

Some simple ways to curb heating costs this winter

As fall gives way to winter, air conditioners typically get turned off and heaters get turned on. Home heating costs can quickly add up for home-

owners. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, heating a space is the single largest energy expense for American

households, accounting for roughly 42 percent of total residential energy consumption. However, individuals can implement certain strategies to

cut down on heating costs and optimize energy efficiency.

Manage the thermostat

Managing a home thermostat is a cost-effective and simple adjustment. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, turning a thermostat back by 7° to 10° F from its normal setting for eight hours a day can save up to 10 percent a year on heating bills. Utilizing the automated scheduling capabilities on programmable or smart thermostats enables people to program a lower baseline temperature when out at work or school and while sleeping.

Seal up the home

Warm air from indoors can easily escape through unsealed gaps in a home. Similarly, cold air from outdoors can infiltrate through the same spots. This causes heating units to work overtime. Studies from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy indicate combining window upgrades with high-efficiency heating systems can cut heating demands considerably. Also, applying weatherstripping and caulking can prevent drafts, while ensuring adequate attic insulation will create a tight thermal barrier.

Change the heat delivery

Upgrading a heating system to a more efficient one can save homeowners money. According to research by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, replacing traditional fossil-fuel furnaces with electric heat pumps can drastically reduce energy expenditures. Modern heat pumps deliver more thermal energy than the electrical energy they consume.

Homeowners have different options that may help them reduce their heating and energy bills.

Submitted by Metro Editorial Service.

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, September 17, 2026) 1t

ORDINANCE NO.866

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4-101, 4-102, and 4-105 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS, REDEFINING THE AREA OF THE FIRE LIMITS IN THE CITY, ADDRESSING PLACEMENT OF FOOD TRUCKS IN THE FIRE LIMITS; AND REPEALING ALL PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is no longer necessary for certain areas of the City of Hugoton to be included in the area defined as "fire limits" in Chapter IV of the Code of the City of Hugoton, Kansas; and .

WHEREAS, certain provisions should be made in the Code of the City of Hugoton, KS for the placement of food trucks within the "fire limits" of the City of Hugoton, Kansas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS:

Section 1. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4-101. Section 4-101 of the Code of the City of Hugoton, Kansas, is hereby replaced and amended in its entirety as follows.

4-101 FIRE LIMITS DEFINED. That portion of the City embraced in all of Block 45; all of Lots 1 to 19, inclusive, in Block 46; all of Lots 1 to 16, inclusive, and all of Lots 21 to 24, inclusive, all in Block 55; and all of Lots 9 to 24, inclusive, all in Block 56, lying within the City of Hugoton shall constitute and be known as the fire limits of the City of Hugoton, Kansas

Section 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4-102. Section 4-102 of the Code of the City of the City of Hugoton, Kansas, is hereby replaced and amended in its entirety as follows.

4-102. DEFINITIONS. Except where specifically defined herein, all words used in this article shall carry their customary meanings. The following are hereby specifically defined:

(a) Structure. Structure means a combination of materials other than a building to form a construction that is safe and stable. The term structure includes, but is not limited to, platforms, radio towers, sheds, storage bins and display signs. The term structure shall also include Food Trucks. For the purpose of this Chapter IV, "Food truck" means a motorized vehicle, trailer, or other mobile unit designed or equipped for the preparation, cooking, sale, or service of food or beverages to the public, whether operated from a fixed location or moved from place to place. The term includes mobile food units that prepare or serve food on-site and those that sell food or beverages prepared elsewhere. The term does not include a vehicle used solely for the delivery or transportation of food or beverages that are not sold directly to the public from the vehicle.

(b) Marquee. Marquee shall mean a permanent roofed structure attached to and supported by the building and projecting out from the building

Section 3. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4-105. Section 4-105 of the Code of the City of Hugoton, Kansas, is hereby replaced and amended in its entirety as follows.

4-105. PERMISSIBLE STRUCTURES. Permissible structures within the fire limits of the city shall be as follows:

- (a) No frame, ironclad or brick veneered structure shall hereafter be built in the fire limits except the following and all roofs placed upon such buildings or structures shall have a noncombustible covering:
 - (1) Temporary one-story frame buildings for use of builders;
 - (2) Temporary structures not exceeding 150 square feet in area and eight feet in height. Such structures shall not be located within five feet of any lot line, nor less than 30 feet from any other building over one story high.
- (b) No frame building shall be

moved from without to within the fire limits nor from place to place within said limits. (c) All structures built within the fire limits shall conform to the building code adopted by section 4-201 or the requirements of this article, whichever is the more restrictive. (d) No fences of any type of construction shall be permitted within the fire limits. (e) A food truck shall only be allowed within the fire limits of the city upon approval of the governing body, and with a determination that placement of a food truck will not create an unreasonable fire hazard. The governing body may set limits as to how long a food truck is placed in the fire limits. Upon approval by the governing body, the City Inspector shall have sole discretion as to where a food truck is placed within the fire limits and may require setbacks and any other measures the City Inspector sees fit to ensure that fire risks are kept to a minimum. (f) The governing body may, in certain instances, waive the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, provided that a determination is made by the governing body that the waiver will not create any fire hazard. Any applicant for such a waiver shall appear in person before the governing body and set forth in writing the reasons why the waiver should be granted.

Section 4. REPEAL. All parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption and publication in the Hugoton Hermes, the official city newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY of the City of Hugoton, Kansas, this 8th day of September, 2026.

/s/ Matthew Rome
Matthew Rome, Mayor

(SEAL)
/s/ Carrie Baeza
Carrie Baeza, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, September 17, 2026) 1t

ORDINANCE NO. 864

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public safety and welfare by regulating the operation of electric mobility devices upon public streets, sidewalks, alleys, trails, and other public rights-of-way within the City of Hugoton while remaining consistent with the laws of the State of Kansas.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) "Electric Mobility Device" means an electric-assisted scooter or electric bicycle. The term Electric Mobility Device does not include a motorized wheelchair, mobility scooter, or other power-driven mobility device designed and used primarily to provide mobility assistance to an individual with a disability as recognized under applicable federal or state law, when used for the purpose of personal mobility assistance.

(b) "Electric-Assisted Scooter" shall have the same meaning as provided by Kansas law. The term Electric-Assisted Scooter does not include a mobility scooter, or other power-driven mobility device designed and used primarily to provide mobility assistance to an individual with a disability as recognized under applicable federal or state law, when used for the purpose of personal mobility assistance.

(c) "Electric Bicycle" shall have the same meaning as provided by Kansas law. The term Electric-Bicycle does not include a mobility scooter, or other power-driven mobility device designed and used primarily to provide mobility as-

sistance to an individual with a disability as recognized under applicable federal or state law, when used for the purpose of personal mobility assistance.

(d) "Public Right-of-Way" means any public street, alley, sidewalk, trail, pathway, or other public property intended for travel.

SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY OF STATE LAW.

(a) Operators of electric mobility devices shall comply with all applicable provisions of Kansas law.

(b) Electric bicycles shall possess the same rights and duties applicable to bicyclists under Kansas law.

(c) Electric-assisted scooters shall possess the same rights and duties applicable to bicyclists under Kansas law unless otherwise provided by this ordinance.

SECTION 4. HELMETS FOR MINORS.

Any person under eighteen (18) years of age operating an electric mobility device upon a public right-of-way shall wear a properly fitted bicycle or motorcycle helmet.

SECTION 5. RECKLESS OPERATION PROHIBITED.

No person shall:

(a) Operate an electric mobility device in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner.

(b) Operate an electric mobility device while using a handheld cellular telephone or electronic device.

(c) Operate an electric mobility device while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any substance that impairs safe operation.

(d) Operate an electric mobility device in a manner that endangers any person or property.

(e) Perform stunts, tricks, jumps, wheelies, or other maneuvers that endanger persons or property upon a public right-of-way.

(f) Operate an electric mobility device in excess of the posted speed limit for motor vehicles.

SECTION 6. SIDEWALK OPERATION.

(a) Electric mobility devices may be operated upon sidewalks unless otherwise prohibited by law or City ordinance.

(b) Operators shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians while on sidewalks.

(c) Operators shall provide an audible warning before overtaking a pedestrian on sidewalks when reasonably necessary for safety.

SECTION 7. HIGHWAY AND STREET RESTRICTIONS.

(a) No person shall operate an electric mobility device upon U.S. Highway 56, Main Street, 6th Street, Washington Street, or any other state or federal highway located within the corporate limits of the City, except for the purpose of crossing at a lawful intersection or crossing point.

(b) No person shall operate an electric-assisted scooter upon any roadway having a posted speed limit of thirty-five (35) miles per hour or more, except for the purpose of crossing at a lawful intersection or crossing point.

SECTION 8. ELECTRIC SCOOTER REGULATIONS.

(a) No person under twelve (12) years of age shall operate an electric-assisted scooter upon a public right-of-way.

(b) A parent or guardian shall not knowingly permit a child under twelve (12) years of age to operate an electric-assisted scooter in violation of this ordinance.

(c) No person shall operate an electric-assisted scooter while carrying a passenger.

(d) No person shall attach an electric-assisted scooter to any moving vehicle.

SECTION 9. ELECTRIC BICYCLE REGULATIONS.

(a) Electric bicycles shall be operated in accordance with Kansas law.

(b) No person shall operate a Class 3 electric bicycle in violation

of any age restrictions imposed by Kansas law.

SECTION 10. LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS.

Any electric mobility device operated between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with lighting and reflectors as required by Kansas law.

SECTION 11. PARKING.

No person shall park or leave an electric mobility device in a manner that obstructs a sidewalk, crosswalk, entrance, exit, driveway, handicap access route, or public roadway.

SECTION 12. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Any violation of this ordinance shall constitute a municipal offense.

(b) Upon conviction, the offender shall be punished by a fine not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for a first offense and not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for a second or subsequent offense.

SECTION 13. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 14. REPEAL

This ordinance repeals any previously enacted ordinances or resolutions that are in conflict with the same.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval, and publication in the official city newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY of the City of Hugoton, Kansas, this 8th day of September, 2026.

/s/ Matthew Rome
Matthew Rome, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Carrie Baeza
Carrie Baeza, City Clerk

Notes from Nancy

by Wild West Extension District FACS Agent Nancy Honig

Board?

Now if you looked at the title and thought, I do get a little board sometimes, you are not thinking of the same kind of board I am. I am talking about the kind of boards that you serve on within your communities. Now, if that statement totally turned you off, I encourage you to keep reading!

According to nonprof-itpro.com, 28.3% of Americans (aged 16 and older) formally volunteer through an organization. But less than 0.2% of the U.S. population serves on a local government or school board at any given time. One of the things I have learned over my many years in Extension, is the importance of people serving, whether on a board, or as a volunteer for an organization or non-profit.

If you live in Haskell, Seward and Stevens Counties, and are a taxpayer, you are part of the K-State Extension Wild

West District. The Cooperative Extension Service is a national network that links university research to people's needs through practical education. With a presence in all 105 counties, Extension agents help connect local residents with the university's resources so they can solve problems and improve their lives, livelihoods, communities and state. The local extension board is a partner with K-State Extension and is responsible for oversight of the local educational program, supervision of the professional extension agent staff and establishing a budget. In the Wild West District there are four elected officials who serve a four-year term. They sign up in the spring to run for the board similar to how local school board members are elected.

We also have Program Development Committees (PDCs), which help identify educational resources to address local needs. The committee consists of six volunteers for each of four committees that focus on the following areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources • Community Development • Family and Consumer Sciences • 4-H Youth Development.

Working with agents, PDC members understand and promote the mission of K-State Extension and serve their communities by:

- Expanding committee membership to ensure representation of important constituencies in local communities considering geographic distribution, age, gender, race or other factors.
- Identifying needs and issues of agricultural

producers, communities, families and youth.

- Noting audiences in the county or district who are not being served and developing a proactive plan to engage them.

We are working in the district to update our committees and look for individuals who are willing to serve as members on some of these committees. As extension agents we look to the people we serve to better understand the wants and needs within each of our counties. We have agents that cover a wide depth of subjects with their expertise but we need help to narrow down the priorities each year.

If you are eighteen years or older and live in one of the counties in the district you are eligible to serve. The PDC committees to not take up a great deal of time, but they serve an important service to help us serve our communities better. For more information you can contact any of the agents in the Wild West District at your local extension office.

Remember, if you are "board" we can certainly take care of that!

Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer, and is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, vision, or hearing disability or a dietary restriction please contact your local extension office.

Senior Lifestyles

624 S. Main, Hugoton • 620-544-2283

Hello everyone. It is finally starting to feel like fall! The first official day of fall is September 22 and I am ready for it. We had a wonderful time at the dance with 48 people present. Bob Walters did an amazing job keeping the dance floor full. It's almost time for Bingo Night! Bingo Night is September 24. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. and games begin at 6:30. The next Grace and Gather Table is September 28. We hope to see you soon!

Menu

September 16Bacon
.....Sausage
September 17Spag-
.....hetti & Meatballs
September 18Grilled
.....Chicken Patty
September 21Bierock

September 22Fish
September 23 ...Chicken
.....Fried Steak
September 24Pork
.....Loin
September 25Chili
Activities
Wednesday, September 16
Cards12:30 p.m.
Friday, September 18
Bingo12:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 19
Cards6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 22
First Day of Fall
Dominoes12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 23
Cards12:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 24
Bingo Night.....6:30 p.m.
Friday, September 25
Bingo12:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 26
Cards6:00 p.m.