

Girard Council schedules budget workshop, postpones other business

BY PHILIP STEVENS
HOMETOWN GIRARD

►► The Girard City Council scheduled a workshop to review rising employee health insurance costs and a possible budget amendment involving the city's golf course during its regular meeting on Monday, October 19. The council also postponed decisions on an employee mileage reimbursement policy and a proposed raise for the golf clubhouse manager.

Council President Darrell Westhoff presided in the absence of Mayor Nick Cheney. All four council members were present.

The council unanimously scheduled a workshop for Wednesday, October 28, at 4 p.m. in the council chambers. A representative from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is expected to attend to discuss employee health insurance options.

City Administrator Johanna O'Brien explained that the city also needs to consider increasing the transfer of funds from its electric utility to the golf course budget. She said updated revenue and expenditure figures would be available from City Clerk Heather Ryan to assist council members in evaluating the proposed amendment.

The council agreed to conduct the workshop before scheduling a public hearing on the budget amendment. That hearing could take place on November 16, depending on the workshop's outcome. The council tabled the

hearing item until its November 2 meeting.

Council members also postponed consideration of an excess travel policy intended to reimburse salaried city employees for additional trips to work when responding to emergencies outside regular working hours.

O'Brien explained that the proposed policy would allow mileage reimbursement for trips beyond an employee's normal daily commute, such as responding to water leaks, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system problems or other emergencies. The reimbursement would be separate from existing on-call compensation arrangements.

The written policy was unavailable during the meeting because of problems accessing the city's shared digital files. Westhoff said he preferred to review the document before approving it, and the council unanimously tabled the matter until November 2. O'Brien suggested affected employees begin recording qualifying trips in case reimbursement could be made retroactively.

A proposed \$2-per-hour raise for the golf clubhouse manager was moved from the consent agenda to regular business for discussion.

During the discussion, O'Brien explained that the city's recently revised pay scale already established a \$17-per-hour minimum for the part-time position, increasing the previous \$16.50 hourly wage. The proposed

additional \$2 raise had not been approved.

City Attorney Stephen Angermayer advised that discussion of certain employee personnel matters would require an executive session. Westhoff preferred to postpone the discussion until Mayor Cheney could participate, and the council agreed to return the matter to regular business on November 2.

While O'Brien worked to retrieve documents, Councilman John Leigh requested an update on the ongoing waterline replacement project.

Project Manager Jackie Messer reported that approximately four or five crews were working in Girard, including along Carbon and Leonard streets and areas near St. John Street. He complimented the contractors' restoration of ditches and other areas disturbed by construction.

Messer said some older service lines have been damaged because their locations were never documented and they sometimes follow unexpected routes beneath city streets. Contractors have been repairing those lines as problems occur. He also explained that newly installed waterlines must undergo pressure testing, disinfection and water-quality testing before being placed into service.

The council approved the amended consent agenda, including Appropriations Ordinance 2026-21 totaling \$327,816.97 and minutes from the October 5 meeting. Major expenditures included \$77,277.97 to NAFECO for fire equipment

associated with a Community Development Block Grant, \$150,731 to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency's EMP3 program and \$25,031.96 for purchased water.

No one spoke during the public forum.

During governing body comments, Councilman Morgan Johnson thanked city employees and first responders and encouraged residents to use caution during upcoming Halloween activities. He also asked motorists to be patient with waterline construction crews.

Councilman Lucas Stansbury praised the recent Girard Fall Festival, including its parade, car show and other activities, and congratulated Electric Supervisor Cliff Scales on Monday's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the city's new solar facility.

Leigh also recognized the solar project and the recent high school homecoming activities. He encouraged the use of reflective materials on Halloween costumes and said he was working to address concerns raised by residents of his ward.

Westhoff praised the solar facility's completion and recognized Scales and Power Plant Supervisor Jess Murphy for their work. He also credited former Mayor Mickey Pyle for his role in advancing the project during his administration.

The council adjourned following the governing body comments.

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Events through October 30



Building Strong Readers Ages 0-5 - Join us for our story time program on **Wednesday, October 28th at 10:00 am or Thursday, October 29th at 10:00 am!** Stories will include Halloween, horses, and more! Create a cute Halloween craft with us!

Children's Halloween Party Grades K-5th - Have fun after school at Girard Public Library on **Wednesday, October 28th from 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm!** Have some Halloween fun with games and crafts! Kids are welcome to wear their costumes! Enjoy yummy snacks! Sign up to attend. Please call or stop by the library.

Halloween Party Grades 6th-12th - Stop by on **Wednesday, October 28th from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm** for a Halloween Party! **EVERYONE IS INVITED** - all ages including adults - this is a **FAMILY PARTY** - to an hour of Halloween fun, including listening to our **SCARY RADIO PLAYS!** Sign up to attend so we know how many to expect.

Monthly Game Night - Join us for Game Night at Girard Public Library on **Monday, October 26th from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm!** We are excited to offer a monthly game night at the library!

- A variety of board games and card games will be available.
- You are welcome to bring your own games to enjoy with others.
- Invite some friends to come along and have fun playing games!

Halloween Party Sign Ups - Girard Public Library will be hosting Halloween parties for Children and Young Adults. Sign up opens on **Thursday, October 1st**. Sign up by calling or stopping by the library.

- Children's Party for Grades K-5 will be held on **Wednesday, October 28th at 2:30 pm**. Space is limited to the first 30 children.
- Young Adult Party for Grades 6th-12th will be held on **Wednesday, October 28th at 5:30 pm**.

Crock-tober - Stop by the library on Wednesdays in October for a sample of a recipe prepared in a crockpot! Recipes will be prepared by staff members! Crock-tober dates: **October 28th**.

Library Board Meeting - The next monthly meeting of the Girard Public Library Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, October 27th at 5:30 pm**. Meeting is open to the public.

Girard Public Library will be closed on Saturday, October 17th for the Girard Fall Festival.

Library Hours

- Monday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
- Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
- Friday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Sunday: Closed

New Items at Girard Public Library
The following items are just part of the new items that have been added to our shelves recently. Stop by the library to find out what else we have added.

Adult Fiction

- *Adam & Eve* by Jeffrey Archer
- *Other Worlds Than These* by Stephen King (Talisman Trilogy #3)
- *The Witch* by Freida McFadden

Adult Mystery Fiction

- *Borrowed Trouble* by Shaen Layla (Mysteries of Cobble Hill Farm #15)

Young Adult Fiction

- *The Sixth Faction* by Veronica Roth

Young Adult Science Fiction

- *Mockingjay (Illustrated Edition)* by Suzanne Collins (Hunger Games #3)
- *Powerful* by Lauren Roberts (Powerless #1.5)

Magazines

- *Consumer Reports Nov/Dec 2026*
- *Kansas History Summer 2026*

Girard Area Events

Friday-Sunday, October 23-25

- Osage Nation "Out of this World" Celestial Fall Camporee @ Greenbush, 947 W. 47 Highway, Girard. Activities include celestial maps, woodworking, leather crafts, water rockets, telescopes, archery and air rifles. Registration is required.

Saturday, October 24

- Crawford Hills Greenskeeper Revenge 2-Person Scramble Invitational @ Crawford Hills Municipal Golf Course.

Saturday-Sunday, October 24-25

- 2026 Girard Fire School - Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. each day. Girard Fire Department. Saturday classes include farm rescue, rural/suburban water supplies and engine operations. Sunday classes include forcible entry, ground ladders, fire service knots and reading smoke.

Sunday, October 25

- St. Michael's Fall Bazaar and Turkey Dinner - 11:00

a.m. until sold out. \$10 per meal. Menu includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry salad, bread and pie. Dine-in and carry-out available.

Thursday, October 29

- Girard Events Trunk or Treat @ Girard Square. Time to be announced.

Friday, November 6

- Christian Women United World Community Day Luncheon & Program - Noon. Located at First Christian Church. All women of the community are invited. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish with their favorite food. Table service, bread and drinks will be provided. Program presented by Mo Decker, Safe Families representative.

Saturday, November 14

- Arma Holiday Open House - Handmade with Heart. Local group members will have craft tables at the Arma City Library and Golden Era. Handmade crafts will

be available for purchase. Raffle chances will be sold for a handmade blanket and a basket of assorted chicken-themed items, including a gift certificate from Chicken Annie's Girard.

Girard Chamber Coffees

- October 16th - 4 State Farm & Ranch
- November 20th - GHS - FBLA
- December 18th - Girard Medical Center
- Email: girardchamber@girardkansas.gov
- Call: (620) 724-4715

Blood Drives

- Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to find a location and schedule an appointment.

Arma City Library

- Silver Sneakers - Monday Thru Friday 9-10:00 am
- Girl Scout - The 2nd & 4th Fridays of the Month at 5:30 pm
- 4-H Club - 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7:15 pm
- Food Pantry - Every Thursday and Friday until 5:00 pm
- Tai-Chi for Seniors - Every

Friday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Body Strength Training - Free

- Our summer programs are to be found on our Library Facebook page
- Recovery Support Group - Every Thursday Night at 5:30 pm in the Library Conference Room.

USD 248 School Board Meetings

- For the 2026-2027 School Year
- All meetings start at 6:30 pm unless specified.
- November 12, 2026
- December 10, 2026
- January 14, 2027
- February 11, 2027
- March 11, 2027
- April 8, 2027
- May 13, 2027
- June 10, 2027

Girard United Methodist Church | Sermon Series

October 25

- Life makes sense when everything is okay
- Psalm 23:1-3, Philippians 4:6-7, Luke 17:11-19



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