

City of Edgerton, Kansas
Minutes of City Council Regular Session
October 8, 2026

A Regular Session of the City Council was held in the Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas on October 8, 2026. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM with Mayor Roberts presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Donald Roberts	Present
Clay Longanecker	Present
Josh Lewis	Present
Deb Lebakken	Present
Bill Malloy	Absent
Ron Conus	Present

With a quorum present, the meeting commenced.

Staff in attendance:

- City Administrator, Beth Linn
- City Attorney, Todd Luckman
- Assistant to the City Administrator, Trey Whitaker
- City Clerk, Dusti Callahan
- Public Works Director, Dan Merkh
- Development Services Director, Zach Moore
- Parks and Recreation Director, Levi Meyer
- Finance Director, Karen Kindle
- Construction Inspector, Todd Veeman
- Senior Accountant, Justin Vermillion
- CIP Project Manager, Rhoderic Montgomery

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 September 24, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting
5. Consider Resolution No. 10-08-26A Establishing Fees and Rates for Permits, Licenses and Services for the City of Edgerton, Kansas
6. Consider Resolution No. 10-08-26B Waiving the City's Compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for Financial Reporting and Causing Such Reports to be Prepared in Compliance with the Cash Basis and Budget Laws of the State of Kansas

The provided minutes are a summarization of the official actions and formal decisions of the referenced City Council Meeting. The law does not require meeting minutes to be a full and complete transcription of the meeting. Minutes are retained in accordance with State record retention and archiving laws.

7. Consider an Agreement with Varney & Associates, CPAs, LLC, to Prepare the City's Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2026

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve the consent agenda items 4-7, seconded by Councilmember Lewis. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

Regular Agenda

8. **Declaration.** Council members had nothing to declare.

9. **Public Comments.**

Clara White, an Edgerton resident, explained the use of closed-loop water recycling systems in data centers, emphasizing their efficiency in reducing local water consumption by 95 to 98%. Ms. White mentioned that some data centers utilize treated city wastewater and highlighted the filtration of bacteria and the use of glycol to prevent bacterial growth. She assured that glycol is recognized as safe and non-toxic by the FDA and noted its presence in candy, sliced cheese, dressings, cosmetics, and numerous everyday products, emphasizing its safety and prevalence in various consumables and items.

Chad Williams, an Edgerton resident, expressed his concerns about the lack of citizen involvement in major city projects, particularly the data center's approval process. He acknowledged that developments like LPKC can bring jobs and economic opportunities and critiqued the process as lacking in transparency and emphasized the need for public input. Mr. Williams stated the by-right process for the data center limited citizen influence, despite the potential impact on water, power, infrastructure, and the community's character. He expressed the council's duty is to represent citizens, not developers, and urged them to ensure that residents have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting the community. Mr. Williams expressed his love for the community and desire to preserve it for the future.

William LaFalce, an Edgerton resident, criticized the council members, excluding Ron Conus, for a lack of transparency and alleged conflicts of interest. He accused the council of being cowardly and greedy, urging their resignation or face potential recall efforts. Mr. LaFalce highlighted specific grievances, including claims of misconduct and irresponsible behavior by council members, suggesting some are unfit for their positions because of conflicts of interest relating to property ownership and behavior during meetings. He stated the citizens are rejecting the council's actions and demand greater accountability and transparency.

Kim Twente, an Edgerton resident, addressed the council about issues related to leadership, transparency, and accountability. She criticized council for failing to add a citizen's letter to the public record despite repeated requests. Ms. Twente accused the council of ignoring citizen

The provided minutes are a summarization of the official actions and formal decisions of the referenced City Council Meeting. The law does not require meeting minutes to be a full and complete transcription of the meeting. Minutes are retained in accordance with State record retention and archiving laws.

voices and emphasized the need for better public engagement and transparency. She pointed out public comment time limits, suggesting it reflected an unwillingness to hear residents. Ms. Twente concluded by urging council to be more attentive and responsive to the concerns of the community.

Carrie Schmidt, a Gardner resident, accused council of disrespecting and ignoring residents, asserting that council prioritizes developer interests over those of citizens. Ms. Schmidt claims council violated Kansas Statutes by not holding a public hearing before adding data centers to the Unified Development Code and criticized them for suing over a petition ordinance. She alleged the July executive session was manipulated to favor developers, with decisions made in secrecy. Ms. Schmidt accused the mayor of failing to include certain public comments for the record, suggesting an attempt to control narratives. She requested transparency and accountability from the council and reiterated the citizens' rejection of their actions.

10. Introduction of New Employee

Kara Banks, Assistant to the City Administrator, introduced Maria, a new customer service representative in the front office.

Maria grew up in the Gardner-Edgerton area and has remained here her whole life. She went to school for legal studies and previously worked at City of Olathe Municipal Court. Maria stated she enjoys public service.

Business Requiring Action

11. CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN AT 1100 W BRAUN ST FORM BLUE VALLEY PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH MID AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT

Dan Merkh, Public Works Director, stated the new siren would be installed at 1100 West Braun Street, with a total cost not to exceed \$33,600. There is a total of 190 sirens strategically placed throughout the county. Edgerton has three outdoor warning sirens. This particular siren is approximately 32 years old and has reached its end of useful life. Actual audibility varies due to a number of factors. The updated quote for this siren is \$33,539 for the 2027 budget. The budget was approved with the new siren included.

Councilmember Longanecker asked if that price includes new pole and everything. Mr. Merkh responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Longanecker asked how much more of an area the siren will cover. Mr. Merkh stated approximately 5,500 feet, including Dwyer Farms.

Councilmember Longanecker asked about who does maintenance for the siren. Mr. Merkh stated Blue Valley Public Safety.

The provided minutes are a summarization of the official actions and formal decisions of the referenced City Council Meeting. The law does not require meeting minutes to be a full and complete transcription of the meeting. Minutes are retained in accordance with State record retention and archiving laws.

Councilmember Lebakken motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Longanecker, business action item eleven not to exceed the cost of \$33,600. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken
Absent: Malloy

12. CONSIDER INCREASING BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR SENIOR PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM BY \$4,900.25 FOR 2026

Kara Banks, Assistant to the City Administrator, stated Council had initially approved the Senior Property Tax Rebate program in 2023. Over the last three years, not all funds had been previously depleted for this program. However, in 2026, the original budget of \$65,000 was insufficient due to a 33% increase in applications, increasing from 75 to 100. This increase is attributed to the city's improved outreach efforts, including postcards sent to every home and enhanced social media messaging about the program. The additional funds will be drawn from the city's unencumbered fund balance in the general fund to cover the seven remaining applications.

Councilmember Conus asked if staff knew the percentage of senior households in Edgerton.

City Administrator, Beth Linn, stated we don't know the exact number of seniors in Edgerton.

Ms. Banks stated the 2020 census calculated 313 people over the age of 65, but it is hard to determine how that number translates into households.

Councilmember Conus motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Lewis, business action item twelve. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken
Absent: Malloy

13. Report by City Administrator

Motors and Monsters event is this weekend, as well as the 5k for the food pantry. Although official sign-ups were closed, walk-on participants are welcome and encouraged to donate. All information about Motors and Monsters event is available on the city's website.

14. Report by the Mayor

- November/December Council Meeting Schedules

The provided minutes are a summarization of the official actions and formal decisions of the referenced City Council Meeting. The law does not require meeting minutes to be a full and complete transcription of the meeting. Minutes are retained in accordance with State record retention and archiving laws.

Mayor focused on the scheduling of meetings for November 26, 2026, and December 24, 2026. In years past, due to holidays, it has been recommended to cancel both those meetings, and if something pops up, a special meeting could be convened at a different time.

Councilmember Lewis motioned to approve canceling regular scheduled council meetings on November 26, 2026, and December 24, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Lebakken. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken
Absent: Malloy

- Mayor Roberts stated in years past Council has given staff an extra day off around Christmas. Friday, December 25, 2026, is Christmas day. He asked if Council wanted to add Christmas Eve on Thursday, December 24, 2026, as a holiday for staff.

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve adding December 24, 2026, to close for the holiday, seconded by Councilmember Lewis. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken
Absent: Malloy

Mayor expressed appreciation for the staff's hard work and hoped they would enjoy the additional day off with their families.

15. Future Meeting Reminders

Mayor reminded the Council of the future meetings.

October 13: Planning Commission Meeting
October 22: City Council Meeting
November 10: Planning Commission Meeting
November 12: City Council Meeting
November 26: City Council Meeting - CANCELLED
December 8: Planning Commission Meeting
December 10: City Council Meeting
December 24: City Council Meeting – CANCELLED

The provided minutes are a summarization of the official actions and formal decisions of the referenced City Council Meeting. The law does not require meeting minutes to be a full and complete transcription of the meeting. Minutes are retained in accordance with State record retention and archiving laws.

16. Adjourn

Councilmember Lewis moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Longanecker. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.
Submitted by Dusti Callahan, City Clerk.

The provided minutes are a summarization of the official actions and formal decisions of the referenced City Council Meeting. The law does not require meeting minutes to be a full and complete transcription of the meeting. Minutes are retained in accordance with State record retention and archiving laws.