

CITY OF OSAGE CITY
COUNCIL MEETING
May 27, 2025

ROLL CALL: Now on this 27th day of May, 2025, the Governing Body of the City of Osage City, Kansas, met at the Osage City Council Chamber in said City. The following members being present and participating to wit: Mayor: Brian Stromgren. Council Members: Kathy Ayers, Shirley Bausman, Mike Gilliland, Mike Handly, Cathryn Houghton, Susan Smith, Jeanette Swarts, and Jeff Tice. City Staff present: Sadie Boos, City Treasurer; Rick Godderz, City Attorney; Fred Hallowell, Street & Sanitation Superintendent; Tom Harm, Police Chief; Katie Hodge, City Manager; Dale Schwieger, Utilities Director; Amy Woodward, City Clerk. Others Present: Colton Williams

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion by Smith, second by Tice to approve the amended agenda. The motion was declared carried (8-0).

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: None

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of May 13th, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Appoint Colton Williams to the Planning and Zoning Committee
3. Appoint Colton Williams to the Industrial Committee

Motion by Swarts, second by Handly to approve the consent agenda. The motion was declared carried (8-0).

BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

1. Purchase of two locating units for the Water & Gas Departments

Dale Schwieger, Utilities Director, shared the problems they have been having with locating water and gas lines due to the aging equipment. He discussed the benefits to the new locating units, which will include GIS mapping capabilities.

Gilliland asked if the existing units are able to locate cast iron lines. Schwieger replied that yes, they are able to locate but not always dependable for this type of pipe.

Stromgren asked what is the life expectancy. Schwieger explained the existing locators have been working for 12 years, the new locators have a three-year warranty.

Motion made by Houghton, second by Tice to approve the purchase of two locating units from Subsurface, at a cost not exceeding \$27,000.00. The motion was declared carried (8-0).

2. City Manager Evaluation Discussion

City Manager, Katie Hodge, led a discussion with Council regarding developing a City Manager evaluation. Hodge offered to bring forward templates for evaluation. She shared how the evaluation was completed in the past by creating a small committee. Council will form a three-person committee including Mayor, Council President and Jeanette Swarts.

3. New City Manager Threshold

City Manager, Katie Hodge, reviewed with Council the existing threshold of \$10,000.00 for paying invoices. This amount has been in place for over 10 years.

Motion made by Swarts, second by Tice to increase the City Manager's spending authority to \$15,000.00 and draft a resolution updating the purchasing policy. The motion was declared carried (8-0).

4. Flashing lights research

Hallowell shared with Council he spoke with the City of Lyndon to understand the types of lights/signs installed and the cost. The total cost for Lyndon's project was approximately \$40,000 for 10 push-button lights.

Chief Harm shared concerns with stationary units, as they may become ineffective over time.

Council advised City staff to determine the best approach and take necessary action

Motion made by Houghton, second by Handly to authorize City Staff to create and follow through with a plan. The motion was declared carried (8-0).

5. Strategic Plan Updates/Discussion

Hodge reviewed the Strategic Plan with Council.

ADJOURNMENT: *At the request of Council Member Bausman and on her motion, seconded by Council Member Smith and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned.*

APPROVED: Brian D. Stromgren
Brian D. Stromgren, Mayor

ATTESTED: Amy Woodward
Amy Woodward, City Clerk

