

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SOLOMON KS 67480
November 3, 2025 at 6:12 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Brandy Gray called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM
Council Present: Shawn Kirby, Jennifer Cross, Kelley VanDeCreek
Council Absent: Brian Duryea, Colten Kohman
Staff Present: Krista Radke, Dan Britt, Randy Paden, Bill Rogers
Others Present: Under Sheriff, Chris Ade, Sonya Thompson, Aaron Martin,
Chris Glavin, Mike Teeters, Darci Teeters, Margo Gillett.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR November 3, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

None.

3. PRESENTATION/REPORTS

1. Building Inspector-Bill Rogers reviewed all permits from August-October.

2. Senior Center- Sonya Thompson reported In October, the center served an average of 26 meals per day. They didn't have rentals during October but noted that recent bingo events were successful despite chilly weather. For upcoming months, the center already has 4–5 rentals scheduled each for November and December, including rentals on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Depending on availability, they may hold bingo events in November or December if scheduling allows.

3. Dickinson County Sheriff- Summary of activity for October 2025.
11 traffic stops, 12 suspicious activity, 25 speak with an officer, 4 juvenile complaints, 3 alarms, 2 disorderly conduct, 2 welfare checks, 1 animal complaint, 1 chest pain, 1 citizen check, 1 extra patrol, 1 message delivery, 1 open door, 1 trespassing, 1 VIN inspection. They had 67 calls with 265.25 hours.

4. Solomon Fire Department- Chief Paden reported fire prevention activities went well, with officers spending a day at the grade school and two days at the community preschool. Children enjoyed hands-on experiences like using the fire hose. The department participated in a trunk-or-treat at the school, distributing a large amount of candy and stickers. Chief Paden is set to attend the KEMSA CORE Conference to complete required EMT recertification hours. The new fire truck is progressing: assembly is underway, key components (bed, tank, pump) have been installed, and completion is expected by mid-December. Discussion took place on financial paperwork for the department and sourcing additional resources, including favorable vendor rates for equipment.

20 calls in October

7- Med Calls, 5 fire calls, 1 canceled, 8 routine calls.

5. Public Works Director- Dan Britt reported pool winterization is complete; repairs were performed. Contractors are scheduled to start further work imminently, but Dan prefers they not paint in November due to weather. The team has been “rocking” all alleys, grading gravel roads, and sweeping streets to prepare for falling leaves. Repairs were needed for the road grader, specifically a leaking fuel tank that was welded and reinstalled. A minor water leak was monitored over the weekend and repaired. The department is busy preparing for winter. A concern was noted about a large pothole on Sixth Street, and Dan confirmed repairs will be made as conditions and materials allow.

6. City Clerk- Krista read Andrea’s written report. Progress on making city council documents electronic, with the current month being the first fully digital set. Ongoing code compliance activities: Letters sent about a boat parked on the street (resolved), living in campers (resolved), and yard cleanup (improvements underway). She participated in a webinar on code violations, confirming their

local process aligns with best practices. She's also been in collaboration with Andrea from Gallagher on insurance benefits; updates expected at the next workshop.

7. Municipal Services Clerk- Krista Radke reported the October court docket included 26 cases: 3 on payment arrangements, 1 under monitoring (incarcerated, will appear after release). 7 first appearances, 8 required to appear, and 3 cases set for status reviews. Water billing: 182 accounts on auto-pay, 21 for text-to-pay, 48 paperless billing, and 323 accounts registered overall. A few glitches with auto-pay were quickly fixed. Overall, the transition to digital documents and expanded payment options is going smoothly.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Council reviewed consent agenda items including:

- (1) Approval of minutes dated October 6th, 2025.
- (2) October Check Register & Payroll Summary & September Fund Reports.
- (3) License Approval- Bush's Market CMB

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

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Ohl Property Update

Bill Rogers provided an update on the property. The fence is still up around the property's foundation, and overall the property is being cleaned up. A concern remains about a hole in the front yard that needs to be filled in sooner rather than later. Dan confirmed that progress is being made, and the new owners of the property were present at the meeting. The updates were mainly to inform all members and allow for questions.

2. Children at Play Signs

The council discussed requests for "Children at Play" signage. Legal review found that placing official "Children at Play" signs is not authorized under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which sets standards Kansas municipalities must follow. Adding unofficial signage could create legal liability for the city, as it would go beyond allowed discretion and potentially remove the city's immunity in accidents. Alternative options for enhancing child safety were suggested such as playground or pedestrian crossing sign can be used where appropriate or Private "Children at Play" signs can be installed on private property (like yards), but not in the street or public right-of-way. The council acknowledged current inconsistent practices and the need for a sustainable and enforceable policy. The council decided not to install official city "Children at Play" signs due to these risks but is open to further studying the area for other safety improvements.

3. Park Sign Update

The electronic sign at the park is no longer functioning. It was originally installed about 10 years ago as a collaborative project with the school. The estimated replacement cost for a new sign is \$26,500. A grant for \$7,500 was awarded—leaving a \$19,000 gap. The city and school discussed creating a sustainability plan to build a fund for future sign maintenance and replacement. Options include annual contributions and possibly selling advertisements or greetings for community use. There are no restrictions from the grantor prohibiting ad sales or fundraising. Insurance coverage for the sign may shift to the city (it's on city property), and further legal review will clarify any restrictions in the MOU regarding advertising and fund structure. No immediate action was taken; council feedback was invited, and final funding/partnership decisions will be made soon.

4. Infrastructure Project Update

Final engineering designs for the project have been submitted. The Kansas Water Office received the city's grant application; a decision on funding is expected by February. The city hosted two community information meetings—one for the planning and zoning board, another for residents—with good engagement and Q&A. Materials and updates are available for review. Review of engineering designs by KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) and USDA is underway, though federal office closures may cause delays. North Central Regional Planning is helping with grant and loan logistics. The city is seeking loan amendments to increase funding for phase one. Phase one planning is ongoing: prioritization of needed water main and infrastructure repairs, based on available funding. Work on right-of-way (ROW) easements will soon begin with the help of templates from NCRPC. Future workshops will address water rates,

infrastructure rate increases, and well house/construction timelines. In January, NCRPC will present options for ongoing project administration as previous grant dollars have been expended.

5. Consider CES Invoice

\$86,140 invoice from CES was reviewed. Motion by Kelley VanDeCreek to approved, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried

6. Community Christmas

Planning is underway for the annual community Christmas event, with a "save the date" flyer distributed through the local school. The event will mostly follow last year's structure, with two parts: morning activities (10:00–12:00) at the fire station and afternoon/evening festivities (4:00–6:30) in the park. The tree lighting is scheduled for 6:00 pm. Organizers are seeking an additional \$500 sponsor for carriage rides to keep the event free, and a sponsor for the home decorating contest. Without sponsorship, some activities may be dropped. Dan's team will set up the new Christmas tree panels. The fire department is helping prepare the log cabin and will oversee part of the festivities. The planning meeting is coming up soon, and the event is scheduled for the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 29th.

7. CFDC Grant Approval \$5,000

The city council received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Dickinson County (CFDC) for the fire department. The grant was awarded to help purchase needed equipment. Through discussion and review of quotes, it was decided to use the funds to buy SCBA bottles (self-contained breathing apparatus cylinders) for \$2,925 and new fire hoses for \$1,925, using the full \$5,000 grant. The council will also facilitate publicity as requested by the CFDC. Motion by Shawn Kirby to approve the acceptance of the grant and specific purchases, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

6. CITY MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jennifer thanked the Sheriff's Department for the successful event held in the park, specifically appreciating the free comedian and food, and suggested sending a thank-you note to them. The council expressed appreciation for the fire department's and public works' ongoing efforts, particularly in fire prevention and community events. Brandy welcomed everyone to the upcoming community Christmas event, noting the broad appeal and efforts to create something for all ages.

7. CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday, November 24th at 6PM-Council Workshop
Saturday, November 29th Solomon Community Christmas
Monday, December 1st at 6PM- City Council Meeting

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:14 PM by Jennifer Cross, seconded by Shawn Kirby, 3 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Signed:



Brandy Gray
Mayor

Attest:



Andrea McCook
City Clerk