City Council

(Continued from Page 1)

2026 Gathering in the Grove, held in conjunction with Candlelight Charm.

Tiffany said the event will include a Friday evening dinner, guest speaker, entertainment and artist preview, followed by activities open to the public Saturday. She said she hopes to sell 100 tickets and bring in additional artists this year.

The council approved the $5,000 request 4-2, with councilors Nathan Adams and Stephen McKnight voting against it.

Larry Rose and Jan Sciacca presented a promotional sales tax request on behalf of the Bowers Center for improvements to the public restrooms at 325 W. Main.

The proposed work includes automated door controls, door repairs or replacement and electrical improvements for automatic lighting. The restrooms, developed through a Kansas Department of Transportation project in the 1990s, remain available to travelers, tourists and residents year-round.

Wadick said the facility is particularly valuable for motorcoach and trolley groups because it can accommodate large numbers of visitors at one location.

The project is estimated at $7,505.86. Under the city's 80/20 promotional grant arrangement, the Bowers Center will provide $1,501.17, with the city providing approximately $6,004.69.

The council approved the request, with Councilor Sharon Haun abstaining because of her involvement with the Bowers Center.

Two additional promotional sales tax requests came from Friends of the Kaw Heritage for expenses associated with the 2026 Kaw Councils and Intertribal Powwow during Washunga Days.

Councilor Jason Booker explained that the expenses had already been incurred and receipts submitted, but the grant applications had inadvertently not been presented for council approval.

The requests were for $1,000 for the Kaw Councils and $2,000 for the powwow. The council approved both 4-0, with Haun and Booker abstaining because of their involvement with Friends of the Kaw Heritage.

The council also approved a Planning and Zoning recommendation concerning the Council Grove City Lake plat.

Jones said the plat establishes roads, access and easements around the lake but does not address leasehold end caps or future individual boundary extensions. One effect will be changing routes currently classified as trails into official roads.

Following city approval, the plat will be presented to Morris County before returning through the planning and zoning process.

Additional requests associated with SethFest were also approved, including closure of a half-block of South Belfry Street from Main Street to the first alley, spraying Crim Park (Council Oak Park) for mosquitoes, addressing lighting at the gazebo and allowing use of an existing fire pit. McKnight abstained because of his involvement with SethFest.

The council also approved two City Lake Committee recommendations.

The first involved the C19 leasehold, where Bruce and Nancy Arnold requested a 15-foot boundary extension to allow construction of a detached garage. Councilor Taylor Adams, the contractor of record for the project, abstained. The request passed 4-1, with Nathan Adams voting against it.

The second involved the I30 leasehold, where Ben and Shelbye Smith requested a boundary adjustment for a planned attached garage. Approval was contingent upon final construction drawings being provided and the project beginning within the six-month permit period.

That request passed 5-1, with Nathan Adams voting against it.

Councilors Taylor Adams and McKnight also presented preliminary ideas for generating money to improve seven public park areas at Council Grove City Lake through naming rights.

Individuals, families or businesses could potentially bid for naming rights for a set period, with proceeds used for improvements such as signage, vegetation removal, water access and other amenities.

Council members agreed the proposal needs additional development and input from the Council Grove City Lake Association.

Discussion of a proposed sign for the city recreation complex ended without a final decision. Mayor Ryan McDonald said council members will consider how much the city is willing to spend and then determine what design fits that budget. The matter is expected to return to the next agenda.

The council also discussed the possible sale of city-owned property on Fairmont Street. City Attorney Stuart Symmonds will prepare draft language for a sealed-bid sale process for review at the next meeting.

No final decision was reached on the downtown streetscape design.

Symmonds also reported on his research concerning the city's UTV ordinance and the use of utility terrain vehicles on Main Street. Councilor Denise Hartman advocated for allowing UTVs on Main Street and questioned whether the city could modify its current restrictions. Symmonds said cities generally cannot adopt regulations less restrictive than state law. He will review Emporia's ordinances to determine how that city addresses UTV use.

The council also discussed the possibility of constructing a small pavilion at the north end of the Neosho Riverwalk. McDonald said an individual has expressed interest in donating $5,000 toward the project. He plans to ask the Council Grove Rotary Club about possible participation, with more information expected at a future meeting.

During governing body comments, council members expressed enthusiasm for SethFest this weekend.

REMINISCING

(from the files of the Council Grove Republican)

1976

Rev. and Mrs. Bob Southard and Shirley Winter to represent First Baptist Church as delegates to Kansas Baptist convention in El Dorado …Lois Mayer is "artist of the month" at Council Grove High School… Geneva Honas, Regina Kidd, Diana Lewis, Ron Malek, Doug Hutchinson and Jed Barnes are CGHS homecoming queen and king candidates.

1986

Don and Bonnie Kraus sell Old Trail Motel to Ed and Susan Dunegan…Cary Mock, Wilsey, and Benjamin Shubert, Americus, are cast members for homecoming musical, "Brigadoon" at Emporia State University.

1996

Council Grove captures girls title for fourth consecutive year during Council Grove Invitational high school cross country meet; in the junior varsity girls race Erin McGettrick edges out Julie Jernigan for first place…Seth Scripter leads local yearlings with 84 yards on 21 carries, with Dusty Spauling adding 64 yards on 10 trips and making only touchdown for the Braves in loss to Santa Fe Trail.

2006

CGHS homecoming queen and king candidates are Cheyenne Erichsen, Whitney Cowdin, Abby Switzer, Tanner Messer, Blake Mayer and Ethan Miller…Natalie Sellers cards a 41 for medalist honors during CG Invitational high school girls golf tourney…Tyson Fore makes two touchdowns when Braves' junior varsity defeats Northern Heights.

2016

Ranch Rodeo celebrating its 30th anniversary – the first ranch rodeo in the state was sponsored by the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association at Council Grove; Bruce Gant, lifelong Council Grove rancher, competed in that first Morris County Invitational Ranch Rodeo, and is honored in a special ceremony along with his wife, Rita, and son, Jim.



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MISC.

"The 36-Hour Day" Support Group meets 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays at the Morris County Hospital Chapel. It is free, safe, confidential and open to anyone caring for a friend or loved one with dementia. For info, call Jan at 303-775-5901 or Liz at 785-466-1590.

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Softball Club blesses

(Continued from Page 1)

Despite unpredictable weather and schedule delays this year, six teams took part in the tournament. Family Ties finished as the tournament champion.

The Council Grove Softball Club traditionally organizes benefit tournaments before and after its fall league, using the events to support local organizations and causes.

Club members thanked the players, fans, volunteers, community merchants and businesses whose participation, donations and sponsorships helped make this year's tournament successful and provided support for Council Grove-area seniors.

EMAIL YOUR NEWS TO
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SEEKING BIDS

Morris County is seeking bids for a roof replacement for the Morris County Health Department. Sealed bids will be opened on Tuesday, October 20th at 11:00 a.m. in the Morris County Commissioner's Meeting Room.

Please contact the Morris County Clerk at cschmidt@morriscountyks.org or 620-767-5518 to obtain further information.

(Published in the Council Grove Republican on Wednesday, October 7, 2026)



NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
City of Herington
will meet on the October 20th, 2026 at 6:00 PM at City Hall, 17 N Broadway, Herington, KS 67449 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, 17 N Broadway, Herington, KS 67449 and will be available at this hearing.

SUPPORTING COUNTIES
Dickinson County (home county) Morris County

BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget.
Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual for 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget for 2027		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	2,336,709	43.483	2,332,648	43.662	2,635,645	609,930	43.561
Debt Service	185,170	4.534	76,600		84,500		
Library	73,020	5.234	93,578	6.066	98,014	84,088	6.006
Employee Benefit	541,886	32.616	553,382	37.283	582,225	465,602	33.253
Capital Improvement	222,148		159,486		128,635		
Special Highway	38,270		62,000		146,003		
Guest Tax	15,000		10,000		16,096		
Special Park	11,481		5,000		26,043		
Solid Waste	242,086		245,000		261,115		
Airport	770,043		289,350		331,021		
1980 & 2006 Sales Tax	300,000		200,000		217,860		
Storm Water	45,712		50,000		78,791		
Police Diversion			6,500		34,704		
2026 Sales Tax					195,000		
Equipment Reserve	13,024		20,000		130,196		
Light	3,480,607		3,340,519		3,705,937		
Water	1,448,824		1,184,676		1,159,417		
Sewer	580,801		428,933		535,000		
Non-Budgeted Funds	18,750						
Totals	10,323,531	85.867	9,057,672	87.011	10,366,202	1,159,620	82.820
						*Revenue Neutral Rate***	82.820
Less: Transfers	969,959		684,419		622,177		
Net Expenditure	9,353,572		8,373,253		9,744,025		
Total Tax Levied	1,086,239		1,163,045				
Assessed Valuation	12,650,255		13,366,911		14,001,611		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2024		2025		2026		
G.O. Bonds	630,000		4,745,625		4,270,365		
Revenue Bonds	5,122,457		1,006,832		653,121		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	369,910		294,847		291,258		
Total	6,122,367		6,047,304		5,214,744		

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

Megan Lawrenz
City Official Title: City Clerk

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