

**City of Edgerton, Kansas**  
**Minutes of City Council Regular Session**  
**March 13, 2025**

A Regular Session of the City Council was held in the Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas March 13, 2025. The meeting convened at 7:00PM with Mayor Roberts presiding.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Clay Longanecker	present
Josh Lewis	absent
Deb Lebakken	present
Bill Malloy	absent
Ron Conus	present

With a quorum present, the meeting commenced.

Staff in attendance:

- City Clerk, Alex Clower
- City Attorney, Todd Luckman
- Assistant to the City Administrator, Trey Whitaker
- Public Works Director, Dan Merkh
- CIP Project Manager, Holly Robertson
- Finance Director, Karen Kindle
- Senior Accountant, Justin Vermillion
- Development Services Director, Zach Moore
- Parks and Recreation Director, Levi Meyer
- Construction Inspector, Todd Veeman
- Public Works Foreman, Chase Forrester

**2. WELCOME.** Mayor Roberts welcomed all in attendance.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consent Agenda** *(Consent Agenda items will be acted upon by one motion unless a Council member requests an item be removed for discussion and separate action)*

- 4. Approve Minutes from February 27, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting
- 5. Approve Resolution No. 03-13-24A, Establishing Fees and Rates for Permits, Licenses and Services for the City of Edgerton, Kansas

Councilmember Longanecker moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Conus. The Consent Agenda was approved, 3-0.

**Regular Agenda**

**6. Declarations.**

Councilmember Lebakken stated she received an email from Michael Klamm. He expressed that his mother takes care of the younger kiddos while out of school and would love to go to the community center, but she cannot go without also paying. He stated she would only be there on a supervisor basis and would not be using the facility. He requested an option for people who are just going to supervise.

Councilmember Conus asked if they have had conversations with staff.

Councilmember Lebakken stated Beth received the same email that she did.

Councilmember Conus stated he would suggest they discuss this with staff and then they could make a recommendation to Council.

Mayor Roberts stated staff already communicated with Mr. Klamm and expressed that he should reach out to Council if he would like to see something changed. The current rules, which were set by the Council, require that to access and use the facility, you must pay the set rate even if you use the facility to watch someone else. He stated the splash pad is free and anyone can use that amenity. He stated the email indicated that it could be his mother and/or the baby-sitter, which could be difficult for navigate for the staff managing the counter.

Councilmember Lebakken agreed.

Mayor Roberts stated if we want to direct staff to come back with other options, we can do that.

Councilmember Conus agreed, asking how anyone would police that.

Mayor Roberts stated there have been other facilities that have allowed free at one point but quickly went to fees because of abuse. He stated some type of payment makes people think about it and take ownership. He believes prices for the facility are reasonable.

Councilmember Lebakken stated that is very true, to go watch a kid at a basketball game or another sport, you often have to pay.

Mayor Roberts stated if council would like to reconsider what has already been approved, they can.

All were in agreement to not change the rates at this time.

## **7. Public Comments.**

Pastor Ben White of New City Church addressed the Council to discuss the Food Pantry. He gave a brief history of why the item is on the agenda. He stated the food pantry today serves about 45-50 families; this has increased by 5-10 families since 2023. He stated the

United Methodist Church can no longer house the food pantry, and New City Church would like to step in using their 501(c)3 status. Food items would be stored at The Greenspace but distributed at New City Church. He stated he hopes that the City Council sees the need within the community, the story and lives that have been impacted by this service and relationships built will last a lifetime. He stated with Councils permission, they would like to house the food pantry in The Greenspace and do deliveries at the church so there is no traffic interruption in front or around the Fire Station.

Mr. Riley Shepherd, 901 W 8<sup>th</sup> Street addressed the Council. He stated he and his wife are newer residents to Edgerton and fell in love with the small town feel and wanted to raise their family here. He stated they are expecting their first child. He is concerned with the speed limits on 8<sup>th</sup> street and kids playing in the neighborhood. He stated the only visible sign is off of 199<sup>th</sup> which allows people the ability to assume the speed limit and dictate how fast they want to go. He requested that a couple more signs be put in place and that some "Children at Play" signs be added as well. The speed limit there is 35. He stated he believes this would benefit the community and safety of the children.

Mayor Roberts stated he would like them to get his card and talk about this further or hang around until the end to talk a little more about this.

Mr. Shepherd stated he noticed that when drivers are going 40-45 mph you cannot really hear the car noise, but it is quite alarming that if it can be heard in the house they are probably going over 60. He stated they are expecting their first child and do not want to have to worry about someone going over 60 near their home.

8. **Introduction** of Todd Veeman, Construction Inspector for the Public Works Department. Mr. Merkh stated this position was brings inspections in house for construction projects allowing for costs to be minimized for outside contractors coming in for projects.

Mr. Veeman stated he lives in Gardner and has been doing inspections and project coordination for the last 13 years in Merriam.

The Governing Body welcomed him to the team.

### **Business Requiring Action**

9. **CONSIDER RENEWAL OF CORPORATE INSURANCE POLICY FOR APRIL 1, 2025 TO MARCH 31, 2026**

Mr. Kevin O'Brien with Reilly Insurance Company, the insurance broker for the City addressed the Council. He thanked staff for their hard work in getting this information. He stated Beth has a tremendous staff and appreciates all their work.

He stated homeowners are probably seeing pretty significant increases in home insurance costs especially in wind/hail deductibles. However, municipal insurance is not seeing as much

volatility. He stated the other driver for increased premiums is the catastrophes happening all around. EMC, the Insurance company that quoted, really focuses on Midwest so they do not get hit with claims like Fires and Hurricanes, but they do have to deal with re-insurance which involves increased costs.

He stated the City's Insurance has not changed much from last year to this year. There were decreases in the City's liability, which mitigated the increase from the addition of The Greenspace.

He stated the City's auto insurance rates increased because an older 2014 truck was replaced with a new 2024 unit. Almost the entire amount added to the premium is due to the addition of the new vehicle and how much it now costs to insure newer vehicles.

For cyber insurance, Mr. O'Brien stated a few years ago there were not many companies writing coverage due to the risk. He stated now there are protections in place to help prevent losses, so more companies are offering coverage, giving Edgerton a great quote this year with a significant reduction in premium. He stated the pollution piece has no change there, it is same as the past.

He stated in general, overall, the property values went up 6% and premium increase about 8%. This is effectively an increase in roughly 2% in the rate. This is less than a \$1,500 dollar increase overall.

Councilmember Longanecker asked about the list of exclusions. He stated some of them do not apply specifically here in Kansas.

Mr. O'Brien stated a lot of exclusion that are put in may not even relate to what is being done here at the city, but they are in place as general from the company.

Councilmember Conus asked about the deductible on the cyber policy.

Mr. O'Brien stated it is listed at \$2,500, but the insurance company that wrote last year increased their deductible to \$5,000. So not only was the premium more expensive, but they also increased the deductible. He stated when you can get the same deductible with a lower premium, it makes sense to make the switch.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Roberts requested motion to approve the Corporate Insurance Policy for April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 for a not to exceed amount of \$115,500.59.

Councilmember Conus moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Lebakken. The motion carried, 3-0

#### **10. CONSIDER FACILITY USE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH EDGERTON COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

Mr. Meyer stated the agreement for consideration is closely related to what the city has in place currently with the library and museum. He stated the summary of responsibilities are listed within the packet. He stated the food pantry is to establish and maintain the Edgerton Food Pantry and to only operate and access the building during open hours of the facility. He stated the item is for consideration of the agreement but to also set the annual rate for use of the facility.

Councilmember Conus asked who will have access to the facility from New City Church.

Mr. Meyer stated the governing body of the Food Pantry has been set and those three individuals will have access to the storage room with key fobs with customized access.

The Governing Body agreed that the rate be set at \$2.00/year.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Roberts requested motion to approve the agreement with the Edgerton Food Pantry for use of The Greenspace for an annual rate of \$2 for 2025.

Councilmember Lebakken moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Conus. The motion carried, 3-0

Mayor Roberts asked when they will be able to get in and start moving stuff.

Mr. Meyer stated they have until the 29<sup>th</sup> to move everything out and over to the new space. It is guaranteed that the next food pantry distribution will be from a different location.

Councilmember Longanecker stated the Methodist Church gave until the end of March.

Mayor Roberts thanked the food pantry volunteers and the Methodist Church for their decade of support. He wants to thank New City Church too for taking this over and continuing the operation.

#### **11. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A TRUCK FOR THE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTOR POSITION**

Mr. Merkh stated the next three items are for purchasing vehicles for various positions. He stated with the 2025 Budget approval, staff presented the recommendations for funding of the current vehicles and equipment program for 2025-2029. He stated outlined in this recommendation was the purchase of a Class 2 truck for the infrastructure inspector position with a budget set for \$55,000 for the truck, including upfit and accessories.

He stated the new method for purchasing vehicles is off the lot, which requires staff to first obtain authorization of a not to exceed limit, and then completing the purchase with City Administrator approval. He stated the specifications for the vehicle are listed within the packet. For this position, Infrastructure Inspector, the truck needed is a ½ Ton, F-150 or similar due to the truck not being upfitted for the need of plowing snow.

He stated the purchase of the vehicle with emergency lighting, and the contingency all total \$47,043.00. The remaining aftermarket items would come from the remaining budget and are estimated at less than \$3,500. These items are purchased from various vendors after comparing prices. Any remaining dollars in the budget would remain in the unencumbered fund balance. The entirety of the truck with contingency, upfit, and aftermarket are all under budget.

He stated staff recommends the City Administrator have authorization to approve a vehicle purchase, upfit, and aftermarket items for an amount, not to exceed \$50,543.

With no questions or comments, Mayor Roberts requested motion to approve authorization for the City Administrator to purchase a vehicle for the Infrastructure Inspector for an amount not to exceed of \$50,543.

Councilmember Longanecker moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Lebakken. The motion carried, 3-0

**12. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A TRUCK FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF TRUCK 530**

Mr. Merkh stated the next two items are for the purchase of a Class 3 vehicle, which would be a F350 or similar. This is the standard for towing and snow removal upfit. The process is much the same as previous item. He stated the purchase of the vehicle, the snowplow with emergency lighting, and the contingency all total \$68,513. The remaining aftermarket items would come from the remaining budget and are estimated at less than \$5,000. These items are purchased from various vendors after comparing prices. Any remaining dollars in the budget would remain in the unencumbered fund balance. The entirety of the truck with contingency, upfit, and aftermarket are all under budget.

He stated the existing unit 530 will be surplus as part of the purchase of the new vehicle for the Public Works Department. Staff will work with the lowest price qualified dealer to understand the trade-in value of Unit 530 and then compare this to value to the estimated online auction surplus value. Unit 530 will be surplus in the manner that provides the most value and cost recovery.

He stated staff recommends the City Administrator have authorization to approve a vehicle purchase, upfit, plow, and aftermarket items for replacement of truck 530, for an amount, not to exceed, \$73,513.

With no questions or comments, Mayor Roberts requested motion to approve authorization for the City Administrator to purchase a vehicle for the replacement of truck 530 for Public Works Department for an amount not to exceed of \$73,513.

Councilmember Lebakken moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Longanecker. The motion carried, 3-0

**13. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A TRUCK FOR THE NEW FACILITIES POSITION**

Mr. Merkh stated the final item for consideration is a vehicle purchase for the facilities position. He stated this would be for the Class 3 standard due to this vehicle being fit for snow plow operations.

He stated staff recommends the City Administrator have authorization to approve a vehicle purchase, upfit, plow, and aftermarket items for the facilities position, for an amount, not to exceed, \$73,513.

With no questions or comments, Mayor Roberts requested motion to approve authorization for the City Administrator to purchase a vehicle for the facilities position for an amount not to exceed of \$73,513.

Councilmember Longanecker moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Lebakken. The motion carried, 3-0

**14. Report by the City Administrator**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Finance Report

Ms. Kindle reviewed the finance report provided.

Councilmember Conus asked for clarification on the investment income line item, questioning the discrepancy.

Ms. Kindle stated they had incorrectly included the Capital Projects Fund in the Income Portfolio interest allocation. The Capital Projects Fund money is invested in the Capital & Bond Portfolio so it should not have been in both.

She reviewed the remaining revenue and expenditures for the funds. She stated the year was ended within the reserve requirements and within budget authority.

There were no further questions or comments.

- Marketing & Communications Update

Mr. Merkh stated we will bring this item back at the next council meeting due to Ms. Banks being out.

**15. Report by the Mayor**

Mayor Roberts asked Chief Morley if he had any items he'd like to address.

Chief Morley stated he wanted to take a quick second to just discuss burning and open burning. He stated a fire weather event starts tomorrow morning. He stated if anyone sees anything in the way of fire, report that early. They do have plans to have additional staffing on for the week.

Mayor Roberts stated a lot of people reach out to staff or to the council about burn permits. He encouraged everyone to contact the fire district.

Councilmember Longanecker asked how long the burn ban is in effect.

Chief Morley stated the wind and weather for the next week does not look favorable for burning.

Councilmember Lebakken stated there are occasional posts from the public about how to get ahold of the fire department and there are times the fire department will post. She stated she thinks it would be a good idea to post some quick notes about how to's to give people something to search for on the community page.

Mayor Roberts stated he had some conversations with residents about Bridgewater Lake and that algae is starting to grow on it. He's asking that staff be productive in treatment. He stated the other comment was a thank you to public works for a sign that was damaged has already been fixed and commended the proactive nature and that this has already been taken care of.

#### **16. Future Meeting Reminders**

Mayor Roberts reminded the Council of the future meetings for the Council and Planning Commission.

#### **17. Adjourn**

Councilmember Lebakken moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Longanecker. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM with a 3-0 vote.

Submitted by Alex Clower, City Clerk