

CITY OF SEVERY
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 4, 2026
7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Council members Marc Warren, Lyle Riggs, Ron Robert, Bryan Hampton, Rodger Kraft, Clerk Tessa Riggs, City Attorney William McClendon and Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt

Guests: Ed Cornett, Joanna Wilson & Tamara Higbee

Absent: Mayor Donna Wiss and Treasurer Madelyn McClendon

Council President Warren called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was cited and roll called.

Warren moved to go into executive session at 7:04 pm for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes for employee performance to include city attorney and city clerk. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 7:14 pm. No action was taken.

Kraft moved to approve the April 2026 minutes. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Warren moved to approve the April 2026 bills. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Riggs moved to approve the April 2026 treasurer's report as presented. Robert 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Tamara Higbee presented to the council regarding her opinion on the pea gravel for Brody's Park. Higbee stated she was at the park when it rained two inches and there were no mud holes and the ground soaked all the moisture in and it maybe could use some dirt or sand in low places. She would not like to use the gravel that was donated at this time.

Water Superintendent Schmit reported the Salt Creek pump is almost done. The tetherball that was purchased four days ago for the park is already broken. Schmidt also done the wastewater samples and when they were delivered to Meridian Labs in Wichita the temperature has increased causing them to not be in compliance with KDHE. The samples were sent on but Schmidt will more than likely have to redo them. Schmidt stated that WaterWise Enterprises brought some road chemical to do a demo on one of the pole holes. The road that the product was used on was on Main Street, which is a county road, but the chemical was free to the City for testing purposes. Councilman Riggs stated there is a drainage issue on North Severy Avenue south of the railroad tracks and employee Rollings will be taking of it.

Clerk Riggs gave the council two quotes for a different heating and air source in the office/meeting room. The office air conditioner had water running out of it last year and going down the inside of the office interior wall. Riggs plans on getting more quotes. City Attorney McClendon noted the person installing the system needs to be bonded and insured in case something happens.

Clerk Riggs reported that in April a family had put two cremations at the cemetery and planted flowers over the cremations. Riggs stated that according to the City's newest cemetery ordinance that no one, even a cemetery lot owner is to dig except city staff. Council agreed that City Attorney McClendon will need to assist Clerk Riggs with a certified legal letter to the family.

Clerk Riggs updated the council on the completion of Brody's Park and city alley survey the City did. Riggs does not have the official survey back yet, but according to the survey the northeast flag is back to the west approximately 10-12 feet. Adjoining landowner Joanna Wilson's fence is on city property. Riggs will update more when survey map is available.

Patriot ball club letter is asking for a donation. Council addressed that the City does not plan to donate unless someone can come to represent the organization.

Councilman Riggs received a call from West Elk FFA teacher David Griesel regarding a community service workday. It is a very short notice but would like to come on Wednesday of this week. Schmidt and Clerk Riggs stated they cannot get supplies and volunteers gathered in one day's notice. Griesel mentioned the following Tuesday would work for a rain date if need be.

Clerk Riggs stated it has been brought to her attention that 99 S Road was not annexed into the city limits in March 2014 like the ordinance states according to Greenwood County Appraiser's, Register of Deeds and Clerk's office reports. The city passed an ordinance for a former property owner's request to be annexed into the city for water, sewer and trash services. After hours of reviewing the documents, it appears that the ordinance was passed and published in the local newspaper, but the annexation paper is not a legal document as one owner signed the form and not the spouse and there is no date or notary. The annexation paperwork that was completed from the City was not recorded at the courthouse, which means for the past 12 years that the City of Severy has not received city taxes from this property. The property is being taxed as Twin Grove Township. City Attorney McClendon requested Clerk Riggs to go to the courthouse and ask if it can be recorded or if not, the City will need to start the annexation process over again.

City Attorney McClendon drafted an ordinance and application process for council to review the community revitalization. Councilman Hampton would like more time to review the paperwork prior to making any final decisions. McClendon agreed this paperwork should not be rushed through. Council decided to table this until June's meeting.

Warren moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for non-elected personnel on employee performance and include City Attorney William McClendon and Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt at 9:20 p.m. Hampton 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 9:35 pm. No action was taken.

Hampton moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to consult with City Attorney on matters subject to attorney-client privilege and include Clerk Riggs at 9:37 p.m. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular meeting reconvened at 9:52 p.m. No action was taken.

Robert moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

/s/ Donna Wiss, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk