

City of Edgerton, Kansas
Minutes of City Council Regular Session
July 9, 2026

A Regular Session of the City Council was held in the Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas on July 9, 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	Absent
Bill Malloy	Present
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
- Assistant to the City Administrator, Kara Banks
- City Clerk, Dusti Callahan
- Public Works Director, Dan Merkh
- Development Services Director, Zach Moore
- Parks and Recreation Director, Levi Meyer
- Finance Director, Karen Kindle
- Senior Accountant, Justin Vermillion
- Public Works Foreman, Chase Forester
- Construction Project Manager, Todd Veeman
- Maintenance Technician II – Parks, Colton Hamilton

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 June 25, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting

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

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.

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

Regular Agenda

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

6. **Public Comments.**

Scott Lawrence, a Johnson County resident, expressed his thanks to DAMAC for their interest in spending their money in our small town. Mr. Lawrence raised his concerns about potential lawsuits and city code violations related to environmental issues and water usage for the proposed data center

Carrie Schmidt, a Gardner resident, criticized the lack of public hearings regarding the addition of data centers to business districts. Ms. Schmidt also questioned the Council's decisions on the moratorium and argued that proper procedures have not been followed.

William LaFalce, an Edgerton resident, referenced John Locke's social contract theory. He argued that citizens have the right to revolt against a government that abuses power, implying a call for action against perceived tyranny.

Senator Doug Shane, a Miami County resident, gave a thank you to the City Council for their service, and acknowledged the challenges surrounding data centers. Mr. Shane urged the Council to pause and assess the situation at hand.

Mary Rogers, an Edgerton resident, expressed her strong opposition for the data center. Ms. Rogers cited ethical concerns about labor practices in the company's home country. She also expressed concerns over environmental issues related to water usage.

Kristen Schultz, a Johnson County resident, emphasized the importance of local control in decision-making, and the need for transparency and respect from elected officials. Ms. Schultz urged Council to ensure the public's voice is heard in the decision-making process.

Representative Courtney Sappington, a Baldwin City resident, acknowledged the concerns about data centers and suggested the Council wait for the state legislature to consider regulations. Ms. Sappington noted that some foreign companies lack a proven track record.

Kristi Espinosa, an Edgerton resident, raised concerns about drainage issues in her neighborhood. She requested the Council's attention to the problem and offered photos of the drainage problems that are being experienced.

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Business Requiring Action

7. CONSIDER REPLACEMENT OF THE HVAC UNIT AT EDGERTON COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Parks & Recreation Director, Levi Meyer, stated on June 16, 2026, staff was notified the air conditioning system was not working in the Edgerton Community Museum. After further assessment, repair was not a feasible solution due to the approximate 15-year-old system, condition, and lack of parts. Staff solicited bids from multiple vendors. Santa Fe Heating & Air bid \$8,583 and was recommended as the most economical choice, with a SEER2 rating of 25. OneChoice offered a longer-warranty alternative.

City Clerk, Dusti Callahan, read Councilmember Lebakken's submitted email comment regarding this council item.

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Conus, item seven under the Business Requiring Action items for Santa Fe Heating & Air to replace the HVAC system at \$8,583. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Malloy

Absent: Lebakken

8. CONSIDER DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL CITY NEWSPAPER

Kara Banks, Assistant to the City Administrator, stated that two years ago, the City designated the Legal Record as the designated official City newspaper. The Johnson County Post is now state-qualified for legal notice publication. She gave a brief comparison of prices. The Johnson County Post gives more accessibility for residents for subscriber costs and local coverage.

Mayor stated he was pleased there is another local option and people can choose to subscribe.

Councilmember Longanecker liked the idea, as this will give people a better chance to get this "old style." He then asked if the slightly higher costs for publication would impact the budget.

Ms. Banks explained that the budget for this is about \$5,500 a year, but it is difficult to say how much will be used in any given year because it depends on how many ordinances, public hearings, etc that the City must publish.

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve item eight on the Business Requiring Action items, seconded by Councilmember Malloy. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

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

9. Report by the City Administrator

- **Q1 & Q2 Public Works Report**

- Public Works Forman, Chase Forrester gave a summarization of winter and spring operations and preventative work. There were approximately 170 tons of salt spread, 1,600 gallons of brine sed, 3,450 miles driven, 245 miles swept, 12 miles of gravel road maintenance, and 40 tons of asphalt patch material used. There was extensive plowing during storms, tree trimming, valve exercising, storm-box cleanout program completion, and 68 fleet work orders to restore equipment to readiness. Crack sealing is 50% complete, and staff continue summer operations and maintenance.

10. Report by the Mayor

Mayor requested City Attorney, Todd Luckman give an update regarding a KORA request, and inquiry from the Attorney General. The AG (Attorney General) received a complaint about a records/Word document turnover request. The City responded fully to the AG's information request. After AG review, it was concluded there were no violations found, the exception the City used was correctly applied, and no further action will be taken. The City's staff and City Attorney's work and procedures were validated by the AG response.

Mayor Roberts thanked Mr. Luckman and staff for their work in this process. He reminded those in attendance that the council will transition into a work session to look at the 2027 Budget. Staff will need about 15 minutes to rearrange the room before starting the work session.

Mayor then reminded the Council of the future meetings.

- July 14: Planning Commission Meeting
- Added July 16: Special Council Meeting
- July 23: City Council Meeting
- August 11: Planning Commission Meeting
- August 13: City Council Meeting
- August 27: City Council Meeting

11. Adjourn

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Submitted by Dusti Callahan, City Clerk.

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