

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL
Lindsborg City Hall
November 3, 2025–6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Clark Shultz, Corey Peterson, Rebecca Van Der Wege, Kirsten Bruce, Blaine Heble, John Presley, Tanner Corwin, Larry Lysell

OTHERS PRESENT: Tanner Faust, Roxie Sjogren, David Hay, Chief Terry Reed, Holy Lofton, Noah Flores, Milton Collins, Denny Walker, Erica Kruckenberg, Dean Johnson, Steve Ahlstedt, Scott Bontz

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Clark Shultz, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Dean Johnson, from Fremont Lutheran Church, gave the opening prayer.

PUBLIC INPUT:

There was no public input.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Shultz shared that Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Holly Lofton was awarded the 2025 Governor's Tourism award, the highest tourism award in the state.

Bethany Lutheran Church was awarded a \$500,000 grant to restore the sanctuary/building. Councilmember Van Der Wege shared that this is a matching grant.

Governor Laura Kelly chose Lindsborg to make the announcement regarding nine road projects that are being moved to the pipeline. Lindsborg is one of those 9 projects with the overpass project being one of them.

The Boy Scout pancake feed will be on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at Bethany Lutheran Church.

The Sandzen Gallery has opened their holiday show.

On November 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., the Lindsborg Library will be exploring the book O Pioneers by Willa Cather.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2025, regular Council meeting, Payroll Ordinance 5560 and Purchase Order Ordinance 5561. Motion seconded by Councilmember Tanner Corwin and passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Shultz appointed Logan McNett and Rodney Ryans to the Lindsborg Volunteer Fire Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

City Administrator Tanner Faust shared an update on the Diversion Channel project.

PROCLAMATION:

Steve Ahlstedt shared information on behalf of the American Legion asking for banners for purple heart recipients to be hung on Lincoln Street.

Mayor Shultz read a proclamation recognizing August 7 as Purple Heart Recognition Day.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:**Debt Setoff Agreement**

The City of Lindsborg has participated in the State of Kansas Debt Set-Off Program since at least 2005. This program is utilized to recover unpaid utility bills, municipal court fines, and EMS charges. Recently, the State of Kansas updated its agreement and is requesting cities to sign the new version to remain in the program

The State has said that the main reasons for the new agreements are:

1. A new agreement has not been issued in over ten years.
2. The collection fee will now be charged to the debtor rather than the city. Previously, the city absorbed the 19% fee retained by the state.
3. The city may be charged appeal fees if they fail to appear for a formal hearing.
4. The update ensures that contact information is current.

On February 21, 2022, the City Council approved a contract with the Collection Bureau of Kansas (CBK) to provide debt collection services on behalf of the City of Lindsborg. CBK submits all new Debt Set-Off charges to the State of Kansas on the city's behalf. However, the city wishes to retain the ability to submit charges directly to the State should it decide to discontinue services with CBK in the future.

Councilmember John Presley moved to sign the agreement and continue to utilize the Setoff Program with the State of Kansas for bad debt collection. Seconded by Councilmember Rebecca Van Der Wege and passed 7-1 with Councilmembers Presley, Heble, Bruce, Lysell, Peterson, Corwin and Van Der Wege voting aye and Councilmember Swanson voting no by roll call vote.

Fire Hose

On February 19, 2024, the Lindsborg City Council voted to replace the aging 1993 Pierce Manufacturing (#302) and purchase a pumper fire truck from Rosenbauer Firefighting Technology that was scheduled to be delivered in 2025. Due to supply chain issues for fire trucks, the scheduled delivery date has been moved to 2026. Staff budgeted for purchasing fire hose to equip the new fire truck when it arrived in 2025 along with replacing old fire hose that is currently in use.

Three bids were received to purchase fire hose before the pumper fire truck that is scheduled to arrive in 2026. The bids are:

- **FirePenny Firefighter Equipment:** \$16,731.37
- **Fire Hose Direct:** \$13,159.50
- **Ed M. Feld Equipment Co.:** \$12,288.38

The lowest bid from Ed M. Feld Equipment Co. is \$288.38 over the budgeted amount of \$12,000.

Councilmember Blaine Heble to approve the purchase of fire hose for the new pumper fire truck and to replace old hose from Ed M. Feld Equipment Co. in the amount of \$12,288.38. Seconded by Councilmember Kirsten Bruce and passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

Tyler Technologies/Smart Cop

In 2019, the Lindsborg Police Department purchased the SmartCop Records Management System (RMS) for \$6,400, with an annual maintenance fee of \$1,400 and a 5% yearly increase. Over the past five years, the department has experienced continual problems with the SmartCop system, including frequent errors, unreliable functionality, and persistent issues preventing reports from being correctly submitted to the state. These ongoing challenges have created inefficiencies, increased staff workload, and raised concerns about the accuracy and reliability of recordkeeping.

To address these issues, the department is proposing to purchase a new, fully integrated RMS system from **Tyler Technologies**. This system would include mobile reporting, digital ticketing, and evidence room management software and hardware. An added advantage of selecting Tyler Technologies is that it is the same company that provides the software used by the municipal court. Currently we must enter ticket information separately into both SmartCop and the court software, creating duplication of work and increasing the risk of data entry errors.

By implementing the Tyler Technologies system, ticket and report data would integrate seamlessly between the police department and the court, eliminating the need for duplicate entry. This integration would improve accuracy, reduce the potential for human error, and save valuable employee time. Overall, this system would enhance efficiency, streamline operations, and allow officers to focus more on community safety and service rather than administrative tasks.

Councilmember Larry Lysell moved to approve purchasing software and hardware from Tyler Technologies in 2025 using Police Department budget instead of 2026 Capital Outlay. Seconded by Councilmember Joshua Swanson and passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

Rural Fire District #8 Agreement

The agreement between the City of Lindsborg and Rural Fire District No. 8 is reviewed and updated annually. This agreement states that the City provides services and vehicle storage for the rural fire district, as well as the payment to volunteer firefighters for rural fire runs. In return, the rural fire district pays a fee to the City for these services plus a set amount for the fire runs.

Proposed in the 2026 agreement is a three percent (3%) increase in the fee for City-provided services and vehicle storage.

This agreement was approved by the Rural Fire District No. 8 at their October meeting.

Councilmember Joshua Swanson moved to approve the 2026 agreement between the City of Lindsborg and Rural Fire District No. 8. Seconded by Councilmember Rebecca Van Der Wege and passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

Land License Agreement

The City Council was approached during the budget season about a contract hauling solution that would remove the wastewater sludge from the wastewater treatment plant. These solutions have proven to be costly which has led to the exploration of alternative options such as land applying. While this has been done historically, it has proven to be a challenge to find ground to land apply. A letter was sent to property owners that owned over eighty (80) acres that are within a three-mile radius from the city limits. This “request for proposals” yielded two interested landowners. The landowner that was closer with more workable ground for land applying was contacted for negotiation. This land license agreement affords us the ability to land apply for the next year with the possibility of an extension into the future.

Land applying is a more affordable and efficient option to dispose of wastewater sludge.

This land license agreement has a price of \$300 per acre or \$23,130 for the term of the agreement (1-year). The approved 2026 budget included \$87,000 for contract hauling services. From bids that we received, the actual cost would have easily surpassed \$100,000 suggesting a potential rate adjustment. This agreement will eliminate the need to move to a contract hauling solution for the time being.

Because the cost will be incurred in 2025, rather than 2026, this agreement will be paid from 2025 cash reserves. If there is an extension of this agreement in 2026, the cost will be incurred from the \$87,000 that was budgeted for contract hauling.

Councilmember Joshua Swanson moved to approve the land license agreement as presented. Seconded by John Presley and passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

Historic Tax Credit Transfer

The City of Lindsborg currently has Kansas Historic Preservation Tax Credits that were offered for competitive bid through an RFP process. The City was offering the following credits:

2023 tax credits of \$9,220.00 from the painting of City Hall.

2025 tax credits of \$16,987.00 from the roof replacement at City Hall.

Staff received 1 bid from Union State Bank out of Wichita, KS. The bid was \$.905 per dollar rounding to the next full dollar. That breaks down to:

2023 tax credits = \$8,344

2025 tax credits = \$15,374

Total bid = \$23,718

Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved to accept the bid of \$23,718 from Union State Bank for the sale of 2023 and 2025 Kansas Historic Preservation Tax Credits. Seconded by Councilmember John Presley and passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

Health Insurance Renewal

Current insurance coverage provided by the City to all full-time eligible employees includes health, dental, vision, and prescription coverage. When put out to bid for the 2026 plan year, the following options were presented:

- 1) KMIT Option 1 at a 10.75% increase over 2025
- 2) KMIT Option 2 at a 39.63% increase over 2025

In 2023, the City applied for acceptance into the KMIT Association Health Plan for plan year 2024 and was denied due to high risk/high claims. After applying again in 2025, in a lower claim year, the City was accepted. Once accepted into and joining the KMIT Association, a City cannot be removed from the plan; also, there is a 20% cap on annual increases for 2027, which creates more confidence in budgeting. The two options presented are KMIT approved are both underwritten by Blue Cross Blue Shield, with differences in deductibles.

Administration, in preparing the 2026 Operating Budget, budgeted a 15% increase based on the 2026 cap for this line item. This estimate was based off industry trends, polling other cities, and in consultation with our third-party administrators. Staff, after reviewing all the plan options, recommends the KMIT Blue Edge plan, at a 10.75% increase over 2025 rates. Last year the City moved to a 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025 plan year. The City will continue to offer secondary insurance to employees through Freedom Claims Management. There will be no changes to the employee premiums with this option; current *employee* costs are:

- Employee Only: \$95/month
- Employee-Spouse: \$220/month
- Employee-Child(ren): \$192.50/month
- Family: \$275/month

City employees will continue to have access to a Flexible Spending Account, to contribute up to \$3,400 pre-tax to cover medical expenses (excluding premiums). Optional supplemental insurance policies through Blue Cross and AFLAC at their own cost (e.g., hospital indemnity, cancer, critical illness, accident, etc.).

Councilmember Tanner Corwin moved to approve KMIT Option 1 umbrella health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield as members of the KMIT Health Association Health Plan, using Freedom Claims as a third-party administrator. Seconded by Councilmember Rebecca Van Der Wege and passed 8-0 by roll call vote.

OTHER:

Councilmember Swanson shared that him and his wife and several other community members are organizing a free community swap event at Soderstrom Elementary School on November 22 from 10am-1pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Shultz adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roxie Sjogren, MMC
City Clerk