

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SOLOMON KS 67480
April 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Brandy Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Council Present: Shawn Kirby, Jennifer Cross, Brian Duryea, Kelley VanDeCreek, Colten Kohman
Council Absent: None
Staff Present: Krista Radke, Randy Paden, Andrea McCook, Dan Britt
Others Present: Jerry Davis, Randy Paden, Aaron Martin, Kyle Bowers, Jae Ecton, Ecowaste
Hometown Disposal Representative.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR April 6, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Motion by Shawn Kirby to approve the agenda, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays.
Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Ecowaste Hometown introduced themselves. They noted they are already in Solomon daily serving Sunbelt and requested an opportunity to meet with the city to discuss providing trash service.

3. PRESENTATION/REPORTS

1. Housing Authority-Jae Ecton reported that they performed very well under the new INSPIRE inspection format, they are currently seeking a maintenance person, and have two board terms (BJ Splichal and Mary Flora) rolling in July, with potential replacement candidates already being considered.

2. Planning & Zoning- Kyle Bowers reported that a public hearing is set for April 28 at 6:30 p.m. to receive comments on proposed amendments related to camper permits/limits, accessory building sidewall heights, building spacing requirements, and the sign code. He also updated council on ongoing park and tree planning work, potential grant opportunities identified through K-State Extension, and preliminary ideas for making the park stage handicap accessible.

3. Dickinson County Sheriff- Summary of activity for March 2026.

6 traffic stops, 3 speak with an officer, 4 alarms, 4 suspicious activity, 2 warrants, 1 citizen check, 1 code blue, 1 escort, 1 harassment, 1 juvenile complaint, 6 business checks, 1 welfare check, 1 lost/found property, 1 park check, 1 psychiatric emergency, 1 sick person, 1 threat, and 1 unknown problem. They had 37 calls with 261 hours.

After the report, Brandy asked Sheriff Davis to be aware of and/or address: Repeated doorbell ringing at Heritage Manor (late-night nuisance, multiple nights a week), underage kids riding dirt bikes and side-by-sides on city streets, vehicles parked facing the wrong direction on streets, the resident camper blocking a sidewalk on Walnut, and the issue of vehicles left in town by people who are out of town (e.g., a car left by the park for about a week) and the desire for better communication when locals leave a vehicle parked long-term so the city knows it isn't abandoned.

6. Solomon Fire Department- Chief Paden reported Truck 613 (main pumper/tanker) remains out of service. After teardown, the entire lower gearbox was found damaged (shaft, impeller, brass shavings in the housing). The department is proceeding with replacing the full lower gearbox; parts have been ordered (cost for parts only is significant) and are expected to arrive soon. Repairs are being done by Weiss. Council requested a list of trucks and their primary purposes/uses for better understanding and planning. Chief Paden reported there are new inspection and compliance requirements. The State Fire Marshal's Office now requires an annual inspection form for all fire apparatus and tire replacement on all trucks at manufacturer-recommended intervals (5-7 years), regardless of tread appearance. He contacted various providers and obtained quotes of \$75-\$300 per truck for inspections. They will use Billy

Hemmy, who already inspects county trucks and knows the required form, at \$75 per truck at the county shop. Tires on current apparatus are often much older (around 20 years); Chief understands the safety rationale but noted the high cost impact and called requirements "excessive" for small volunteer departments. The Fire Marshal indicated departments will be allowed to phase in compliance as long as they have a plan. The State is also pushing for: Annual testing of SCBA and hoses and annual ground ladder testing (which the department has never done and will now price out). Currently, pumps and SCBA are tested every other year and hose testing is done every 3–5 years, based on usage, by the department itself (takes ~3 full days of work to pressurize, drain, dry, and reload). He will investigate the cost of ground ladder testing and how to add that into the maintenance schedule. Council and Chief noted that the department may ultimately need to reduce and consolidate the fleet if the community cannot afford to maintain and insure all current vehicles under the new standards.

Call Volume –March

Total calls: 12 City: 6 medical calls, 1 med call canceled, 2 grass fires, 3 other.

7. Public Works Director- Dan has been in contact with Joe Tucker. His crew is finishing a job and then will come here. He will give two days' notice before arriving in Solomon. Public Works will have the deep end cleaned and prepped so they can begin prep and painting immediately. McKee's are also coming to reset/replace loose tiles under the bullnose, using leftover original tile and checking for other loose areas. This work is expected to take about 2–2½ days, with the goal of having the pool ready to fill ahead of opening. The new siren in the community garden failed a recent Tuesday test and a battery was found smoking in the battery box. All batteries were replaced (about 4 years old) due to the siren's emergency role. A taller antenna was installed on the receiver to improve reception. Well #11 was not pumping one day with no error on the control screen; it pumped normally when a Sergeant Drilling technician arrived. They suspect it was drawing down and sucking air due to aquifer levels dropping (~5 feet). The plan is to pull the pump and camera the well to check if the gravel pack is plugged, then clean/acid wash if needed. Dan and Dalton will attend a mosquito workshop on Wednesday morning, hosted by Van Diest, the city's chemical supplier. While there, Van Diest will recalibrate the city's mosquito fogger as part of their service. Dan met with Ben Hobbs about the planned food truck pad. Instead of placing it just south of the south shelter, they are considering a location near Pine Street. Ben noted other towns charge \$25–\$40/day for electricity; food trucks prefer plugging into city power instead of running generators. The Pine Street location would be more visible from Old 40, allow use of existing power pedestals, and still allow traffic flow and parking. Council discussed seating and possible time parameters for operating near residential areas and requested Dan bring back a simple map/site plan for future consideration. Dan noted he did not connect with the engineer at the water conference but is ready to move forward once staff and NCRPC confirm USDA loan and bidding requirements for the well house projects.

8. City Clerk- Andrea reported that the Planning & Zoning public hearing was moved to April 28 to meet publication deadlines. 2025 financials are finalized and the annual audit is scheduled for late May. She noted progress on code enforcement letters and plans to provide monthly tracking to council. Don's retirement event went well and was well attended. Now staff is focusing on "Afternoon in the Park" event. Andrea informed council that staff will explore RFPs for internet and trash service and research franchise models used by similar cities.

9. Municipal Services Clerk- Krista Radke reported there was no court this month due to Judge Barker being out of town, with the next court date set for April 16 at 4 p.m. She noted implementation of local sales tax on commercial utility accounts (effective April 1), a strong increase in pet licensing (now 244 tags, up 217 from last month, with 176 animals served at the pet clinic and 105 tagged there), and that nearly all raised garden beds are rented with only one raised bed and six in-ground plots still available; she will coordinate with Jackie to help advertise the remaining plots and create a "share basket" sign for extra produce at the garden.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Council reviewed consent agenda items including:

- (1) Approval of minutes dated March 2nd, 2026.
- (2) March Check Register & Payroll Summary; February Fund Reports
- (3) Special Event Permit- FCA April 25th

Kelley VanDeCreek moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Water Infrastructure Update

Andrea reported that right-of-way acquisition is proceeding with assistance from CES. Council reaffirmed that the current project cost estimate remains at \$3.7 million, noted that the most recent grant application was denied, and agreed to continue pursuing future grant opportunities while proceeding with Phase 1 as scoped. Staff will also work toward issuing an RFP for the separate well house projects in compliance with USDA loan requirements, so costs and next steps for those improvements can be defined.

2. Water Infrastructure: NCRPC Contract

Council considered an amendment to the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) professional services agreement to increase compensation for project administration services (from an additional \$5,500 up to \$10,000 total), broadening it to cover the overall water project rather than only USDA funding tasks. Following discussion, motion by Kelley VanDeCreek to approve NCRPC amendment, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

3. Special Event Permit-USD 393 Track

Council reviewed a special event permit for the school track meets on April 16, April 24, and May 12, authorizing temporary road closure on Williams Street in front of the school/track complex during meet times. Public Works will provide and place barricades to close Williams between designated points (near Walnut and the stadium area) while maintaining appropriate access for parking and emergency vehicles, and staff will coordinate details and notifications with school officials and dispatch. Motion by Jennifer Cross to approve special event permit, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4. HR Employee Review

Council reviewed the employee performance review and Annual goal setting forms. Members emphasized the value of evaluations for documentation and employee development. They discussed the need to better define core tasks and expectations by position, and agreed to continue using the current forms while working toward clearer task lists and a more robust evaluation process over time.

5. HR: Public Service Week May 3-May 9

Council noted that Public Service Week will be observed May 3–9, with staff planning some recognition activities. Brandy stated the city's tradition of taking the full-time crew to lunch on Friday, May 8, and invited council members to attend if available. Additional small activities may be organized by staff during the week.

7. CITY MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Brian shared that his kids and their friends used the new sports court/basketball area over the weekend and found it busy and enjoyable, noting it as a positive sign of high community use and complimenting staff for keeping facilities in good condition. There were brief expressions of thanks to staff (e.g., for the sports court, maintenance work, and various projects), and general acknowledgment that recent events and improvements (park, court, bathrooms, gardens) are well received by the community.


8. CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday, April 27th at 6PM-Council Workshop
Monday, May 4th at 6PM- City Council Meeting

9. ADJOURN

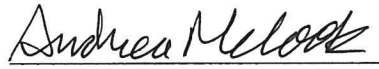
Motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM by Kelley VanDeCreek, seconded by Colten Kohman 5
Yays, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Signed:



Brandy Gray
Mayor

Attest:



Andrea McCook
City Clerk