



City of Bonner Springs

KANSAS

City Council Meeting Minutes September 8, 2025

WORKSHOP - 6:45 P.M.

Council Present: Mayor Stephens, Councilmembers Reeves, Long (arrived late), Blanks, McMahan, Wood, Gurley, Kipp and Shannon.

City Staff Present: Amber Vogan, City Manager; Chris Brake, City Clerk; Tillie Laplante, Finance Director; Megan Gilliland, Economic Development Manager; Carrie Handy, Assistant City Manager; James Zeeb, Fire Chief; Justine Spease, Recreation Director; Matt Beets, Public works Director; Bill Naff, Police Chief; Michael Kelling, Police Captain and Jack Granath, Library Director

1. **Neighborhood Revitalization Project** - The economic development manager reviewed the proposed NRP # 7 and answered questions from the governing body. Staff intends to bring this item to the council for consideration at the September 22nd Council meeting.
2. **Facade Improvement Grant** - The economic development manager reviewed the proposed Facade Improvement Grant Program and answered questions from the governing body. Staff intends to bring the item to the council for consideration at the September 22nd Council meeting.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

Council Present: Mayor Stephens, Councilmembers Reeves, Long, Blanks, McMahan, Wood, Gurley, Kipp and Shannon.

City Staff Present: Amber Vogan, City Manager; Chris Brake, City Clerk; Tillie Laplante, Finance Director; Megan Gilliland, Economic Development Manager; Carrie Handy, Assistant City Manager; James Zeeb, Fire Chief; Justine Spease, Recreation Director; Matt Beets, Public works Director; Bill Naff, Police Chief; Michael Kelling, Police Captain and Jack Granath, Library Director

The Mayor led the Pledge of allegiance and Jim Jenkins gave an invocation.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation - National POW/MIA Recognition Day - The Mayor presented a proclamation to members of VFW6401 and other veterans recognizing National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Swear In New Police Officer - Thomas - The city clerk administered the oath to Officer Corey Thomas.

CITIZEN CONCERNS ABOUT ITEMS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA – Paul Barrett and Randy Reed, BSEDW Chamber of Commerce, thanked City staff for their work on Tiblow Days and presented the City with a guitar signed by the 2025 Tiblow Days artists in appreciation.

CONSENT AGENDA – Reeves moved and Shannon seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimous approval.

1. Minutes of the August 25, 2025 City Council Meeting
2. Claims for City Operations
3. Massage Therapy Business Establishment and Therapist License Renewal - Essential Massage
4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions - Band Commission

OLD BUSINESS - None presented

NEW BUSINESS -

1. Public Hearing on Levying a Property Tax Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate, Amending the 2025 Budget and Adopting the 2026 Budget –

Shannon moved and Blanks seconded to open a Public Hearing to Levy a property tax Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate, Amending the 2025 Budget, and Adopting the 2026 Budget beginning at 7:43 p.m.

Blanks moved and Long seconded to approve a resolution to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. The motion carried on a seven to one vote, Kipp dissented. Assigned Resolution No. 2025-07.

Gurley moved and Shannon seconded to close the Public Hearing at 8:31 p.m.

2. **Approve 2025 Budget Amendments and 2026 Budget** - Reeves moved and Blanks seconded to adopt the 2025 Budget Amendments, the 2026 Budgeted Expenditures of \$34,597,590 and the 2025 Ad Valorem Tax for the 2026 Budget in the amount of \$5,574,102 as reflected in the published Budget Hearing Notices. Unanimous approval.
3. **2026-2030 Capital Improvement and Equipment Plans** - Shannon moved and Blanks seconded to approve the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement and Equipment Plans as presented. Unanimous approval.
4. **Memorandum of Understanding - Bonner Springs Recreation Foundation** - Blanks moved and Reeves seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Bonner Springs Recreation Foundation. Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

1. **City Manager's Report** – The economic development manager presented an overview of the Placer.ai data from Tiblow Days. The City had approximately 20,500 visitors over the weekend of Tiblow Days. 94% of visitors were from within about 30 miles of Bonner Springs downtown. Shuttle service was added to Tiblow Days this year and staff received positive feedback about it. The Chamber and staff are considering expanding it to serve Friday evening as well.
2. **City Council Items**
 - Blanks thanked everyone who came to Walmart's re grand opening. Chamber's October luncheon will be on the second Thursday at the Edwardsville Community Center.
 - McMahan was amazed by the spike in attendance after the parade.
 - Wood commended Megan for the work it took to host Tiblow Days.
 - Gurley asked if street lights are included as part of the 138th Street project. The city manager stated the City engineer is checking. Gurley reminded everyone that the Renaissance Festival has started and is coming up on its third weekend.
 - Kipp commended everyone on doing a great job on the whole Tiblow Days event.
 - Shannon stated he taught Megan in 5th grade and saw her intelligence and poise back then.
3. **Mayor's Report** – The Mayor stated Tiblow Days brought a lot of people in from across the river.

ADJOURNMENT - Gurley moved and Blanks seconded to adjourn the City Council meeting at 9:17 p.m. Unanimous approval.

