

Cawker City Council opts to join Beloit in concrete removal

The City of Cawker City regular council meeting was held Aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Work Session-Sign off on bills: Mayor Doug Bader called the regular council meeting to order

ROLL CALL: Jake Wise, Teresa Cobb, Steve McMillan, Colleen Eberle & Carl Suter

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Charles Gullion, Jo Biddle & City Attorney Martin

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CONSENT AGENDA: J. Wise made the motion to approve the minutes from July 9th regular council meeting & July 16 special council meeting. T. Cobb seconded Motion carried 5 AYES

J. Wise made a motion to approve Claims Ord. 1572A. C. Suter seconded Motion carried 5 AYES

PERMIT APPLICATIONS: J. Wise made a motion to approve the building permit for D. Frasier chicken house w/fencing. C. Suter seconded Motion carried 5 AYES J. Wise made a motion to approve Livestock permit for D. Frasier S. McMillan seconded Motion carried 5 AYES C. Suter made a motion to approve the Golf Course Club House rental for S. Remus

S. McMillan seconded Motion carried 5 AYES

PUBLIC COMMENT-

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: Nothing to report at this time.

CITY EMPLOYEES REPORT: C. Gullion: Gullion gave an update on the current water line replacements and presented about joining the City of Beloit in their concrete removal process, as it would be less expensive with the more cities involved then it would be to do it on our own. They will come to Cawker, crush the concrete, and the city will use it for future projects or uses as needed. Council agreed it would be beneficial. C. Suter made a motion to approve C. Eberle Seconded Motion carried 5 AYES

J. Biddle Asked the council for approval to move forward to applying for the KDHE SRF loan for the earmarked principal forgiveness that the city is slated for. The council decided to apply for the loan as there is no downside should we choose not to utilize it. C. Suter made the motion to apply S. McMillan seconded Motion Carried 5 AYES Biddle reminded council about the Capital Improvement meeting on July 16 at 7:00.

ORDINANCES: Ord. 1202 – SEWER RATES:

The new ordinance was presented to council for the suggested increase in the current sewer rates. C. Suter made the motion to approve T. Cobb Seconded Motion carried 5 AYES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: S. McMillan reviewed the three presented projects for the Dream Big 2.0 Grant. The Park, The Ball of Twin, and the Fitness Center. Each member of council discussed what the projects they thought brought value to the community and would benefit the most from the grant. The council consensus was to give the full granted amount to the fitness center with the Ball of Twine QR code to be funded outside of the grant and the other projects to be looked at for restoration or improvement grants in the future. S. McMillan made the motion for the Dream Big 2.0 Grant to be awarded entirely to the Fitness Center Project C. Suter Seconded Motion carried 5 AYES

The QR Code for the Ball of Twine project to be funded outside of the grant funds, possibly the tourism fund for \$350.00 J. Wise made the motion C. Suter Seconded Motion carried 5 AYES

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Budget Hearing 7:00 PM September 10th prior to
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Glen Elder council selects colors for wayfinding signs

The Glen Elder City Council met in regular session on Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m., September 2, 2025, at City Hall with Mayor Sheila Paxson presiding and council members: Lindsey Clark, Landen Cleveland, Kevin Noller, and Angie Behymer present. Also in attendance: Jason & Karm Cherek, Brandon & Carrie Tritsch, Code Officer Lucas Wiseman, Devon Housh, and Jerri Senger.

Minutes & Claims

The minutes of the August 4 & 11, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Angie made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 4th meeting and the special meeting held on August 11th. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

The claims on hand for the month of August amounted to \$138,739.49, plus the outstanding Sunflower Electric Power, Rolling Hills Electric, and WorldPay bills were reviewed. Landen made a

motion to approve the claims. Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Dream Big 2.0 Grant Committee Report

With no reports from the Dream Big 2.0 Grant Committees, the clerk was asked to email the groups and invite them to the October 6th meeting.

Code Enforcement

Lucas Wiseman, Code Enforcement Officer, went over this code report from last month. The city crew was too busy in August to get the parking lines painted in front of Mike Louthan's building, but will get it done in September. Lucas mentioned some of the complaints he had received from Brandon Tritsch about Louthan's business. The council stated they did not feel comfortable discussing Louthan's business without him present. Lucas will invite Mike to the October 6th meeting.

The council asked the clerk to invite the attorney to the next meeting with an

update on the Vine Street Property.

New properties needing attention were discussed. Lucas will contact the property owners.

Grants

The clerk had no new updates on the KCC 40101(d) Electric Grant.

The clerk mentioned the TOWNS grant park benches are near the flag in the square and the picnic table is in the Market Street Park under the tree. The new spinner will arrive this week and the city crew will be installing it and the tire mulch, in the Market Street Park. The council selected blue with white lettering for the new wayfinding signs. The clerk will get the signs ordered and the city crew will start on the frames.

The clerk stated North Central Regional Planning Commission will apply for the KWO FY2026 Grant on behalf of the city this month.

The clerk briefly mentioned receiving notice

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Commissoners approve engineering contract

Call to Order - The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Monday, September 2, 2025. Chairman Tom Claussen and member Mike Riemann along with Heather Weston, County Clerk, were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum – None

Consent Agenda - The consent agenda was approved on motion by Mike Riemann. The motion was seconded by Tom Claussen and carried 2-0. The consent agenda consisted of the Agenda for September 2, 2025, the commission meeting minutes for August 25, 2025, the Accounts Payable Warrants September 2, 2025 and Employee Payroll for August 29, 2025.

Melinda Latham, Ap-

praiser, was present and explained the procedural compliance letter from the state, dealing with the appraiser's office, read last week by the commission.

Stuart Porter, Schwab Eaton, and Marty Hernandez, Road & Bridge, were present with the engineering service contract between the Mitchell County and Schwab Eaton. The contract states engineering costs are not to exceed \$53,400. Mike Riemann moved that the contract was approved and signed as stated. The motion was seconded by Tom Claussen and carried 2-0.

Carol Torkelson, NCRPC, was present for the close out hearing for the CDBG grant 23-CVR-19. The hearing was opened at 9:00 a.m. With no discussion, the hearing was closed. Mike Riemann moved to close out the proj-

ect and sign the Grant Close-Out Transmittal Form. The motion was seconded by Tom Claussen and carried 2-0.

Terrence Silvia, Communications, was present to inform the commission the estimate for a battery backup came in at \$60,000. This is too costly and he decided the department will do it in house for cheaper. Silvia requested the use of remaining LATCF funds towards the cost of the battery backup. The commissioners agreed to table this discussion till next week since other departments have also requested use of these funds.

Phillip Murrow and Nash Smith, Carr Creek Township, were present to discuss the cost to rock roads in Cawker and Carr Creek Townships. The roads had to be rocked be-

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Gasper named nominee for Heart of Healthcare award



Janelle Gasper

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems is proud to announce that Janelle Gasper was honored at the KHA Awards Luncheon during the 2025 KHA Annual Convention on September 5th. She was recognized as a nominee for the Heart of Healthcare Worker Award, a testament to her skill, expertise, and unwavering commitment to serving others with dignity and empathy.

Gasper, who serves as Insurance and Collections Clerk, was chosen by her

colleagues for her compassion, dedication, and the quiet yet powerful role she plays in supporting patients and their families. For more than a decade, she has helped people navigate the complexities of billing systems, insurance claims, and financial aid programs with patience, clarity, and genuine care.

Though her work often takes place behind the scenes, Gasper's impact on patients is significant. Whether assisting families through the Medicaid application process for long-term care placement or guiding patients facing serious illnesses through financial challenges, she consistently goes above and beyond to ease burdens and bring peace of mind during some of life's most difficult moments.

In reflecting on her nomination, Gasper shared, "My heart has always been to serve people, especially the vulnerable and elderly.

Once our medical staff has taken care of their physical bodies, I step in and help in any way possible with the financial stressors—the worry and fear that unexpected medical bills bring to patients and their families. I love to help people, and it is truly my heart's calling."

Beyond her direct work with patients, Gasper is also recognized as a trusted colleague at MCHHS, who fosters positivity, respect, and teamwork in the workplace. Her professionalism, kindness, and integrity have earned her admiration across the organization.

Lakeside Homecoming week

The Lakeside Knights are celebrating Homecoming this week with a variety of events.

Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m. will be the Homecoming Cruise with Bonfire to Follow.

Then on Friday at 2:30 p.m. the Homecoming Pep Rally will be held.

Knight Club Tailgate will then start at 5:45 p.m. featuring chili cheese Dogs.

Just before the football game at 6:30 p.m. is the Homecoming royalty Crowning Ceremony.

At 7:00 the undefeated Knights face off against the Logan/Palco Trojans (1-1).

The high school Homecoming Dance will be held at Memorial Hall following the game



HOMECOMING COURT: The Lakeside Homecoming King and Queen candidates are, back row, left to right, Maddox Bergmann, John Schoen, and Landon Baetz. Back row, left to right, Tatum Miller, Addison Schmitt, and Zayda Ballard. (Courtesy photo).

News Office still closed

The newspaper office located in Downs remains closed to the public until the position of editor is filled. Applicants can call 785-454-3514 for more information or email downsnews@ruraltel.net.

While the physical office is closed, the phones will be answered from 9 a.m until 5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, and emails will be checked. Mail will be checked weekly, so you can still submit news items and subscription payments through the mail or by dropping off at the office, 717 Railroad, Downs.

News items, including photos, and advertising submissions can be sent via email for the weekly edition to: downsnews@ruraltel.net