

City of Edgerton, Kansas
Minutes of City Council Regular Session
September 24, 2026

A Regular Session of the City Council was held in the Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas on September 24, 2026. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM with Mayor Roberts presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Donald Roberts	Present
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 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
- Public Works Forman, Chase Forrester
- 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 August 10, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting
5. Approve Application FP2026-0002, Final Plat for Edgerton Project, Located At 31800 W. 196th Street Including Dedication of Land for Public Purpose
6. Approve Final Acceptance for the 2026 Street Preservation Program – Chip Seal Project

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve the consent agenda items 5-6, seconded by Councilmember Lebakken. The motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

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

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve the consent agenda item 4 after changing Todd Luckman's name to Tom Barnes as City Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Lebakken. The motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

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

Regular Agenda

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

8. **Public Comments.**

Clara White, an Edgerton resident, expressed concerns about alleged foreign influence in local activism related to anti-AI and data center activities. She highlighted a network reportedly funded by Neville Roy Singham, who is under federal investigation for potential tax crimes and violations influencing these activities. Ms. White pointed out the use of fake online accounts promoting false narratives to stall US technology. She emphasized the positive potential of AI in various sectors and cautioned against losing American freedom to advancing foreign technological influence.

William LaFalce, an Edgerton resident, raised concerns about high salaries paid to City leadership staff in Edgerton, which he believes are excessive for a community of approximately 1,924 residents. He compared these salaries to those of federal employees in demanding positions, noting that the compensation for the city staff exceeds what many professionals earn at similar levels. Mr. LaFalce pointed out that while government salaries distort the perceived financial well-being of the community, some families still rely on food assistance. Mr. LaFalce called for transparency regarding the source of revenue funding these salaries and the financial relationships between the city and various development organizations.

Carrie Schmidt, a Gardner resident, criticized the process used to add data centers to the zoning rules without public input, alleging this violated legal statutes. She accused city staff and developers of having undue influence over city decisions, bypassing normal procedures such as public hearings and city council votes. Ms. Schmidt expressed frustration with the city leadership, accusing them of not acting in the interests of Edgerton residents and allowing external entities to control key decisions. She called this a lack of transparency and accountability in the process.

Kim Twente, an Edgerton resident, expressed concerns about environmental risks associated with data center development, particularly the potential for dangerous chemicals to contaminate

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water sources due to inadequate disposal practices. Ms. Twente criticized the lack of environmental studies and expressed distrust in the city's focus on facilitating approvals for developers like DAMAC without sufficient public involvement. She highlighted procedural issues in the council's approval process, pointing out misrepresentations regarding fuel storage tanks in the development plans. Ms. Twente accused city officials of siding against residents by not thoroughly scrutinizing these developments.

9. Presentation and Distribution of Pavement Condition Index (PCI)

Dan Merkh, Public Works Director, and Rhoderic Montgomery, CIP Project Manager, presented this item. The Citywide Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score is currently 86, which is excellent. This score signifies that 88% of street miles are rated as good or excellent. City staff reviewed maintenance strategies, focusing on the importance of timely interventions to manage costs effectively, and explained deterioration curves that show how roads degrade over time. He gave Council a handout to help them determine what PCI really means on the streets.

Councilmember Longanecker stated he drove those roads. Below 70 PCI really needed repairs. It won't take long to drive the score of 86 down.

Mr. Merkh gave a sample scenario, because one question came up of how long these scores last. Hypothetically, with a roadway that starts at 100 when it gets built, it has a period which hits degradation. For instance the chip-seal treatment that was just completed in the last couple of weeks would bring the PCI back up around roughly 5 to 10 points and it'll help keep the roadway in better condition for the next five or so years. Like all industry averages, there's a lot of parameters that fall into that. Hard winters make it shorter, soft winters make pavement last a lot longer. When you hit another 5 years or so, then we hit a thin overlay, like a UBAS and then it would give us approximately 7 – 12 years.

Councilmember Longanecker asked if there were any roads as poor as the area rated 27 on 3rd Street.

Mr. Merkh stated no, nothing near that severity. 88% of our miles rate at good or better. We did some research to find what other cities' averages and goals were, 65-75 where most recommend. Staff recommendations fall to a range of 70-74. When we get your range recommendation, we will be able to prepare and build a street preservation program annually and identify any limitations to the goal. This can grow and change as often as council have the direction to do so.

Mayor asked how often the PCI takes place.

Mr. Merkh stated that it is every 5 years.

Councilmember Longanecker is comfortable with staff recommendations. Bad streets are terrible, especially in the wintertime. He stated that we could always revisit this if needed.

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Mayor stated council can also direct staff to increase how often do PCI. He added that grants are a factor. He is comfortable with 70-74.

Councilmember Conus likes the cut off at 70, as economically it really costs if waiting much longer.

Mayor stated that he agrees, but to keep in mind that some roads will drop under that because it's an average. Before the regular street maintenance program, that's what led us into the PCI, which led us into this type of information, which is allowing us to do this type of policy. From an overall perspective, if we want to up the bar, we could. If we lower the bar too much, that drives costs actually higher.

Councilmember Longanecker stated he looked at East Martin Street, and between 2nd and 3rd Street, they are adequate but there's not much more to say about them.

Council members agreed on a target range PCI of 70-74 to balance road quality and budget sustainability.

Business Requiring Action

10. CONSIDER PROJECT CLOSEOUT FOR THE 2026 STREET PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Dan Merkh, Public Works Director, stated the 2026 Street Preservation Program includes three categories of work: the Concrete Project, the Pavement Marking Project, and Chip Seal Project. On May 28, 2026, NewCo Concrete LLC was awarded the construction contract for the Concrete Project. The final construction for all three projects is \$131,214.75. After all project costs, this project is within budget, with the remaining \$15,785.25 recommended to be moved to the 2027 Street Preservation Project.

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Conus, business action item ten. The motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

Yes: Longanecker, Lebakken, Conus

Absent: Malloy, Lewis

11. Report by City Administrator

12. Report by the Mayor

Mayor reminded the Council of the future meetings. He asked staff to prepare discussions for the Holiday meetings at the end of the year for the first meeting in October.

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October 8: City Council Meeting
October 13: Planning Commission Meeting
October 22: City Council Meeting
November 10: Planning Commission Meeting
November 12: City Council Meeting

13. Adjourn

Councilmember Lebakken moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Conus. The motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.
Submitted by Dusti Callahan, City Clerk.

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