



Alta Vista City Council News



June 15, 2026 Public Hearing & City Council Meeting

Present were as follows: Mayor Ryan Armbrust, Council members Josh Kaster, Eli Kormanik and Adam Weaver, City Clerk Pamela McDiffett and City Superintendent Jeff Ginnett. Also present were Cindy Jensen and Desiree Thompson.

The public hearing regarding the CDBG Community Facilities Grant was called to order by Mayor Armbrust at 7:00pm.

There were no public comments. Council member Kaster made a motion to close the public hearing. Council member Kormanik seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Mayor Armbrust.

Public Comments:

Desiree Thompson attended the meeting to introduce herself to the council. She commented that she previously has worked for the Pottawatomie County Clerks office and has some budgeting/finance experience. She expressed interest in running in the next council election for an open seat.

Approval of the Minutes:

Council member Kormanik made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026, council meeting minutes. Council member Kaster seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Financial Report:

The May financials were reviewed. Cindy Jensen attended the meeting to assist with the 2027 budget preparation. The council agreed they would like to keep the mill as close to the current rate as possible. The RNR set by the county will be 56.174. Council member Kaster made a motion to set the city's RNR at 56.75. Council member Kormanik seconded. The motion carried 3-0. Cindy will update the budget accordingly for publication and the date for RNR & Budget hearing will be August 24, 2026.

Approval and Payment of the Bills:

Council member Weaver made a motion that the bills be paid by Ordinance B-6-2026. Council member Kaster seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Fire Chief Report:

Fire Chief Clay Glessner was absent but sent a written report with the following...

- Good response from the department, surrounding departments & the community on a call for a missing person.

- Good response on an accident and assisting the county deputy with a flat tire and getting the patrol vehicle back to the station.

- Units have been running & performing well.

- Training is scheduled for June 25 & 27 to go over driving training & truck operations.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Jeff Ginnett reported that the maintainer has been sold on Purple Wave. The customer should be picking up soon. There are several areas that have drainage issues with all of the heavy rain. Several private tubes are plugged, and a few other ditches could be cleaned. Several others have filled their ditches with gravel so the drainage has become a problem in those areas as well.

Clerk's Report:

Past due accounts were reviewed. The email billing module has been

installed and should be ready to process on the July billing for those that have returned their consent forms. Pam is still working to gather information for the KRWA rate study.

Old Business:

Tree bids for removing the 2 dead trees at the city park were reviewed. Council member Kormanik made a motion to accept the lowest bid from True Axe. Council member Weaver seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

Resolution 03-2026 – a resolution adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region I Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed. Council member Weaver made a motion to approve Resolution 03-2026. Council member Kaster seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

A resignation from the council from Travis Richardson was received and is effective immediately. Council member Weaver made a motion to accept the resignation from Travis Richardson. Council member Kormanik seconded. The motion carried 3-0. Mayor Armbrust asked Desiree Thompson if she would be interested in filling the current vacancy on the council at this time. He feels that she is qualified and recommends her to the city council. Council member Kormanik made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Desiree Thompson to the city council. Council member Kaster seconded. The motion carried 3-0. City Clerk Pamela McDiffett administered the oath of office to Desiree Thompson.

Council Member and Mayor Comments:

Mayor Armbrust had no further comments.

Council member Thompson commented that she would like to bring some information to the next council meeting to allow other fowl in the city limits.

Council member Kormanik shared information on terminating water service due to improper sewer connections. He would like the council to review the information and consider adopting the ordinance at a later date.

Council member Kaster had no comments.

Council member Weaver had no comments.

Council member Peterson was absent.

Council member Kaster made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Council member Weaver. The motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned

The next regular City Council meeting will be held on July 20, 2026 at 7pm.

Pamela McDiffett
City Clerk

~~~~~  
"Respect your parents. They passed school without Google."

— Anonymous

~~~~~  
"If you think your teachers are tough, wait 'til you get a boss."

— Bill Gates

~~~~~  
"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

— Dr. Seuss

~~~~~  
"You learn something every day if you pay attention."

— Ray LeBlond

Making Connections



Bi-weekly Series by
Deb Andres,
M.S. CFCS-
HDFS.HDFS.

Back-to-School Planning Can Help Families Manage Costs

As the back-to-school season approaches, many families are preparing not only for schedule changes but also for the financial demands that accompany a new school year. Whether students are entering elementary school, high school, or college, the costs associated with education can add up quickly. Careful planning can help families stay on budget while ensuring students have what they need for a successful start.

School-related expenses often include basic supplies, clothing, backpacks, registration fees, activity costs, and lunch expenses. Developing a spending plan before shopping begins can help families prioritize purchases and avoid unnecessary costs.

One of the first steps recommended by financial educators is creating a list of essential items. Many elementary and secondary schools provide supply lists before the school year begins, allowing families to focus their spending on required items rather than impulse purchases.

For households facing financial challenges, assistance may be available through schools and community organizations. Some schools distribute donated supplies provided by parent organizations, local businesses, community groups, charitable programs, or private donors. Taking advantage of these resources can significantly reduce back-to-school expenses.

Families may also find savings by taking inventory of supplies remaining from previous school years. Reusing notebooks, folders, calculators, and other items can lower costs. Local thrift stores can also be a valuable source for affordable clothing, backpacks, and other school necessities.

Seasonal sales offer another opportunity to save money. End-of-season clearance events often provide discounts on clothing and backpacks. Rather than purchasing everything at once, some families may benefit from spreading purchases over several pay periods. Buying only the essentials needed to begin the school year and reassessing supply needs after the first month or two can ease budget pressures.

When finances allow, investing in durable items such as quality shoes, coats, and backpacks may offer long-term savings by reducing the need for replacements throughout the school year.

Lunch expenses are another area where thoughtful planning can make a difference. For some families, the convenience and nutritional benefits of school meals justify the cost. However, if students are unlikely to eat the available options, packed lunches may be a more practical choice.

Many schools post lunch menus online weeks in advance, allowing caregivers and students to review meal options together. This can help determine which days school lunches will be utilized and when lunches from home may be preferred. Purchasing lunch ingredients such as bread, deli meats, and snacks in bulk can help reduce the cost per meal. Reusable food containers and water bottles can further lower costs by decreasing reliance on disposable products.

By setting aside time to prepare for the back-to-school season, parents and caregivers can better manage their finances and reduce the stress that often accompanies school shopping. A little planning today can help families start the school year organized, prepared, and on budget.

Things That Make You Go Hmmmmm?

Opinions & Issues by Steve Ash

Week four of "Interesting things" and "Memories of a lifelong friend." "1,572 Random but mind-blowing facts about history, science, Pop Culture, and everything in between". This is the name of the book I am getting the "Interesting Facts" from.

Politics Is a Dirty & Funny business:

On January 18, 1990, Washington D.C. mayor, Marion Barry, was arrested after smoking crack with a female informant in a motel room. Barry served six months in federal prison. He died later of a drug overdose.

The Russian word for blackmail is "kompromat." During the cold war, the KGB blackmailed so many Western politicians that kompromat made its way into the English language.

In 1824, a writer threatened to publish the memoirs of the Duke of Wellington's mistresses. The British duke's response was, "Publish and be damned."

From Croesus to Crypto:

Paper money was invented in China's Song Dynasty in the 11th century CE. Despite its widespread use at the time, no samples of Song Paper money exist today.

Although the US Federal Reserve was started by the government and is the country's tax-exempt central bank, its 12 bank branches have been cited as "independent, privately owned, and locally controlled corporations" by the courts.

The "deben" was the unit ancient Egyptians used for measuring weight. Although not a true currency, the deben was a standardized measure of precious metals.

The inventor/developer of Bitcoin is believed to be Japanese man named Satoshi Nakamoto. Many believe Nakamoto is actually a group of

developers. So why has the anonymous Satoshi Nakamoto never come forward? Gyorfi believes the bitcoin founder has remained in the shadows so the digital currency is never connected to one person, to uphold it as a decentralized system in which no single person or group has control.

Say What?:

The Indo-European language family is the largest in the world, with 46% of the world speaking one of the languages. Most European languages, as well as Hindi, Iranian/Farsi, and others are in the family.

At 28 letters, the word antidisestablishmentarianism is thought by many to be the longest non-contrived and non-technical word in the English language.

A "polyglot" is a multilingual person. Many polyglots grow up in families or countries where multiple languages are common, while many are "autodidacts", or self-taught.

Memories of a lifelong friend - 4:

I can remember the time when I was teaching at St. John's Military Academy in Salina, and Daryl owned and was running the Longhorn Saloon in White City. He was also assigned to work the night shift at Fort Riley where he was making sure that the Transfer Station (Sewage) on Custer Hill remained operating properly. Since I had the evenings off, he asked me if I would work a couple of night shifts at the Longhorn. I said sure and did that for about a year if I remember correctly. Since money was tight at that time in my life, that really helped. Thanks Daryl !

P.S. If you have an issue that bugs you, let me know and I just might write an article about it. Email your idea to spash@tctelco.net Or, you could PM me on FB. Or even call me or tell me in person.



No Summer Plans Needed

Jackie Mundt, Pratt County Farmer & Rancher

As we get older, we are taught to be responsible — to manage our schedules, organize our lives, prepare for the unexpected. Responsibility helps us build careers, care for families and thrive in adulthood.

But there is a tradeoff to always being prepared: sometimes we miss out on spontaneity.

At some point in life, I went from being an impulsive, fun-loving wanderer to being referred to by friends as a "walking-Trip Advisor." I tend to get intense about knowing every detail of a trip before we ever leave home.

This summer has unintentionally sent me back in time 20 years. At some point we realized we are having a "no-plan summer" and enjoying living in unexpected moments.

Over Memorial Day weekend, we didn't plan to get away for more than a day to attend a graduation party. The unpredictable nature of farm life makes scheduling trips difficult for much of the year. When it rained the week before and we realized we had a few extra days available, we decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

We loaded up the car on Friday and headed west with no destination in mind.

We ended up in Estes Park, Colo., and had an incredible weekend. The first day was filled with simple adventures — riding the aerial tramway, hiking above the city, trying the mountain coaster and taking a scenic drive through the park.

The second day required a little more determination. There were areas of the park we wanted to experience that normally would have required reservations and planning weeks ahead. Since Marc and I both enjoy adventure and don't often get the chance to pursue it, we decided the inconvenience was worth the reward.

That meant waking up around 3:30 a.m. to get into the park before

timed entry requirements began. If we had not been willing to make that early start, we would have missed the sunrise over the mountains and the opportunity to complete two hiking trails before 7:30 a.m.

It was a long day, but it was also filled with unexpected joy, beautiful scenery and a sense of accomplishment.

One spontaneous trip was a lark, but two must make it a theme. This past weekend, the stars aligned again and we ended up in Kansas City with overlapping work trips that allowed us to enjoy our evenings together. Once again, the lack of plans pushed us to seek out unplanned experiences.

We saw Darius Rucker, who I actually really like, at Starlight Theatre. It was one of the most enjoyable concerts I have experienced. The next night was Harry Potter night at Sporting Kansas City, and as a Potterhead, I obviously needed to attend. It was my first professional soccer match, and I had to use Google multiple times to figure out the rules. But it was high energy and I felt a little better not knowing the soccer rules because I did know what was happening during the Quidditch exhibition at halftime.

Without a plan, you have fewer options but also less stress. Many of these activities were things we normally would not have sought out. We had zero expectations and ended up having a great time because we were open to whatever came our way.

There is nothing wrong with planning. Preparation is necessary and responsible. But perhaps we need to be careful not to plan so much of our lives so much that we leave no room for surprise.

Some of the best memories are not created by following a schedule. They are created by taking a chance, changing direction and being willing to see where the road leads.

Sometimes the greatest adventures are the ones we never planned.

Happy Birthday, Grandpa Lester!!

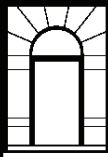


Love,
Emma, Cooper
& Theo

Old Settler's Day Saturday, August 8 Council Grove Location will Close at 10 a.m.



Please join us for lunch after
the Old Settler's Day Parade.



FARMERS & DROVERS BANK

farmersanddrovers.com • Council Grove & Alta Vista, KS
Member FDIC

George is finally
catching up with the
rest of our WCHS
Class of 1964.....
Joining the "80's"
Club!!!
Happy Birthday,
George!

