

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Cody Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following presents: Councilmembers, Rickee Maddox, Alan Moeder, Cory Urban, Kevyn Soupiset, Jolene Boggs, Davis Jimenez, Gary Parr and Tina Mingenback. Also in attendance were City Administrator Logan Burns, City Attorney Allen Glendenning and Finance Director/City Clerk Shawna Schafer.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on December 1, 2025.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 12-15-25:** Covering 2025 bills to date in the amount of \$997,015.02.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 11-28-25:** Covering payroll ending November 22, 2025, in the amount of \$580,425.46.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made no appointments.
- e) **Agenda:** Approval of agenda as submitted or amended.

Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the approved consent agenda. Mr. Moeder seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

B. OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A local resident addressed the Council on the Quality of Life Sale Tax monies, stating she felt there needed to be a public committee that decides how to spend those dollars instead of City Council deciding that.
- Nick with NHRA addressed Council stating he was grateful for the city's support at the Dragstrip.
- Andrew Murphy from Great Bend Tribune addressed Council. He thanked the Mayor and those Councilmembers who were present for taking time to meet with him. He also thanked the Mayor for his apology regarding the last Council meeting. He also stated what was discussed in those meetings for transparency.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Councilmember Reports:** Mr. Parr addressed the Council about questions from the Public regarding Economic Development and stated that people are crying out for answers regarding the Innovation Center. He stated he wished someone from GBED would address the questions that are being raised as the new director was not involved with the decisions about the Innovation Center and cannot answer the questions the

public has. Mr. Parr felt someone from the GBED Board should address these questions.

2. **Administrators Update:** City Administrator Logan Burns presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.
3. **CVB/Public Relations Report:** CVB Director Amanda Gaddis and Public Relations Director Addison Crites presented their monthly report.
4. **2026 Property & Casualty Insurance Renewal:** Gallagher presented the 2026 Property & Casualty Insurance Renewal. Ms. Biggs made a motion to approve the 2026 Property & Casualty Insurance Renewal as presented. Mr. Soupiset seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
5. **SRCA Loan Forgiveness:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that during the budget work session in July 2025, discussions were had with City Council to forgive the loan given to SRCA during the construction of the previous dragstrip for the concrete crash walls. The total amount of the loan was \$156,195 and SRCA made annual payments in the amount of \$16,000 at 0% interest. The current balance is \$124,195. With the reconstruction of the dragstrip and tower currently taking place and the settlements from the lawsuit, this would be the formal step needed to forgive the loan to SRCA. Mr. Urban made a motion to approve forgiving the loan to SRCA in the amount of \$124,195. Ms. Biggs seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
6. **Notice and Protest Period for Pool GO Bond:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that before the City approves the contract with JEO for the proposed pool design, the Council must first authorize publication and initiation of the notice and protest period for a potential general obligation (GO) bond to fund the project. For recreation-related improvements, if the City has an existing sales tax whose revenues can be pledged to the project, it may proceed under K.S.A. 12-195b. This statute requires publishing a notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in the Great Bend Tribune. The project is then subject to a 30-day protest period in which at least 5% of electors who voted in the most recent general election may file a protest petition. Any GO bonds issued would count toward the City's debt limit. The City currently has a 0.15% quality-of-life sales tax, and a new pool was one of the priorities identified in the quality-of-life survey. A bond project tied to this revenue source is planned for 2027. Last year, the sales tax generated just under \$730,000, and the City conservatively budgets \$715,000 annually. The estimated annual bond payment is approximately \$566,000 over 20 years, with interest rates that may vary from year to year. If a valid protest petition is filed, it could delay or potentially prevent the issuance of bonds for the project. Approval of the publication will formally begin the protest period. Mr. Moeder made a motion to approve Resolution 121525-A, starting the notice and protest period for the pool General Obligation "GO" bond. Mr. Soupiset seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
7. **Pool Concept and JEO Design Contract:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that as part of the quality-of-life CIP, a bond project was proposed starting in 2027 and discussions were held this year about building a new pool as the current pool was built in 1936. A pool committee was formed by the Council, and we had 4 meetings with concepts and feedback from each concept. The current concept shows what the

committee felt was the best approach to replace the aging pool that has outlasted its lifespan and gives a fresh new look along with several amenities that they felt the community wanted. The existing feature slides and shallow water area on the northeast side will remain and will need to be gel-coated and re-painted. The proposed pool currently sits at 11,047 SF, slightly down from the existing 11,992 SF and features amenities such as a 215' long lazy river, 1M and 3M diving boards, a 34' tall fly-time slide, a 31' tall open-body slide, basketball goal, climbing wall, 8 swimming lanes, ADA slides, spray features and multiple areas of shade positioned around the pool. The contract with JEO will consist of topographic survey, design of pool concrete, pool amenities and features and site design. The city will be responsible for geotechnical services that we will need to provide. JEO will also conduct the bidding and permitting and construction administration throughout the project. There is a current allowance of 600 hours or \$150,000 in resident project representation that will consist of reviewing site progress, special inspections, documenting onsite observations and reports, providing record drawings and as-built plans at the end of construction. This allowance DOES NOT mean we will use the entire budget, and we can save money on the project if we do not need the hours allotted. The lump sum as outlined in the fee proposal consists of \$575,000 for design, \$30,000 for bidding/permitting, and \$100,000 for construction administration for a total of \$705,000. The \$150,000 for RPR is an hourly allowance as discussed above. The total estimated project cost for the pool is \$8.3 million, and the bidding phase is looking to take place in August 2026 with construction starting September 2026 and opening end of May 2027. The hope is to start construction sooner if design allows but we will plan to be open the entire 2026 pool season. The total cost of the project at this point is expected to be approximately \$9,155,000 with the hopes of saving money when the project is bid. The costs will be paid from the .15% quality-of-life sales tax fund with an approximate bond payment around \$560,000 per year for 20 years with varying interest rates. Mr. Moeder made a motion to approve the design concept for the proposed pool and approval of the design contract with JEO for \$705,000 with an allowance of \$150,000 for resident project representation (RPR). Mr. Soupiset seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

8. **Tax Levy Discussion:** Councilmember Jolene Biggs reported that the pie chart included with the County's property tax statements is misleading because it groups the City with all other cities and townships. This grouping suggests an overall increase in tax dollars, when in fact the City of Great Bend did not increase its tax dollars. County Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson and the County Treasurer Jim Jordan addressed the Governing Body, stating that an all-taxing entity meeting was held to gather input on the matter, but representatives from Great Bend did not attend. They also explained that, due to the large number of taxing entities, it is not feasible to separate each one individually, which is why the entities were grouped together. After conversation, Ms. Biggs made a motion to send a message to Barton County to breakout the pie chart more thoroughly that shows the different taxing entities. Mr. Moeder seconded the motion, and passed by a vote of 5-3, with Mr. Urban, Mr. Jimenez and Mr. Parr voting against.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Biggs made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maddox and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.