Niles look into any warranties that the new trees at the Golf Course may have, he states due to the timing of planting the trees are not thriving.
f. Cole- Updates the council on a new Fire Fighter, Kyle Petrik.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Wick and seconded by Kingsbury. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Attest:

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Brittany Niles, City Clerk