

Herald-Chronicle

Scranton City Council

Board hears proposal for community development committee

Gary Rush | Reporter

SCRANTON — All council members and city department heads were available for the Feb. 17 meeting of the Scranton City Council.

Resident Aulysha Lester attended the meeting to discuss the future of USD 434's Scranton Attendance Center, requesting that the city government investigate intervention of the school board's attempt to sell the building to an outside source.

with Allen County Community College purchasing the structure. She did not see the viability of such a transaction, and requested the City of Scranton bid to purchase the building.

Several members of the council thought that such a purchase would not be possible. The council identified that the initial cost alone would be prohibitive. The upkeep of the structure would be a constant drain to the community.

Resident Rebekah Roney addressed the council with notations of the betterment of the community, offering her

suggestion to form a community development committee. Her request was not a hollow ask, as she offered an extensive resume with a history of community development on both the state and federal level.

Roney went on to suggest, after the allowance of a community development program, that she would volunteer her time to be a substantial resource for the group. She offered all members of the city council an in-depth plan for the purpose and the formation of the committee.

"It would be an advisory committee," Roney said. "It would not be a part of the city government and would not be in need of city funding."

Her statement was made to clarify the intent of the committee, per an informative request from City Attorney Todd Luckman.

"To confirm your intent, I would suggest that no more than two, if any, members of the council be a member of the community development committee," Luckman said. "If there are more than two, it would be considered a public council meeting."

Roney noted that the committee would be entirely independent of city government and reiterated that it would be an advisory group only. Also, she requested the members of the council look over the information packet she had supplied to them prior to officially allowing the formation of the committee.

Resident Phillip Cote was at the meeting to discuss the sewer fee levied by the city. He had noticed that the sewer bill for his property had been

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Submitted

The Marais des Cygnes Valley junior high and high school student councils hosted a benefit dinner Feb. 17 during the home basketball game against West Franklin, in honor of Mr. Steve Taylor, junior high math teacher and junior high track coach, who is courageously battling cancer.

Osage County Commission

Commission approves payments, tax corrections

LYNDON — The Osage County Commission met Feb. 17 for approximately 45 minutes, with Commissioner Brandon Smith in attendance and Commissioner Les Holman participating by phone.

The county experienced technical difficulties during the meeting, and no audio was available for YouTube viewers.

Commissioners approved Sail-A-Way loan payments to Kramer Consulting totaling \$14,433. The payments involve Davis-Bacon funds tied to the project, and the commission accepted required

federal assurances, including Davis-Bacon wage compliance and American Iron & Steel procurement assurances.

The commission approved tax roll corrections for calendar years 2023 through 2025. A purchase order for the treasurer's office for CIC training in the amount of \$2,400 was also approved, along with a new hire for the treasurer's office.

An ongoing fence viewing dispute was discussed, with resolution expected at a future meeting.

Commissioners approved payroll in the amount of \$242,709.24 and bills totaling \$404,569.12.

Burlingame City Council

Council approves purchase of cameras

BURLINGAME — The Burlingame City Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 2.

The council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of cameras for the Burlingame Police Department at a cost of \$4,340.19 using opioid money and \$46.61 out of Police Equipment line item 01-02-5403.

The council approved a donation of \$50 to Burlingame for the school's after-prom event. It also approved a \$12 per hour wage for Tricia Kline, the new city treasurer. In addition, all council members were in agreement to advertise to hire a pool manager, assistant manager, and lifeguards for the 2026 pool season.

Anne Baer was selected to represent the City of Burlingame at Burlingame Chamber of Commerce meetings.

Kyle Bond, acting supervisor, advised the council they are still getting bids for the requested utilities on Auburn Road for Carla Sloop, and said he should have an answer by the next council meeting.

Correspondence to the council included City Leaders Academy in

Salina on Feb. 17; KOMA training for elected officials at 10 a.m. on Feb. 26; and 2026 Tax Distribution from Osage County and \$487 distribution from Chamber of Commerce for brick streets.

The council entered a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel, with Bond. No action was taken upon return to open session.

In staff reports, Building Inspector Chris Dubois discussed the property at 103 and 105 West Santa Fe, reviewed swimming pools in town, and advised that demolition bids will be taken for the property at 105 East Santa Fe on Feb. 12; Police Chief Mathew Baker discussed the body armor received from Shield 616; Bond reported on snow removal; and City Clerk Patty Atchison reported on the Kansas Department of Commerce Downtown Revive and Thrive Grant, the Kansas Department of Commerce New Signs Program Grant, the Little Tikes Playground Equipment Grant, and advised that KCamp would be there March 16 to discuss insurance.

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Kansas VINE expands resources for crime victims

The Kansas Office of the Attorney General has announced new features to Kansas VINE aimed at helping victims of crime more easily locate services and support.

Kansas VINE is the state's automated victim notification system that alerts users to custody status changes for adult offenders held in county jails. The service is often used by crime victims who want immediate notification when an offender is released or transferred.

Two new tools — a searchable "Service Provider Directory" and an "I Need Guidance" feature — are now available. The directory allows users to search for state-approved local and national service providers by organization name, services offered, or type of crime. Listed providers may assist with crisis services, counseling, housing, financial resources, and victim advocacy.

Arica Roland, associate division

chief of the Attorney General's Victim Services Division, said locating help after a crime can be overwhelming. She noted that the directory is still being built and search results may be limited at first as additional providers are added.

Service providers are encouraged to submit their information to be included in the directory.

Kansas VINE is free, confidential, and available 24/7 online, by phone at (866) 574-8463, or through the VINELink mobile app.

KDOT seeking comments on STIP amendment

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) requests comments on an amendment to the Federal Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) document.

The STIP is a project specific publication that lists all KDOT administered projects, regardless of funding source, and includes projects for counties and cities as well as projects on the State Highway

System. The list of projects being amended to the STIP can be viewed at ksdot.gov/about/publications-and-reports/state-transportation-improvement-program-stip.

The approval of the STIP amendment requires a public comment period, which concludes March 5. To make comments on the amendment, contact KDOT's Division of Program and Project Management at (785) 296-2252.

New Kansas bicycle maps now available

The new 2026-28 Official State Bicycle Map of Kansas is now available from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Whether riding a few miles or cycling across the state, this edition offers a variety of information to help active transportation users plan a short trip or a long ride.

State bicycle maps and educational flyers with bicycle safety tips are free and can be ordered on KDOT's website, KSDot.gov/KSBikeMap.

"Rail-Trails and the U.S. Bicycle Route System maps are included in the publication and showcase historic and unique

places to visit along these routes," said KDOT's Active Transportation Manager Jenny Kramer. "We want residents and visitors alike to experience a few of the many venues and sights Kansas offers by bike while participating in active lifestyles."

The map features color-coded highways to help riders distinguish traffic levels and varying route widths to show where shoulders are paved and wider than three feet. For those wanting to avoid highways, county roads are also shown using the same color coding for traffic ranges and denote whether they are paved

or unpaved.

Additional features include rest areas and bike shops, state parks and scenic byways, hospitals with 24-hour emergency care, and past Biking Across Kansas routes.

In addition, details and contact information on the new Kansas Trails Inc. organization are available. According to the group, its mission is to provide the resources, support, and community connections needed to make trails across the state accessible and sustainable for everyone.

For more information, or to order maps, send an email to KATE@ks.gov or call (785) 296-5186.



Courtesy of KDOT

The new Kansas bicycle map is now available for free.



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