

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SOLOMON KS 67480
September 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Brandy Gray called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM

Council Present: Shawn Kirby, Jennifer Cross, Brian Duryea, Kelley Vandecreek, Colten Kohman

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Krista Radke, Dan Britt, Randy Paden

Others Present: Sheriff Jerry Davis, Chris Ade, Justin Coup, Kirk Byarlay, Sharon Byarlay, Monica Christman, Jason Christman, Barbara Glover, Ralph Ohl, Kathy Ohl, Margo Gillett, Brad Gillett, Natalie Wood, Elizabeth Weese, Kylie Hicken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR September 8, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Motion by Jennifer Cross to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Kelley VanDeCreek, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Barbara Glover, a 52-year resident of Solomon, spoke passionately about the city's chicken ordinance. She argued for increasing the current limit of six chickens, citing historical context about self-sufficiency and the rising cost of eggs. She expressed frustration that she pays an annual permit fee but is restricted in the number of chickens and other birds she can keep. Barbara believes residents should have more freedom to make decisions about their backyard livestock, especially given recent egg price fluctuations and historical agricultural practices.

Monica Christman briefly spoke in support of Barbara's comments about chickens. She mentioned that she currently has chickens, agrees that the six-chicken limit should be higher, and noted that she pays her permit fee. She does not have ducks or rabbits, and specifically stated that six chickens is not enough.

Justin Coup discussed submitting paperwork for the homecoming parade and requested barricades for safety during events. He thanked the police officer for helping move a vehicle and wanted to ensure safety for kids and visitors entering the stadium. He highlighted that they've identified about 8 total events where barricades would be helpful on Williams Street near the parking lot. His goal was to follow proper protocols and procedures for event safety.

Kirk & Sharon Byarlay and Brad Gillett-These individuals raised concerns about property tax increases. Kirk noted that his property taxes have doubled in nine years. He argued that there have been no improvements to his street and suggested that government entities need to "tighten up" spending.

Brad emphasized the challenges for senior citizens on fixed incomes, stating that continuous tax increases are difficult to manage. They suggested that when money is tight, spending should be reduced. In response, the city council representative explained that they have been carefully reviewing expenses line by line and that the city's mill rate has actually decreased in recent years, with only a small increase proposed for 2026.

3. PRESENTATION/REPORTS

1. DK County Community Foundation- Elizabeth Weese from the Community Foundation presented a grant check for \$46,868.58 to the city of Solomon for renovating the public restrooms. She explained that their foundation aims to strengthen Dickinson County by investing

in projects that improve quality of life. The grant will fund a complete renovation of the park's public restrooms, which Elizabeth described as not glamorous but essential.

2. Wizard of Oz & Endz- Kylie Hicken detailed the renovation plans for the Park Bathrooms. This project will modernize the facilities without using taxpayer dollars, and the existing building structure will be maintained.

3. Library- Lynn Teeters did not report.

4. Recreation Commission- Kyle McCook provided a written report. Priscilla Abel has been hired as interim rec coordinator. Wade Walker is the newly elected President and Carson Jackson Vice President. Kaitlyn Turner and Brandon Legg have joined the board. Fall sports are being played again with teams from Minneapolis and Bennington and the season begins September 6th and runs through September 27th. Summer programs were successful and they hope to bring back cardboard boat races and potentially another movie night. Mayor Gray expressed appreciation for the rec commission's work and joint programs with the City.

5. Faith & Blue- Brandon Depew from the Dickinson County Sheriff's Department presented the Faith & Blue event details. The event will be held on October 11th at the park, starting at 5:30 PM with comedy beginning at 6 PM. Key highlights include: First Responder's cook-off, free pulled pork sandwiches and bottled water, comedian Jerrell Roach. This event aims to bring entertainment to the community.

6. Dickinson County Sheriff- Jerry Davis provided a summary of activity for August 2025. 14 traffic stops, 8 suspicious activity, 10 speak with an officer, 2 unknown problems, 1 dead animal, 1 noise, 1 utility, 1 theft, 2 animal complaint, 2 burglary, 1 civil matter, 5 alarms, 2 court order/violations, 2 juvenile complaints, 1 arrest, 1 fight, 1 missing person, 1 threat, 1 traffic accident. They had 57 calls with 224.25 hours.

7. Solomon Fire Department- Chief Paden is interested in starting a Jr Firefighter program. He heard back that they weren't selected for the State Farm Grant. He was able to sell the old radios for \$600. There was discussion on the refurbished SCBA packs and looking at getting the 2007 models instead of the 2013. The council did not make a final decision, choosing instead to defer the discussion to gather more financial information. Randy stated that they are short on medical responders. The new fire truck is still pending. Watts Manufacturing is still waiting on the pump manufacturer. They placed a 12-week hold several months ago.

11 calls in August

In The City - 4- Med Calls, 1 CO call, 1 railroad training,

In The County - 1 Medical call, 1 vehicle accident, 2 standby at demo derby, 1 out of district fire

8. Public Works Director- Dan Britt reported they worked with KDHE to clean up the dump and burn site. They got all the water valves exercised and are now flushing and testing. They need to complete the lead and copper sampling before the end of September. The team removed log jams at 5th and 6th street bridges during dry creek conditions. They've been dealing with multiple water leaks around town. They are waiting on the pool contractors to come and address the pool damage.

9. City Clerk- Andrea McCook provided a written report. She checked with Rob from CES and he will be able to attend the town hall meeting October 22nd. P&Z Board of Appeals hearing is set for September 16th at 7 p.m. regarding Kevin Rogers' shop on Old 40. She had her first meeting with Andrea Taylor from Gallagher about this year's benefits and health insurance renewal. She's continuing to work on compliance issues to create consistent processes and procedures and collaborating with the attorney. She is also working with him on the OHL hearing, STO & UPOC updates, and the KS Gas franchise.

10. Municipal Services Clerk- Krista Radke reported there were 22 Cases on the docket for August. 6 first appearances that were mostly traffic related, 1 case is being monitored, 1 defendant is currently incarcerated, 3 cases have made payment arrangements. Other cases involved thefts and animals at large.

Next court date 10/16/25 at 4:00

Krista will be attending the Kansas Association for Court Management Conference September 24-26. She also mentioned receiving inquiries about the pool's condition and suggested providing a public update when more information is available.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Council reviewed consent agenda items including:

- (1) Approval of minutes dated August 4th, 2025.
- (2) August Check Register & Payroll Summary & July Fund Reports.
- (3) License Approval- Victoria's Construction, LLC

A motion by Jennifer Cross to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Special Event Permits

- a. Caylee Cook and Myah McCook presented that they'd like to bring the tradition of Homecoming Street Painting back. They would like to do this in front of the stadium on Williams street from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday September 24th. They will have adult supervision and a cleanup crew. They have got permission from Dan.

Motion by Colten Kohman to approve STUCO street painting on the North side of Williams seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- b. Parade special event permit was reviewed by council.

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

- c. A third permit for ongoing street closures during home sporting events was discussed. The council recommended a meeting with school representatives to develop a comprehensive approach.

Motion by Jennifer Cross to table home sporting event street closures, seconded by Shawn Kirby, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

2. Water Infrastructure Update

Total project cost was 7.8 million, currently narrowed down to \$3.8 million. We are waiting for CES to send plans and specs to KDHE. Dan and his team have been doing additional locates and answering questions about water main locations. The Mayor and Kelley plan to meet to discuss the project and town hall meeting further. The council emphasized the importance of keeping the project moving forward and obtaining necessary documentation for potential grants.

3. KWO Application & agreement with NCRP.

Motion by Kelley VanDeCreek to approve professional services agreement with NCRPC and the two affidavits presented, seconded by Shawn Kirby, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4. Sports court update

The fence has officially been installed. The plan is still to have 8 benches sponsored by individuals or organizations. Dan's team plans to put down mulch glue to stabilize the area. Many people are using the facility.

5. Proposed camera updates in park

A proposal from Homman Electronics was reviewed. The new camera locations would be at the East end of the park and by the sports court. The goal is to improve surveillance and security in different areas of the park.

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

6. Consider Ordinances 775 STO & 776 UPOC 2025 Updates

Both ordinances are annual updates from the Kansas League of Municipalities. The City would like to purchase the online version and a hard copy for the office. The goal is to keep city codes current and accessible to the public.

Motion by Kelley VanDeCreek to approve Ordinance 775, seconded by Shawn Kirby, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Motion by Shawn Kirby to approve Ordinance 776, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

7. Consider Ordinance 777 KS Gas Franchise

A motion by Jennifer Cross to approve the Ordinance 777 KS Gas Franchise Agreement, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

8. HR: Dalton Bledsoe Water Certification and Wage adjustment

A motion by Jennifer Cross to increase Dalton Bledsoe's wage as a result of his water certification, seconded by Colten Kohman, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

9. HR: Don Boyer Recognition of 25 years of service

There will be an open house to celebrate this Friday at the Power Pavillion.

6. CITY MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

7. CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday, September 29th at 6PM-Council Workshop

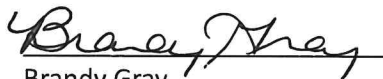
Monday, October 6th at 6PM- City Council Meeting

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM by Colten Kohman, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Signed:

Attest:



Brandy Gray
Mayor



Andrea McCook
City Clerk