

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SOLOMON KS 67480
October 6, 2025 at 6:07 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Brandy Gray called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM
Council Present: Shawn Kirby, Jennifer Cross, Colten Kohman
Council Absent: Brian Duryea, Kelley Vandecreek
Staff Present: Krista Radke, Dan Britt, Randy Paden, Andrea McCook
Others Present: Under Sheriff Jeff Vaughn, Chris Ade, Luke Riordan, Aaron Martin, Natalie Muruato.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR October 6, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Motion by Jennifer Cross to approve the agenda, seconded by Colten Kohman, 3 Yays, 0 Nays.
Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

None.

3. PRESENTATION/REPORTS

1. DKEDC- Natalie Muruato, the new Economic Development Corporation (EDC) director, shared her background in economic development and outlined her goals for Dickinson County. She plans to conduct a listening tour to gather community feedback, help businesses with resources and expansion, and improve communication about local economic opportunities. Her key focus areas include workforce attraction, business support, and promoting the county's achievements through storytelling.

2. Housing Authority- Jae Ecton wasn't able to attend but provided a written report that all units were currently full and they're looking for a part-time maintenance worker.

3. P&Z- Curtis Boyer wasn't present. Dan and Andrea gave a review of their last meeting and what projects they're working on.

4. Community Garden- Luke Riordan highlighted several key points. The City crew added a new in ground plot and four above-ground plots. High School students helped in the garden and earned service hours. They donated some produce to the food pantry. Thoughts to add for next year include adding more plots, donation sign, and potentially a coded lock for the shed. The garden board has been pleased with the progress and community engagement this year.

6. Dickinson County Sheriff- Jeff Vaughn provided a summary of activity for September 2025. 11 traffic stops, 14 suspicious activity, 13 speak with an officer, 3 unknown problems, 2 animal complaints, 1 utility, 2 thefts, 2 burglary, 1 civil matter, 2 alarms, 1 arrest, 2 threats, 2 traffic accidents, 4 damage to property, 3 harassment, 1 VIN inspection, 1 outside agency assist, 1 domestic disturbance, 1 assault, 2 Welfare checks. They had 69 calls with 245.5 hours. The UnderSheriff also mentioned the upcoming Faith and Blue event on October 11,

7. Solomon Fire Department- Chief Paden reported next week is Fire Prevention Week. He'll be visiting the grade school and preschool. They are going to borrow and use Chapman's safety house fire prop. They've obtained fire prevention material and goodies for free from the state fireworks office. They will be participating in the Faith & Blue BBQ cookoff. The pump needed repairs due to scale inside the pump and that has been fixed now. Their 30+ year old radio scanner broke and a new one has been ordered. They received the Forrester grant. They participated in the homecoming bonfire event. 4 members want to take Firefighter 1 & 2 classes

that start in November. This will be a hybrid virtual/in-person training. Books cost \$187 and will come out of their training budget.

11 calls in September

In The City - 5- Med Calls, 1 vehicle accident, 1 bonfire standby

In The County - 1 Medical call, 1 vehicle accident, 2 fires

8. Public Works Director- Dan Britt reported they've sent out lead and copper samples to 10 citizens and samples are mostly coming in under limits. They're halfway done with hydrant testing and expect to finish by week's end. Joe Tucker is coming out to assess and develop a repair plan. Dan reported they completed City Cleanup in 3 days. They took 7 dump truck loads to landfill and 3 to metal salvage, which they made \$733 from metal sales. Other projects they continue to work on are the well house upgrades and exploring options for lift station and storm drainage improvements.

9. City Clerk- Andrea McCook reported her continued code compliance efforts. She has sent out notification letters to property owners about various issues and then will send certified follow-up letters if initial notices are ignored. Current cases include pet registrations, chicken permit violations, lawn maintenance, campers being lived in, and yard debris. Andrea discussed transitioning council meeting documents to an electronic format. She will test this system in the next couple of months with the goal to have everything digital by January. This will save paper and improve efficiency.

10. Municipal Services Clerk- Krista Radke reported there was no court held in September. Next court date is October 16th at 4pm. She attended a Kansas Municipal Court Association conference September 24-26th. Krista also shared that the City received a desk from Don Miller, whose family owned Vanderwilt Hardware store in the early 1900's. He also donated some pictures and plans to potentially donate more Solomon historical artifacts later.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Council reviewed consent agenda items including:

(1) Approval of minutes dated September 8th, 2025.

(2) September Check Register & Payroll Summary & August Fund Reports.

(3) License Approval- Bush's Market CMB

A motion by Colten Kohman to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Varney's 2025 Engagement Letter

The letter was reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Jennifer Cross to approve Varney's engagement letter, seconded by Shawn Kirby, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

2. Approve Office Computers & Equipment

Council reviewed the quote from New Century Computer Services for office computers and equipment. The plan involves consolidating from four devices to two laptops, adding docking stations for flexibility, upgrading to dual monitors, and focusing on staff with the most secure information. Motion by Shawn Kirby to approve the purchase of equipment not to exceed \$4,000, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried. The goal is to spread out technology upgrades over the next few years.

3. Consider Approval Community Foundation Grant

Motion made by Jennifer Cross to approve the Community Foundation grant for \$46,868.58, seconded by Colten Kohman, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4. Consider Approval Wizard of Oz & End's Contracts.

There were 2 quotes reviewed. First quote was for renovation of building to be paid through The Community Foundation grant. Motion by Colten Kohman to approve \$46,868 contract to

Wizard of Oz and Ends for the bathroom remodel, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Second quote to replace the back door to the bathrooms for \$1,538.02 was reviewed.

Motion by Shawn Kirby to approve the quote, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

5. Approval of Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant

The VFA grant total was \$1,816 with a 50/50 matching split. Motion by Colten Kohman to approve the grant, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

6. Approval of FD Equipment SCBA packs

The council discussed purchasing five SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) packs for the fire department. The decision was tied to funds received from Twin Valley for fire services during their installation process.

Motion by Colten Kohman to approve the purchase of 5 SCBA, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

7. Special Event Permit: Faith & Blue

Motion by Shawn Kirby to approve the special event permit, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

8. Ohl Property Update

The Ohls met the September 22 deadline for initial work to start. A fence was put up surrounding the foundation. Andrea has been taking periodic pictures and documenting progress. The goal is to complete cleanup by the end of October.

9. Water Infrastructure Project

An information town hall meeting was scheduled for October 22nd. Postcard designs were reviewed. The council wants to transparently communicate the project's necessity and funding approach to residents.

6. CITY MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

7. CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday, October 27th at 6PM-Council Workshop

Monday, November 3rd at 6PM- City Council Meeting

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM by Colten Kohman, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Signed:



Brandy Gray
Mayor

Attest:



Andrea McCook
City Clerk