

City of Edgerton, Kansas
Minutes of City Council Regular Session
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

A Regular Session of the City Council was held in the Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas September 11, 2025. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM with City Council 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
Assistant to the City Administrator, Kara Banks
Assistant to the City Administrator, Trey Whitaker
City Clerk, Dusti Callahan
Public Works Director, Dan Merkh
CIP Project Manager, Holly Robertson
City Attorney, Todd Luckman
Finance Director, Karen Kindle
Senior Accountant, Justin Vermillion
Parks and Recreation Director, Levi Meyer
Construction Inspector, Todd Veeman

2. **WELCOME.** Mayor Roberts welcomed all in attendance and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001.
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 August 28, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting
5. Approve Final Acceptance of the Contract with Ecoturf Playground Surfacing for Playground and Fitness Surfacing for Glendell Acres Park Improvements
6. Approve Final Acceptance of the Contract with Combes Construction Park Signage for Glendell Acres Park and Manor Park

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Councilmember Conus found discrepancies in the draft minutes and would like revisions. Councilmember Conus moved to table item 4 to the September 25, 2025 meeting, seconded by Councilmember Lebakken. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, and Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

Councilmember Longanecker moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Conus to approve Consent Agenda items 5 and 6. The motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, and Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

Regular Agenda

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

8. Public Comments

Mayor welcomed Mr. Bill LaFalce, an Edgerton resident. Mr. LaFalce expressed his thanks for the moment of silence. Mr. LaFalce gave background on his family members and their accomplishments. Mr. LaFalce is angry about the Congress but says it is the City who represents us. He states there is a broken, corrupt justice system who lets loose dangerous people having a hand in public shootings. He is asking for push back to say it is unacceptable to the Governor. Mayor Roberts asks Mr. LaFalce to wrap it up as the time limit has been reached. Mr. LaFalce says Mr. Conus is right in his discrepancy claims and maybe there should be a live stream for meetings.

Mayor welcomed Ms. Olivia Baken, an Edgerton resident. Ms. Baken wants to talk about the budget and recordings. She states that people who work 9am – 5pm are unable to attend council meetings.

Councilmember Lewis stated he works a normal day job and is able to be here.

Ms. Baken suggests the idea of having a later meeting, or possibly weekends. She thinks all meetings should be recorded. If more money is going towards IT, she asks if it can be spent on being able to have meetings live streamed. One thing not mentioned from her previous statement in the meeting for minutes was an elevator. Just from Facebook outlash, people are concerned to not hear the meeting. She states that she is the one who will report to the Facebook community to relay the meeting. She would like to come back up to discuss the budget as well. Mayor Roberts let her know the Budget Public Hearing was during previous meeting, not this current meeting. Ms. Baken says she posted on Facebook, and referenced what Councilmember Lewis said, that we need to pay the prices others pay for our employees. She feels Edgerton should not pay as much as bigger places like Gardner. Mayor Roberts asks Ms. Baken to wrap it up, as the time limit has been reached. Ms. Baken's added that if the City were only increasing taxes by the inflation rate, that would only lead to a \$60k- \$70k increase in taxes.

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City Clerk, Dusti Callahan, read written comments from Jason Sowers and Jane Scaro, both are unincorporated county residents. Mr. Sowers wrote to follow up on the request made for a shield on the pole sign for incoming business, Maverik. He believes the shield would improve the quality of life for those on Pepper Tree Lane. Ms. Jane Scaro wrote a follow-up to Mr. Sower's comments, agreeing with his comments. She is not a fan of the current TA Express sign, as it is visible from her home year-round. Ms. Scaro stated a lighted sign is meant to draw attention from miles away. The effectiveness of 60 ft tall lighted sign is reduced these days by the convenience of GPS to find gas stations, rest areas, food and hotels.

Business Requiring Action

9. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2184 ADOPTING THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CU2025-0002) ALLOWING FOR AN INTERSTATE POLE SIGN IN THE C-2 (HEAVY SERVICE COMMERCIAL) DISTRICT LOCATED IN EDGERTON CROSSING, NORTHWEST OF THE I-35 AND HOMESTEAD LANE INTERCHANGE.

Development Services Director, Zach Moore, discussed the conditional use permit for a pole sign at the Edgerton Crossing Development. The proposed sign was brought before planning commission and now council. The sign is proposed to be 60 feet tall with a sign-face of approximately 769 feet, which is less than the permit maximum of 900 sq feet. Each of the items that the applicant has provided meets all City requirements. Staff evaluated the approval criteria listed in the Unified Development Code. A Public Hearing was held on August 12, 2025, at the Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission recommended proceeding with a 4:0 vote. Two individuals attended that meeting and spoke in favor of a stipulation to add a shield to be added to northwest corner of sign. The recommendation this evening is to amend the Planning Commission's recommendation by adding in the stipulation to add a shield to the northwest corner of the sign by the applicant. The applicant is agreeable to the stipulation.

Councilmember Longanecker asks how this sign compares to the other sign across the road. Is it the same height? Mr. Moore replied to this sign would be lower. Per the Unified Development Code, it could go up 7 ft higher, but the applicant agreed to keep it lower.

Mr. Longanecker stated he thought the shield sounded like a great idea.

Applicant Nick Hatfield, with Maverik, addressed the Council to share updates on the construction. He stated mid-November is the tentative opening time. He explained how the shield works. The sign is angled to the interstate. It is just a block of a view for those residents. It is an easy compromise, the best we can do in this case.

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Mayor Roberts appreciates Mr. Hatfield coming and helping with the neighbors to the structure. He then requested a motion to approve the recommendation with the stipulation.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

10. CONSIDER A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USDOT FHWA AND THE CITY OF EDGERTON TO ACCEPT FUNDING THROUGH THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) OF \$220,000.00 FOR THE EDGERTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN.

CIP Project Manager, Holly Robertson, explains Safe Streets and Roads for All, a Federal Highway Program. The City applied in May of 2024 for a planning grant. Concurrently, we had also applied for match funding through the Build Kansas Fund. She stated the City was able to leverage the state dollars to match the federal dollars. The City attorney has reviewed and approved the final grant agreement documents received on September 8, 2025.

City Administrator, Beth Linn, highlighted that there are zero dollars coming from the City, and \$265,000 from other sources due to grant work.

Ms. Robertson says by performing the safety action plan, it opens other projects possibilities related to safety improvements in the infrastructure. This is the first time the City has been awarded this grant, as well as the first time applying.

Councilmember Lewis stated the increase in staff has helped make this possible.

Mr. Conus asked for the total of grants the City has received.

City Administrator, Beth Linn, stated she will compile that information to have readily made available.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

11. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 09-11-25A AUTHORIZING THE CLOSURE OF A PUBLIC STREET DURING THE FRONTIER DAYS AND NEW CITY CHURCH TRUNK OR TREAT

Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock, stated the Trunk of Treat event will move downtown to make easier accessibility. The event will take place from 5:30 and 8:00 pm on October 31, 2025, on Nelson Street between East 4th Street and East 3rd Street near The

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Greenspace. The street closing would help prevent any issues and make it more accessible to more residents and kids. Ms. Paddock will notify all public safety partners.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

12. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 09-11-25B AUTHORIZING SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT AND USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR THE FRONTIER DAYS AND NEW CITY CHURCH TRUNK OR TREAT

Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock, explained Resolution 09-11-25B would allow the use of The Greenspace restrooms, lawn, and stage. Additionally, the organizers request to use the road barricades and to waive the permit fee for them hosting the event for the community.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

13. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 09-11-25C AUTHORIZING THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC STREETS FOR MEAT INFERNO

Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock stated Resolution No. 09-11-25C includes the same road closures as previous years. This would begin at 7am on Friday, October 3, 2025, and will reopen by 6pm on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Ms. Paddock has notified public safety partners. City Administrator, Beth Linn, showed a map for street closures for Meat Inferno.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

14. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 09-11-25D FOR TEMPORARY NO PARKING RELATED TO MEAT INFERNO

Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock stated this resolution covers the no parking areas for Meat Inferno. The time would be Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 12 pm and end on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 12pm. The reason for the no-parking areas is to allow safe travel for emergency vehicles, if needed.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

15. PUBLIC HEARING FOR TEMPORARILY WAIVING CITY PROHIBITION AS TO THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR MEAT INFERNO EVENT

Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock explained the weekend celebration of Meat Inferno on Friday, October 3, 2025, and Saturday, October 4, 2025. Most events are held on Friday night, including lots of activities for the community to enjoy. There will be a traveling bar called Topsy Tavern. Topsy Tavern is licensed with the state and holds a catering license. The hours of sale would be 5pm – 10pm on Friday evening, October 3, 2025, by the band.

Mayor called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:41. No comments were made. Mayor closed the hearing at 7:42.

16. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 09-11-25E TEMPORARILY WAIVING CITY PROHIBITION AS TO THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR MEAT INFERNO EVENT

Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock summarized the event during the introduction of the Public Hearing, item 15, for Resolution No. 09-11-25E. Ms. Paddock stated that deputies will be there for security purposes.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

17. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 09-11-25F APPROVAL OF INDEMNITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE EDGERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR USE OF THE CHURCH PARKING LOTS DURING THE MEAT INFERNO EVENT

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Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock, stated in previous years the UMC has allowed them to use their parking lots for Meat Inferno teams to cook. The UMC has approved this, and requests to make sure that the church area is cleaned up by service on Sunday. They also requested no trailers over 40ft to be on the new paved parking lots. The UMC is allowed to have a booth and be covered under the City's liability insurance.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

18. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 09-11-25G AUTHORIZING SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF EDGERTON, KANSAS

Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock stated just as in the Public Hearing, to waive the distance waiver within 200ft of the Library or Church. This is a formality to have this permit, as the Public Hearing has been opened and closed.

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

Councilmember Lewis gave thanks to Recreation Superintendent, Brittany Paddock, for all she does and for making the event possible. Ms. Paddock states she still needs one or two judges, and there are still openings for the chicken wings competition on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Prize money is involved for the events such as gift cards for 1st place, wooden cutting boards, and bragging rights. Chicken wings are provided by Price Chopper, as well as ground beef for Kids 'Q competition. GBA will be giving away free BBQ, as well as participating in the contest. Ms. Paddock shares this year there will be a lot of tasty stuff.

19. CONSIDER THE 2026 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

City Administrator, Beth Linn states that provided in the agenda packet is the budget work session packet with information about required statutory dates and highlights. Making the budget is nearly a year-long process. It is a culmination of feedback throughout the year such as citizen surveys, comments throughout the year at meetings, and priorities set by the governing body. The next biennial citizen survey is in 2026, provided by ETC institute out of Olathe. They have done surveys in 49 different states with thousands of residents. Every

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household receives a survey in the City of Edgerton. The main amenities focused on are the most important for the coming year. Items such as maintenance of city streets, buildings, and facilities are at the top of the surveys. Other top items are quality of city parks and facilities. She stated City operations are different than in 2012. Annual maintenance includes crack/seal, stormwater/ditch, proactive potholing, and gravel road maintenance. We now have staff certified playground safety inspectors who conduct inspections. The ballfields have been brought up and maintained to practice standards. There is now scheduled preventative maintenance, and replacement of park furnishings and equipment.

She stated the City has a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that involves the same public feedback as mentioned previously. The top vote getters are street reconstruction and the construction of an aquatic amenity. Other top votes include community center, sidewalks/trails extensions, and park projects. She stated the Edgerton City Council set a Reserve Policy with a required reserve level by fund. Historically, if any funds are received in excess of the policy, the governing body has chosen capital projects to use that money.

Councilmember Conus questioned the maintenance on Edgerton Rd and Highway 56, and if KDOT notifies the City before doing these projects.

Ms. Linn says they are not required to let us know.

Mayor Roberts would like to comment on Councilmember Conus's comment made about a Facebook post being deleted from the City's page. Mayor found said post and had questioned staff about any deleted posts. After conferring with staff, he says only one post, maybe two, have ever even been deleted. There was no hiding a post, and you could find it tonight if you wanted to. Mayor Roberts would also like to clarify the elevator comment made by Ms. Baken. Council has not approved an elevator, they were provided with a space needs study, and if Council decided that the City should use the upstairs of City Hall, it must be ADA compliant for the second story use. This is a CIP item. It is unfunded. There is no elevator coming to City Hall, unless Council says otherwise. It is important that this is a transparent fact, and not just pieces. Mayor Roberts asked Council for any comments or questions.

Ms. Baken asked to speak on the budget. Mayor reminded her that the public hearing at the last meeting was for citizens to comment; there is no public hearing on this subject tonight.

Mayor Roberts stated with the budget process in general, he has far seen more residents asking to spend rather than to not over the years. Back when he was on council, it was standard for people to want their concerns fixed. He stated we have plenty of items on the CIP projects. Mayor asked if there are any more comments.

Councilmember Lewis stated he has been on council for about 11 years. When he first started, there were many things that we do now that were not done for the public then. Parks and Recreation has grown tremendously. Mr. Lewis would rather spend money on staff to provide an exceptional product for the citizens and community. The residents want to live in a

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community that is vibrant, not dead and stale. He sends a thank you to City staff for all they do. He states he is very thankful for all they do. It has been a 180-degree change from when he had first came on to Council to what it is today.

Councilmember Longanecker explains there are little things people do not notice. For example, the City pays for half of everyone's trash service in town. Trash is getting to be very expensive. It is little things, but it helps, and it is important.

Councilmember Conus says when he looked at his graph, the change in benefits and salaries versus the change in revenue in 7 years, all tax increases went to salaries and benefits. And we seem okay with that.

Mayor Roberts pointed out Mr. Conus voted for the additional staff.

Councilmember Conus says he looks at payroll, and it is three times the national average for cities bigger than ours.

Councilmember Lebakken would like to point out that Edgerton is more than the population.

Mr. Conus does not think it is right that all revenues in 2024 went to salaries and benefits.

Mayor Roberts disagrees with Mr. Conus, saying we do more projects, Park and Recreation programs, and more.

Mayor Roberts stated that because Councilmember Conus likes to compare employee salaries with similar size cities, with comparisons of mill levies with cities of similar sizes. Mayor Roberts states levies of Medicine Lodge, Caney, Elkhart, Wakeeney, Humboldt, and Oswego are significantly higher because they don't do what we do. Those cities all have a similar residential population. He states Edgerton is unique.

Councilmember Conus asks if those cities have an Intermodal.

Mayor Roberts states no, they do not, but they also do not have all have billions of growth and the professional staff needed for this growth. Mayor echoes we hear from our auditor every year that Edgerton does things cities our size do not do, even larger cities. We need professional staff to do what we do.

Mayor Roberts states he does appreciate council and public in their passions. We can have disagreements, but at the end of the day, the votes get taken. Policy governments have been one of the caveats to make us a successful community. When we lose on a vote, we will support as a government. He says he does not get a vote, but he does support the votes.

Councilmember Lewis moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Longanecker. The motion carried 3-1 by the following vote:

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Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Lebakken

No: Conus

Absent: Malloy

20. Report by the City Administrator

City Administrator, Beth Linn wants to remind everyone that next Wednesday, September 17, 2025, is Senior Lunch with Jumping Catfish catering.

Ms. Linn then shared a photo of 2nd street being down to dirt, and stated progress is happening.

She informed council that the Parks and Recreation staff is repurposing the horseshoe pits at Martin Creek Park to maximize real estate for larger events like July 3rd.

21. Report by the Mayor

Mayor Roberts stated listening to all of them comments over the last few weeks, he would like to have Council and staff support to add a new CIP program for a 10% rebate for R1 and R2 properties. This rebate would exclude seniors, as they have their own rebate already. He stated this will help offset the rise of property taxes, while protecting the City's revenue stream. He stated mill reduction cannot be separated between commercial and residential, or anything else. He believes this rebate program could be sustainable long-term. He stated he is not requesting a vote today but would like to discuss it at CIP time and for the property tax rebate to become a standard yearly question. Councilmembers Lewis, Lebakken, Conus, and Longanecker are in favor of this idea.

Councilmember Lewis requested for the upcoming CIP, that staff investigate the potential technology to live stream, broadcast, or record the meetings with controlled aspects.

Councilmember Lewis also suggested adding that to the citizens' survey.

Mayor Roberts states previously, streaming was not affordable. There are lots of factors to investigate for this to be efficient. He asked that if staff cannot get all the work done before, maybe it could be postponed but stay on the list for projects. City Administrator, Beth Linn, will prioritize the property rebates and work hard to get streaming on the list of projects. Councilmember Lewis does not want the public to think we are not transparent.

Mayor then requested a reminder to add 2025 Holidays for September 25, 2025, meeting.

22. Future Meeting Reminders

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

- September 25: City Council Meeting
- October 9: City Council Meeting
- October 14: Planning Commission Meeting
- October 23: City Council Meeting
- November 13: City Council Meeting

23. Adjourn

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

Yes: Longanecker, Lewis, Conus, Lebakken

Absent: Malloy

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Submitted by Dusti Callahan, City Clerk.