

NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Stephanie Jump at (620) 896-7311 or email sjump@kcnonline.com

HARPER COUNTY COMMISSION, *Aug. 18 Meeting*

The Harper County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Waldschmidt called the meeting to order with Commissioners Struble and McCurley. Shonda Larson, Finance Director/Board Assistant, and Ami DeLacerda, County Clerk/Director of HR were also present. Daniel Ward, of Anthony, was also present.

Daniel Ward gave public comment, expressing his opinion that the Sheriff’s Office has slandered him by posting a video on social media of him removing items from the Family Dollar trash bin, and indicating he is doing something illegal in the video. He also claims that his Open Records request was not adequately fulfilled. He is requesting a formal apology from the Sheriff’s Office, and to have the video removed from social media. Commissioner Waldschmidt and Ms. DeLacerda attempted

to explain that his request will be passed along to the Sheriff, however, the Sheriff does not report to the County Commissioners. Mr. Ward expressed frustration at this, and was advised by Commissioner McCurley to contact his attorney if he wanted to take further action.

Commissioner McCurley moved to approve the 8/15/2025 payroll in the amount of \$153,063.83; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McCurley moved to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$111,169.37; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McCurley moved to approve the 8/11/2025 Meeting Minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Bennet and Janet Slankard, Public Works, met with the Board, and answered some fuel billing questions, explaining that fuel from the original tanks were coded and

billed differently than current contracted fuel. They also discussed the 2026 bid/contract process. Commissioner McCurley moved to approve an Inordinate Spending Request to Van Deist Supply in the amount of \$8754.00 for Noxious Weed Chemical; the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Struble moved to approve the Inordinate Spending Request to CAT Financial in the amount of \$65,940.00 to pay off the Soil Compactor; the motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about staffing, the upcoming Labor Day holiday, and the option to contract labor on certain projects. Commissioner Struble moved to approve the Inordinate Spending Request to Bedrock Machinery in the amount of \$13,887.00 for an 84” pad foot shell; the motion passed unanimously.

Various road and bridge maintenance needs throughout the county were discussed, along with rock options for roads.

At 9:02 a.m. Commissioner McCurley moved to enter Executive Session. The justification for closing the meeting is to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The open meeting will resume at 9:07 a.m. in this room. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bennett and Ms. DeLacerda remained in the meeting. The regular meeting resumed at 9:07 a.m. with no binding action taken.

Pat Noble with Murphy

Tractor met with the Board to discuss lease and purchase options for equipment, and the recent demo of a road grader for the Public Works department. The group discussed going out for bid on new graders.

Heather Struble, Health Dept gave a service update, advising of a reduction in client interactions, fair activities, the annual Preparedness Grant funding, and the Vaxcare program. There have been three animal bites investigated this month, and sources say that Kansas is still at high risk for West Nile Virus.

At 9:24 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to enter Executive Session. The justification for closing the meeting is to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The open meeting will resume at 9:30 a.m. in this room. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Struble and Ms. DeLacerda remained in the meeting. The regular meeting resumed at 9:30 a.m. with no binding action taken.

The Board and Ms. Struble discussed staffing needs and opted to drop one vacant RN position and use those budgeted wages to increase the remaining RN position and Attendant Care Provider wages.

Shonda Larson, Finance Director/Board Assistant, presented a health reserve transfer for August, which was approved. Commissioner Struble moved to approve July transfers in the amount

of \$14,998.456; the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Larson then presented a financial update.

At 9:46 a.m., Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to recess for five minutes; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting reconvened at 9:51 a.m.

Ami DeLacerda, County Clerk/Director of Human Resources, met with the Board. Commissioner Struble moved to approve an Inordinate Spending Request to Amazon in the amount of \$2,499.99 for a desktop scanner for the Clerk’s Office, paid from their Technology fund; the motion passed unanimously. The Board reviewed and approved a 6-month evaluation, and declined an opportunity to shop the Property, Auto and Liability insurance coverage this year.

At 10:05 a.m., Commissioner McCurley moved to enter Executive Session. The justification for closing the meeting is to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The open meeting will resume at 10:15 a.m. in this room. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. DeLacerda remained in the meeting. At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to extend 10 minutes; the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting resumed at 10:25 a.m. with no binding action taken.

Richard Raleigh, County Counselor, presented Resolution 2025-11, permitting

and regulating the towing of motor vehicles from private property. Commissioner Struble moved to approve the resolution; the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Raleigh also presented Resolution 2025-12 extending a moratorium and suspending certain types of improvements on land within the unincorporated area of Harper County; Commissioner Struble moved to approve the resolution; the motion passed unanimously.

The Board advised Mr. Raleigh of Mr. Ward’s concerns voiced during Public Comment this morning.

The group discussed if it was the Commissioners’ responsibility to attend planning and zoning committee meetings, or if the committee should attend the regular Commissioner meeting instead. Mr. Raleigh expressed the importance of not making decisions, and not allowing the perception that decisions are being made, outside of regular Commission Meetings.

Mr. Raleigh advised that we received confirmation that Flat Ridge V is operational as of last week, and that the company is now owned and operated by Public Service Company of Oklahoma, who will work with Invenergy to ensure a smooth transition.

They have stated they will remit their contribution payment within 30 days and have a decommissioning agreement

See **MINUTES** / Page 6

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025) 1t

RESOLUTION NO. 925-25

A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE STRUCTURE LOCATED ON THE WEST HALF OF LOT 02 AND ALL OF LOT 03 IN BLOCK 32 OF THE ORIGINAL ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HARPER, HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS, COMMONLY KNOWN AND REFERRED TO AS 401 EAST NINTH STREET HARPER, KANSAS, IS UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS AND DIRECTING THAT THE STRUCTURE BE REPAIRED AND THE PREMISES MADE SAFE AND SECURE.

WHEREAS, the Enforcing Officer of the City of Harper, Kansas did on the 14th day of July, 2025, file with the governing body of said City a statement in writing that a certain structure, hereinafter described, was unsafe and dangerous; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body did by Resolution No. 914-25 dated the 14th day of July, 2025, fix the time and place of a hearing at which the owner, his or her agent, and lienholders, any occupants and all other parties of interest of such structure could appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, and provided for giving notice thereof as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 914-25 was published in the official city paper on the 17th day of July, 2025, and on the 24th day of July, 2025, and a copy of said resolution was served upon all persons entitled thereto as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of August, 2025, the governing body did conduct the hearing scheduled in Resolution No. 914-25 and took evidence from the following: the enforcing officer on behalf of the city. The following parties in interest failed to appear or appeared and did not present evidence: Brain Haroldo Escobar.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS, THAT:

1. The governing body hereby finds that the structure located at:

West Half of Lot 02 and All of Lot 03 in Block 32 of the Original Addition to the City of Harper, Harper County, Kansas

and commonly known and referred to as 401 E. 9th St., Harper, Kansas, is unsafe and dangerous and directs that such structure is to be repaired and the premises made safe and secure. Repairs to be made and completed are: foundation repaired, roof repaired, windows and doors replaced with functional windows and doors.

2. The owner of such structure is hereby directed to commence the repair of the property within not later than the 29th day of August, 2025, and to have the repairs completed not later than the 24th day of November, 2025. Provided, that upon due application by the owner and for good cause shown, the governing body, in its sole discretion, may grant the own additional time to complete the repairs to the property.

3. If the owner fails to commence the repair of the structure within the time stated herein, or any additional time granted by the governing body, or fails to diligently prosecute the same until the work is completed, the governing body will cause the structure to be razed and removed and the costs of razing and removing, less salvage if any, shall be collected in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,1115, and amendments thereto or shall be assessed as a special assessment against the lot of parcel of land upon which the structure is located or by both, all as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the owner fails to commence the repair of the structure within the time provided herein or fails to diligently prosecute the same, the governing body may take such further action as it deems necessary to raze and remove the structure without further notice to the owner or other parties in interest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this Resolution to be published once in the official city paper and mail a copy to the owner, agents, lienholders, occupants, and other parties in interest.

Adopted this 25th day of August, 2025,

Eric Latta, Mayor
(SEAL)
ATTEST:

Tiffany M. Cooperrider, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025) 1t

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

2026

The governing body of

Harper

will meet on September 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall 201 W. Main St. Harper, KS 67058 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Hall 201 W. Main St. Harper, KS 67058 and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

| FUND | Prior Year Actual for 2024 | | Current Year Estimate for 2025 | | Proposed Budget for 2026 | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Expenditures | Actual Tax Rate * | Expenditures | Actual Tax Rate * | Budget Authority for Expenditures | Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax | Proposed Estimated Tax Rate* |
| General | 1,083,062 | 51.558 | 1,062,982 | 43.554 | 1,128,348 | 575,624 | 46.571 |
| Debt Service | 61,851 | 4.818 | 88,451 | 3.453 | 159,113 | 22,482 | 1.819 |
| Library | 60,950 | 5.827 | 72,750 | 5.461 | 73,250 | 68,288 | 5.525 |
| Airport | 31,081 | | 16,500 | | 45,022 | 0 | 0.000 |
| Police & Fire Equipment | 22,690 | 2.147 | 29,209 | 2.266 | 31,209 | 29,216 | 2.364 |
| Employee Benefits | 189,761 | 17.624 | 202,817 | 16.108 | 216,286 | 179,363 | 14.512 |
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| Special Highway | 41,863 | | 366,800 | | 78,808 | | |
| Special Parks & Recreation | | | | | 41,351 | | |
| Equipment Reserve | 472,863 | | 363,523 | | 437,983 | | |
| Fire Equipment Reserve | 14,973 | | 600,000 | | 177,777 | | |
| Street Reserve | | | 55,000 | | 83,254 | | |
| Capital Improvement Progra | 36,925 | | 11,457 | | 60,958 | | |
| Economic Incentive | 17,960 | | 305,100 | | 155,758 | | |
| Transient Guest Tax | 27,964 | | 42,500 | | 92,475 | | |
| Infrastructure Sales Tax | 222,673 | | 307,735 | | 368,702 | | |
| Street/Infrastructure Sales T | 238,723 | | 1,377,679 | | 786,816 | | |
| Cobblestone CID | 66,817 | | | | 65,695 | | |
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| Water Utility | 619,237 | | 717,932 | | 761,172 | | |
| Sewer Utility | 279,625 | | 313,419 | | 334,148 | | |
| Water Reserve | 103,180 | | 173,750 | | 224,078 | | |
| Sewer Reserve | 7,500 | | 53,750 | | 561,674 | | |
| Non-Budgeted Funds-A | 40,427 | | | | | | |
| Non-Budgeted Funds-B | 3,771 | | | | | | |
| Non-Budgeted Funds-C | 13,788 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Totals for City | 3,657,684 | 81.974 | 6,161,354 | 70.842 | 5,883,877 | 874,974 | 70.791 |
| City Revenue Neutral Rate (excluding Recreation Commission)** | | | | | | | 71.871 |
| Recreation | 41,700 | 3.310 | 42,984 | 3.270 | 62,800 | 61,513 | 4.977 |
| Totals Includes Recreation | 3,699,384 | 85.284 | 6,204,338 | 74.112 | 5,946,677 | 936,487 | 75.768 |
| Less: Transfers | 368,367 | | 599,138 | | 372,888 | | |
| Net Expenditure | 3,331,017 | | 5,605,200 | | 5,573,789 | | |
| Total Tax Levied | 864,328 | | 888,311 | | xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | | |
| Assessed | | | | | | | |
| Valuation | 10,544,290 | | 12,539,513 | | 12,360,056 | | |

Outstanding Indebtedness,

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| January 1, | | | |
| G.O. Bonds | 2,925,200 | 2,595,700 | 3,260,000 |
| Revenue Bonds | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 22,001 | 14,741 | 0 |
| Lease Purchase Principal | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2,947,201 | 2,610,441 | 3,260,000 |

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Tiffany M. Cooperrider
City Official Title: City Administrator/Clerk