

Blue Mound Council holds revenue neutral exceedance hearing; 2026 budget approved

BY ANGELA K. HOLT
LINN COUNTY NEWS

On Tuesday, Sept. 2, council members for the city of Blue Mound opened their revenue neutral hearing for public comment. With no public present, the council voted and approved Resolution 2025-01, stating that the 2026 budget would need to exceed the city’s revenue neutral rate. The hearing was then closed, and Mayor Russell Beth opened the city’s budget hearing. Council members reviewed the budget as presented. With no public comment, the council then voted and adopted the proposed 2026 budget. The budget hearing was

then closed, and the regular monthly meeting of Blue Mound City Council was called to order.

Council members voted and approved the 2026 budget as presented to them in the budget hearing.

A date was also voted on and approved to hold a hearing for the State Revolving Loan Fund Program, provided by KDHE. The date for the hearing will be held on Monday, Oct. 6, at 6:16 p.m., in City Hall. The council’s regular monthly meeting will coincide with this hearing.

A brief discussion was had by council members over obtaining signs for the city lake. The county would put up and maintain the signs, but the city of Blue Mound would be responsible for the purchase cost. It was decided that the council would turn down this offer for the time being.

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MASS TEXT: WATER BILLS

FROM PAGE A1

requested the backing of codes to enforce the shutoffs.

Councilman Bill Skipper commented that one letter a year is sent out, per code, stating that is the notification of water shutoffs 24-hours before the disconnect is made due to non-payment of a water bill.

Skipper said that due to unruly people, the city was not inclined to put disconnect notices on doors, but questioned sending out a letter.

He said, “We have to notify people some way.”

City Administrator Becky Hegwald said, “The code book needs to be updated.”

With that she told the council that the first shutoff will have zero fee attached, the second would cost the meter user

\$50 and then there is a \$100 fee for shutting off the meter.

Councilman Aaron Portmann questioned if the city could use a text service to give notice.

Hegwald questioned how much employee labor would be put into it and said, “It’ll take an employee a while to do it.”

Deputy City Clerk Candy Houtman said that “one-quarter (phone numbers) are not serviceable, a written notice costs \$10.48 per letter – that’s why the city went to one letter per year.”

Mayor Mathew Young asked Skipper if he were looking for a second water bill notice and with that the day of employee’s time.

Skipper questioned sending out a letter in January with no more communication with the customer until their water is shut off.

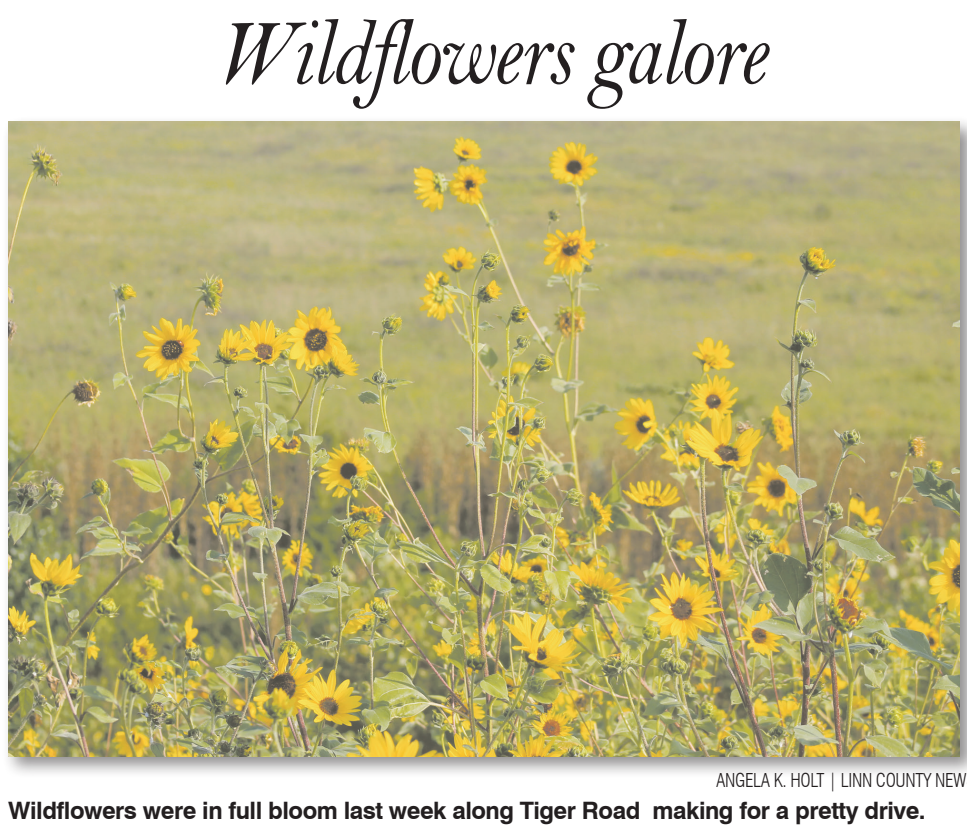
Houtman said that one-half of the account information is not current, the notices are refused in the mail, people have moved out and not given notice to the city and more.

Portmann questioned using email to send water bills and Houtman said a mass text informing people of the shutoff date might work.

The city employees, meanwhile, are updating meter user information so they can begin sending out text alerts of shutoff times.

Young asked that residents be kind to city employees as it is not their fault the bill wasn’t prepaid.

The city posted a shutoff date on their Facebook site last week.



Wildflowers were in full bloom last week along Tiger Road making for a pretty drive.

Bleeding Kansas: The factions that killed

On Saturday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. the Miami County Historical Museum presents Dr. Kendall Gott, Maj. (Retired) from Fort Leavenworth College of Military History, who will

share the events which led to an eruption of the most violent times this county had experienced since the Revolutionary War some 80 years prior. Violence from both sides created an almost unbearable situation for our pioneering Kansas forefathers.

How did one survive living in Bleeding Kansas

when the neighbor on your left was an outspoken, violent pro-slavery advocate and your neighbor on the right was an outspoken, violent free-state advocate? Voicing your true opinion could mean harm not only to yourself, but also your family!

Join us for a glimpse into a tumultuous era

when even “sitting on the fence” could destroy your peace and threaten your very existence.

The Miami County Museum is a 501 (C) (3) designated not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization.

There is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

NUDITY: RESOLUTION APPROVED

FROM PAGE A1

nudity” that include but are not limited to public restrooms, enclosed single-sex functional shower or locker/dressing rooms, enclosed motel/hotel rooms designed for sleeping accommodations, medical offices, and designated portions of hospitals/medical clinics.

Resolution exceptions are for children less than 6 years old, breastfeeding, or “any theater, concert hall, art center, museum or similar establishment that is primarily devoted to the arts or theatrical performances in which nudity is incorporated into the artistic or theatrical presentation and is not used as a guise to exploit nudity for profit or commercial gain” and where it is “incorporated into an educational curriculum at an accredited university, technical school or institution where courses are eligible for transfer to such institutions.”

The penalty for a convicted violation, a Class C misdemeanor, is up to 30 days in the county jail

and up to a \$500 fine. If any provision or section is deemed invalid or unconstitutional, the resolution allows unaffected provisions to remain valid.

Among other highlights from last week’s meeting:

–Upon the recommendation of Jesse Walton, public works director, the Commission named Daniel Parsons as north (La Cygne) road shop foreman and Rodney Honn as the south (Mound City) shop foreman, both at a \$23.7815 hourly rate.

–Commissioners okayed Walton’s recommendation to pay labor costs of \$3,200 to Hi-Tech Interiors, Lawrence, to soundproof the Judicial Center’s jury and court rooms using existing materials.

–The Commission accepted a request from Randy Hegwald, emergency management and rural fire coordinator, to purchase a federal surplus Ford F-450 to be converted into a brush unit for Station No. 950, La Cygne, and be paid from the special equipment fund.

–Following a 20-minute executive session for non-elected personnel employee performance, the Commission accepted Walton’s recommendation to cancel credit cards issued to Mike Chappell, maintenance department, and Ben Souza, county Planning and Zoning director.

–Souza noted the retirement of Jim Schmitz, Parker, as surveyor and told the Commission he was finalizing a contract with Timothy Sloan, Manhattan. Hearing that commercial delivery services would be needed to transport original survey documents, Commission Chair Jim Johnson asked that Sloan be used only until a surveyor closer in proximity be found.

–The Commission approved Evergy’s request to conduct ditching and culvert work along 2400 Road at the corporation’s expense.

–The Commission approved weekly claims totaling \$215,292.99.

LaCygne Christian Church Invites **YOU** to our Annual Missions Banquet **FREE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
SEATING BEGINS AT 5:30 P.M. BUFFET BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.
OUR MENU WILL BE KANSAS CITY BBQ
PULLED PORK
BAKED BEANS
ASSORTED SALADS
POTATO SIDES
ALONG WITH YUMMY DESSERT.
DINNER IS FREE - DONATIONS JOYFULLY GO TO MISSIONS.

After Dinner We Will Hear Exciting Stories & Updates From Our Missionaries. The Great Commission In Action.

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