

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL
Lindsborg City Hall
January 5, 2026–6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Clark Shultz, Rebecca Van Der Wege, Kirsten Bruce, Larry Lysell, Ericka Lysell, Lysa Palmer-Augusta, Tyler Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew Smith, Joshua Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT: Tanner Faust, Roxie Sjogren, Zachary Strella, David Hay, Denny Walker, Lauren Doak, Chief Reed, Noah Flores, Milton Collins, Scott Bontz

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

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 the Lindsborg Cultural Crawl has started and will go through February 7. The locations included are the Birger Sandzen Memorial Art Gallery, Red Barn Studio, Smoky Valley Arts and Folklife Center, Lindsborg Old Mill and Swedish Heritage Museum, Lindsborg Community Library, and Lindsborg Arts Council; get your passport, fill it with stamps and be entered in several drawings.

Messiah festival tickets are now available. March 27 will be Bach's The Passion According to St. Matthew followed by the 145th consecutive season of Handel's Messiah.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2025, regular Council meeting, Payroll Ordinance 5568, Purchase Order Ordinance 5569, Lexipol invoice and YesWay Cereal Malt Beverage license. Motion seconded by Councilmember Larry Lysell and passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

There were no appointments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amending City Fee Schedule

Ordinance No. 5570 amends the City Fee Schedule for fees related to the following items. The changes made to the schedule have been marked with red font in the draft City Fee Schedule (referred to as "Exhibit A" in the ordinance) that was provided to Council:

- Polycart rates: The City of Lindsborg was notified that McPherson Area Solid Waste (MASWU) was raising rates by 5% at the annual meeting. Staff recommends passing on the 5% increase to end users. Following is the new fee schedule for both Dwelling units and Commercial establishments; the redlined fee schedule shows the previous rates and new rates.

Dwelling Units/Commercial Charges by City of Lindsborg – Monthly:

1 Cart = \$19.75
2 Carts = \$29.75
3 Carts = \$44.25
4 Carts = \$58.25
5 Carts = \$72.75

- Ordinance No. 5332 established electric rates through 2026; the City Fee Schedule has now been updated to include the rates previously established for 2026
- Electric Power Cost Adjustment (PCA): This charge was implemented to replenish the reserve account that funded the substation upgrade. The upgrade was paid for from the reserve account rather than through a bond issuance. The reserve account has now been fully restored, and current energy costs no longer require a PCA to recover power supply-related expenses.

Council President Rebecca Van Der Wege moved to approve Ordinance No. 5570 amending the City Fee Schedule as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Kirsten Bruce and passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

Cost of Living Allowance

Annually, the City Council considers a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for city employees. The guidance of this decision has been based on the Midwest Region's Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is provided by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI in the Midwest Region increased by 3.0% for the 12-month period ending in November 2025.

While preparing the 2026 budget for the City of Lindsborg, a 5% increase in wages was budgeted. This increase includes both merit and COLA. The recommended 3% COLA adjustment, if approved, will be reflected on staff's wages as of January 1, 2026. The additional up to 2% will be determined on an employee-by-employee basis as a merit increase. The merit increase, based on performance, is determined by departments heads and the City Administrator at the time of the employee's anniversary date.

In 2025, a 5% increase was budgeted for merit and COLA. The Council approved a 2.6% COLA, while the remaining merit increase was 2.4%.

Councilmember Larry Lysell moved to approve a 3.0% Cost-of-Living Adjustment for all regularly scheduled city employees, effective January 1, 2026. Seconded by Councilmember Ericka Lysell and passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

GAAP Waiver Resolution, 2025 & 2026

The City of Lindsborg has operated under the Kansas Municipal Audit and Accounting Guide (KMAAG) since it was introduced in 1935. This is a straight-forward method of accounting (cash basis) that makes sense for most cities in Kansas.

Of the cities of the second class, there are only nine out of 90 that are also following Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) standards. To streamline accounting and auditing procedures, several cities of the first- and second class produce a waiver annually that allows them to operate solely under KMAAG principles, thus waiving the additional requirements of GAAP.

Staff reached out to Danielle Hollingshead, the city's auditor with Adams Brown, for an opinion on this issue as it relates to the City of Lindsborg:

"A city your size does not typically have the staffing capacity to accurately keep up with GAAP. You have to stay on top of all the new GASB standards coming out, which changes policy and reporting. KMAAG is a simplified method of accounting, more user friendly to the average reader, and cost effective. It also has very few changes over the years but is reviewed annually for updates. The [separate] audit report of KMAAG is around 30-40 pages, if you did a true ACFR its 100+ pages."

When reviewing KMAAG standards, it states that City Council must approve this waiver annually. When reviewing the city's ordinances, there is a charter ordinance to waive this. However, after conferring with Adams Brown, they stated that while several other cities have this, the KMAAG Board does not accept the charter ordinance. Therefore, staff brings this before Council to formally approve the waiver. Going forward, the waiver will be presented to Council at the beginning of the fiscal year, but Ms. Hollingshead confirmed that if it is approved retroactive, it is still within guidelines but recommends doing it the first of the year.

Councilmember Lysa Palmer-Augusta moved to approve Resolution 01-2026 authorizing the waiver of GAAP accounting for the City of Lindsborg, Kansas for 2025. Seconded by Council President Rebecca Van Der Wege and passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

Councilmember Lysa Palmer-Augusta moved to approve Resolution 02-2026 authorizing the waiver of GAAP accounting for the City of Lindsborg, Kansas for 2026. Seconded by Councilmember Kirsten Bruce and passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Rebecca Van Der Wege moved that the governing body recess into executive session for 15 minutes. The justification of this executive session is to discuss the acquisition of real property pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(9). The subject of this executive session is to discuss the potential acquisition of real property located in McPherson, County Kansas by the City of Lindsborg. The executive session will include the city council, mayor, city administrator, and city clerk. No other topics will be discussed, and no binding action will be taken. The open meeting will resume at 7:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The City Council resumed its open meeting at 7:04 p.m.

OTHER

City Clerk Roxie Sjogren reminded Council that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be **TUESDAY, January 20** in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday on Monday, January 19.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved for adjournment, seconded by Councilmember Lysa Palmer-Augusta, and passed 6-0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7: 05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxie Sjogren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Roxie" on the top line and "Sjogren" on the bottom line.

Roxie Sjogren, MMC
City Clerk