

CITY COUNCIL

From page 1

FLICT THEREWITH.

The Council also approved Ordinance 865 AN ORDINANCE OPENING PORTIONS OF WEST 12TH STREET AND SOUTH POLK STREET LOCATED IN THE DR. NANNIE STEPHENS ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS. And Ordinance 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.

Clerk Baeza brought up to the council an issue with utilities since the sale of the distribution. The city has several customers that are on a shared water meter. Currently the landlord/property owner pays the water for the property. The customers will now only be responsible for the sanitation, sewer, and water improvement. Because of this, there is no recourse that can be taken for unpaid utilities. Baeza recommendation was to assess these charges to the property owner on the water bill. The council decided to table this action.

Councilman Martin reviewed the longevity pay structure for the employees. City Attorney Foreman and Clerk Baeza will look into the changes concerning the budget and the codes.

Supervisor Smith presented the council with two new hires to fill vacancies in his department. The Council voted to hire Cody Perez and move Marco Amador to full time.

Supervisor Smith requested a merit raise for Abraham Garcia. Motion was approved to raise Abraham Garcia.

Claims against the city were presented and audited. Motion was approved that Appropriation Ordinances No. 2301 and 2302 be passed.

The meeting went into executive session under KSA 75-4319(b)(1) for non-elected personnel. The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting went into executive session under KSA 75-4319(b)(1) for non-elected personnel.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

The Council voted to give Supervisor Robert the authority to hire an employee from a different department after all application requirements are met.

The Council voted that the meeting move into executive session under KSA 75-4319(b)(2) for consultation with attorney Nathan Foreman, which would be deemed privileged in the attorney client relationship for the purpose of discussing litigation. The meeting reconvened at 8:08 pm.

The meeting adjourned.

The city council met in regular session Monday, Augutst 3 with Mayor Matthew Rome; Councilman Dean Banker, Chris Harper, Dustin Johnson, Tony Martin and Brad Niehuies present.

Others present were City Clerk Carrie L. Baeza, City Inspector Josh Grubbs, Chief of Police Courtney Leslie, Outside Utilities Supervisor Robert Smith and City Attorney Nathan Foreman, Chance Campbell, Dennis Klatt and Rachel Crane.

President of the Council Dustin Johnson called the meeting to order.

Council approved the minutes of the meeting of July 6, 2026, as sent.

Each member of the governing body was provided with a copy of Municipal Judge Damon Simmons' report for the month of July, showing 17 new cases brought before the court and \$5,006.50 remitted to the city. Council accepted the report.

City Inspector Josh Grubbs provided his monthly activities report.

The Assembly of God requested that the block of Second Street from Main to Monroe be blocked off September 5 for Community Night Out September 6. The Council approved the street closure.

Chance Campbell with DC's Last Call came to the council to ask about the ability to have food trucks at his place of business. Discussion was had about the fire limits and the restriction of food trucks in the fire limit area.

Mayor Rome arrived at 5:36 pm.

Mr. Campbell provided a list of dates that he would like to have food trucks available. Motion was made and approved to allow food trucks at DC's Last Call, with approval from City Inspector Grubbs, August 15 and 28, September 10, 25 and 26, October 2, 10, 23 and 31.

Dennis Klatt came in to discuss a streetlight that was moved from the northeast corner of the intersection at Adams Street and Third Street to the southeast corner. With the moving of the light, it is now shining directly in his house and disrupting his sleep. Supervisor Smith informed the council that the move was made because of drivers turning into the canal instead of Third Street. The Council approved the motion to have Supervisor Smith coordinate the return of the light to the original location.

Chance Campbell also mentioned the lack of signage at Raydene Park per the agreement between his grandparents and the city when the property was given as a park. Supervisor Smith and Clerk Baeza will investigate signage.

Clerk Baeza presented outstanding utility bills in the amount of \$3,850.83 to be charged off. The Council approved the motion to charge off the outstanding utility bills instructing Clerk Baeza to make every effort to collect.

Motion and approved to pass Ordinance No. 892: AN ORDINANCE REGULATING TRAFFIC WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS; INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE "STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FOR KANSAS CITIES," EDITION OF 2026; DEFINING TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS AND TRAFFIC OFFENSES; PROVIDING CERTAIN PENALTIES; AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 882, AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

Motion was made and approved to pass Ordinance No. 893: AN ORDINANCE REGULATING

PUBLIC OFFENSES WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS; INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE "UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE FOR KANSAS CITIES," EDITION OF 2026; WITH CERTAIN OMISSIONS, CHANGES AND ADDITIONS, AS DETAILED HEREIN; PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS; AND REPEALING THE "UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE, 2025 EDITION," INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 881; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

City Attorney Foreman has coordinated with an attorney specializing in benefits. Motion was made and approved to have the mayor execute the engagement letter with Stinson LLP to assist the city with retiree health and welfare benefits.

Clerk Baeza presented the council with a look at the 2027 budget. There is no increase in the Revenue Neutral Rate, and she will continue to look for cuts as it is finalized. She will take the recommended changes for the budget hearing to be held at the September meeting.

Chief Leslie requested Officer Kambry McDowell be moved into the position as Detective for the Hugoton Police Department with a raise. Motion was made and approved to move Officer Kambry McDowell to Detective with a raise.

Councilman Johnson presented a proposal from Stoppel Dirt to repair the pond at the golf course. After discussion, a motion was made and approved for the proposal from Stoppel Dirt of \$38,055.48 to make repairs of the golf course pond to be paid out of Golf Course Expansion fund.

Claims against the city were presented and audited. Motion was made and approved that Appropriation Ordinances No. 2299 and 2300 be passed.

The meeting adjourned.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, September 3, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF STEVENS COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES HOLCOMB, A/K/A CHARLES ARTHUR HOLCOMB, DECEASED

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

Case No. SV-2026-PR-000023

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on August 25, 2026, a petition was filed in this Court by Melinda Imler, an heir, devisee, and legatee, of Charles Holcomb a/k/a Charles Arthur Holcomb, deceased, requesting the will filed with the petition be admitted to probate and record; petitioner be appointed as Administrator CTA, without bond; petitioner be granted Letters of Administration CTA.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before September 24, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the District Court, Stevens County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Jeremiah Johnson
Jeremiah Johnson, #21968
Graber & Johnson Law Group, LLC
701 Vilymaca Street, PO Box 450
Elkhart, KS 67950
P: (620) 697-2163
F: (785) 565-0294
jeremiah@graberjohnson.com
Attorneys for Petitioner



HIGH PLAINS THEATRE

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618 S MAIN ST., HUGOTON, KS



SPIDER-MAN:
BRAND NEW DAY
LIVE ACTION
SAT., SEPT. 19 7PM
&
SUN., SEPT. 20
4PM

PRACTICALL MAGIC 2
SAT., SEPT. 26
&
SUN., SEPT. 27



HUGOTON VS SCOTT CITY
FRI., OCT. 2
7PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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State of Kansas
Special District
2027

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The Community is invited to the upcoming Missing Persons and Human Trafficking Seminar

The community is invited to attend an upcoming Missing Persons and Human Trafficking Seminar, sponsored by K-State Extension, Wild West District. This will be an educational event focused on increasing awareness, understanding, and preparedness surrounding two critical issues that can affect individuals, families and communities.

The seminar will provide valuable information about missing persons investigations, human trafficking awareness, prevention, warning signs, and available resources. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn from the keynote speaker, Heidi Lynch, Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains, Human Trafficking/Human Smuggling Analyst with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation

The event is designed for members of the public as well as professionals who may encounter missing-person or trafficking cases in their work. Community members, parents, educators, advocates, first responders, law enforcement personnel, healthcare professionals, and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Topics will include recognizing potential indicators of human trafficking, understanding the circumstances surrounding missing-person cases, knowing how and when to report concerns, and learning about resources available to victims and their families.

Awareness can be a powerful tool. By educating ourselves and learning how to recognize potential warning signs, we can help create a

more informed and vigilant community.

Community participation is encouraged. Together, through education, awareness, and cooperation, we can help protect vulnerable individuals, support families, and strengthen our community's response to missing persons and human trafficking.

The seminar will take place October 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Seward County Activity Center in Liberal.

For questions, or additional details, please contact Summer Stafford, Family and Community Wellness Agent or Jane Eisenhauer, Program Assistant with K-State Extension, Wild West District, 1081 Stadium Road, Liberal, Kansas 67901 phone 620-624-5604.