

-Otis City Council Minutes-

Council members Taylor Sharkey, Mike Sharkey, Luke Pechanec, Jody Beckham, and Mayor Landers were present at the City of Otis Council meeting on August 12, 2026. Absent was Seth Hoopingarner. Employees present were Vernon VanPelt, Shelly DeWald, and Lori Firebaugh.

Mayor Landers called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
Visitor: Billie Fabregat and Rush County Sheriff Knowles.

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles was present to discuss the “Neighbors Protecting Neighbors” program with the Council. The program is working to gather donations to provide a storm shelter in each town in Rush County. Sheriff Knowles expressed that everyone is excited about the project and that the towns will be working together to make it happen.

Jody came in at 6:48 p.m.
Sheriff Knowles left at 7:09 p.m.
Jody made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2026, meeting for publication. Taylor seconded. 4-0. Motion carried.
Taylor made a motion to approve the bills. Mike seconded. 4-0. Motion carried.
Vernon went over the water report.
The treasurer’s report was gone over.
City Clerk’s Report: Our bond payment is due next month
Correspondence: Jaguar Electric letter.

Old Business: RWD#3 contract – After discussion, Jody made the motion to table the discussion until the September meeting. Taylor seconded. 4-0. Motion carried. Library Grant update – Jody provided the Council with some updates on several improvements planned for the Community Library. Storm Shelters – Taylor made a motion to participate in and approve the “Neighbors Protecting Neighbors” program. Luke seconded. 4-0. Motion carried. Basketball goal update – Mike made a motion to approve the purchase of a 60-inch Goalrilla in-ground basketball goal, based on the pictures Taylor presented. Luke seconded. 4-0. Motion carried. Taylor left at 8:21 p.m. Minimum House code – Luke made the motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. Mike seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Meeting Procedures Resolution – Luke made the motion to table the discussion until the September meeting. Mike seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Part-time hire update - Vernon updated the council on how the new part-time employee was doing.

New Business: Spray rig – Mike made the motion to approve the purchase of a five-nozzle boom kit for spraying weeds. Luke seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Voting delegate – Luke made the motion to approve Jenny to vote on behalf of the City at the upcoming League meetings. Mike seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Veteran’s Day Meeting – Jody made the motion to move the November meeting to November 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Room due to the Veterans Day holiday. Luke seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Altitude Valve – Luke made the motion to approve the purchase of a rebuilt altitude valve needed for the south water tower. Mike seconded. 3-0. Motion carried.

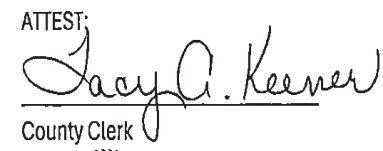
Billie left at 8:38 p.m.
Jody made the motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes at 8:38 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Luke seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Jenny excused herself from the executive session before the council returned to regular session at 8:53 p.m.
Jody made the motion to accept John’s retirement notice, with his last day being August 31, 2026. Luke seconded. 3-0. Motion carried.
Luke made the motion to allow full-time employees no more than three hours of overtime per week, provided it is only necessary. Mike seconded. 3-0. Motion carried.
The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2026, at 6:15 p.m. in the Senior Room. The meeting will begin with the Budget Hearing, followed by the regular council meeting.
Jody moved to adjourn. Luke seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:16 p.m.

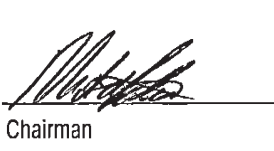
(Published in The Rush County News on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.)11

Rush County, Kansas Summary of Expenditures and Balances For the Quarter Ending June 30, 2026

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Ending Balance
General Fund	2,294,108.38	1,291,125.92	792,314.69	2,792,919.61
Road & Bridge	640,922.59	730,704.07	391,496.62	980,130.04
Special Bridge	737,538.28	1,602.76	0.00	739,141.04
Special Machinery	131,152.35	0.00	0.00	131,152.35
Health	263,251.05	4,704.99	67,000.00	200,956.04
Noxious Weed	299,387.13	53,263.25	77,020.22	275,630.16
Appraiser	74,009.06	48,060.15	35,541.50	86,527.71
Capital Improvement Reserve	602,660.07	0.00	412,218.00	190,442.07
Equipment Reserve	1,149,733.57	0.00	0.00	1,149,733.57
Solid Waste	17,739.45	47,250.57	29,664.11	35,325.91
Fire District #1	56,455.47	4,659.39	3,220.53	57,894.33
Fire District #2	43,127.01	6,675.38	8,280.86	41,521.53
Fire District #3	40,197.86	5,613.36	1,626.31	44,184.91
Fire District #4	50,525.88	22,443.52	5,690.21	67,279.19
Fire District #5	63,864.64	4,751.81	2,856.66	65,759.79
Fire District #6	14,227.67	2,144.80	5,342.05	11,030.42
Fire District #7	63,233.62	5,649.06	10,842.78	58,039.90
Fire District #8	50,997.06	9,126.55	651.28	59,472.33
Totals	6,593,131.14	2,237,775.58	1,843,765.82	6,987,140.90

In accordance with K.S.A. 19-228, the Board of Rush County Commissioners authorize publication of expenditures, beginning and ending cash balances for the quarter ending June 30, 2026. A detailed statement of expenditures is available for public inspection at the County Clerk’s office.

ATTEST:

County Clerk


Chairman

Barbed Wire Beacon

Wicked Mouth

Proverbs 15:28-29 “The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.”

Today, far too many people are swift to answer questions without thinking through what they are saying. We are in a generation that loves to hear themselves talk but does not consider the words coming from their mouths. It is all about feelings and not about truth. A righteous person will think things through, they will seek God, and the wisdom of the scriptures, before answering something they know should be carefully responded to. The Book of James backs up what Proverbs says about carefully answering someone in chapter 1 verse 19, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:” One major thing missing in our modern day political environment is “swift to hear,” as well as “slow to wrath,” people only want to hear their side without an opposing view and that is what got a man murdered one year ago. He felt everyone should have a voice on college campuses, but many of our country that are possessed with devils refuse to let anyone they do not agree with have a voice. This is the same demonic activity that went on in our Saviour’s Day, they refused to listen to Him. They even got to the point of having Him crucified so they did not have to hear Him anymore, sounds familiar. If your point of view cannot be expressed without violence, then you are the one that needs to seek the Lord and true peace with God. Then

when you add verse 29 to verse 28 of our text verse, it becomes even more clear that those full of hate, violence, wrath, and anger, are far from God. God is far from the wicked, those who reject His commandments, but is there for those who will humble themselves before God in prayer. Psalm 34:15-17 “The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.” In the Book of Isaiah, in chapter 4 verse 1, we see the perfect description of modern Christianity, people want the name of Jesus to not go to Hell, but refuse to live by His commandments, “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.” Modern Christianity tells their followers to live how they want, dress without standards, and listen to the world’s music and you will go to Heaven just because we say so, but Christ says otherwise. John 14:21 “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” Following God’s Word is not grievous, and it is a wonderful thing to serve the one who died for us. It is the least we could do for the one who lay down His life for us, that He would redeem us back to Himself.

Pastor Daniel Lineberry, Independent Baptist, Fundamental, KJV
319 W. 10th St., La Crosse ~ 785-222-0017 ~ dankrys05@hotmail.com

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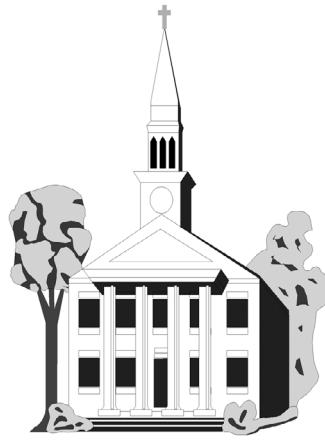
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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PASTOR SCOTT TEMPERO
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www.bisonumc.org

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PASTOR MIKE BREMER
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
www.lacrosseks.adventistchurch.org

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
918 Lincoln Street
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
rushcountycatholicchurches.com



LA CROSSE
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
820 Locust Street
PASTOR DANIEL LINEBERRY
Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Bible School 11:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
www.lacrosseibc.com

UNITED METHODIST
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PASTOR SCOTT TEMPERO
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
www.lacrosseumc.org

LIEBENTHAL
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA
202 Main Street
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
rushcountycatholicchurches.com

McCRACKEN
METHODIST CHURCH
PASTOR NORMA McNAIR
307 1st Street
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

ST. MARY’S CHURCH
3rd & Ash
OLMITZ
ST. ANN’S CHURCH
FATHER WARREN STECKLEIN
115 Cleveland Ave.
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.

OTIS
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PASTOR STAN EWY
200 West Ellen Street
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

RUSH CENTER
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PASTOR WAYNE BALDYGA
308 South Walnut Street
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

TIMKEN
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA
103 S Main Street
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
rushcountycatholicchurches.com

Rush County Ministerial Alliance - Richard Luft, President
Mission Statement - “To live like Christ, To love like Christ, To give like Christ, To go like Christ, So others may know Him in our community and world.”

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