

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**SOLOMON KS 67480**  
**April 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Brandy Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Council Present: Shawn Kirby, Jennifer Cross, Kelley Vandecreek, Brian Duryea, Colten Kohman

Staff Present: Andrea McCook, Krista Radke, Dan Britt, Randy Paden

Others Present: Sheriff Jerry Davis, Aaron Martin, Chris Ade, Luke Riordan, Tammy Taylor, Jae Ecton, Curtis Boyer.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR March 3, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Motion by Jennifer Cross to approve the agenda, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS**

No public comments. A letter was provided to the council for review from Holli Smith.

**3. PRESENTATION/REPORTS**

1. Twin Valley- Tammy Taylor reported that they are now Live in Solomon. They currently have 22 residential customers and are also providing service to the school for 2025. Discussion was held on 300 Meg fiber connection for City Hall and The Pool. Tammy requested permission to install Wi-Fi in City Park and put up Twin Valley signs. She submitted a proposal for the council to review.

2. Community Garden- Luke Riordan gave an update on the 2025 garden season. Plots sold out quickly this year, so the board will be implementing new rules for next season including limiting plots and when planting can begin. The committee is actively working to expand involvement and make the garden more accessible and beneficial to local residents. Luke thanked the city for quickly implementing improvements for this year including adding 4 above ground plots, 1 large inground plot, and moving the compost bin. Smaller plots were ordered for the Early Learning Center.

3. Housing Authority- Jae Ecton reported they currently only have 1 vacancy. They've looked into switching internet services to Twin Valley but at this time it is more cost efficient to stay with Vyve. Discussion was held on snow removal. Jae thanked the council for bringing in neighbor to neighbor and that many of her residents were thankful for that assistance.

4. Planning & Zoning-Curtis Boyer reported the group has been actively meeting again and are focusing on updating the comprehensive plan. The first two projects they're looking at are storm drainage and getting a park plan. The group is also reviewing the zoning and subdivision regulations and looking at 4 chapters a month. With many new members they are working and learning together.

5. Dickinson County Sheriff- Jerry Davis provided a summary of activity for March 2025. 13 traffic stops, 7 suspicious activity, 4 speak with an officer, 4 theft, 2 alarms, 1 civil matter, 1 code blue, 1 court order violation, 1 lost/found property, 1 motorist assist, 1 unknown problem, 1 open door, 1 animal complaint, 1 domestic disturbance, 2 juvenile complaints, 1 weapons complaint, 1 welfare check. They had 43 calls with 225.25 hours.

6. Solomon Fire Department- Chief Paden reported he applied for a grant from Harbor Freight and was issued \$500. He also submitted the grant to the Kansas Forestry Service last week. Randy was contacted by a couple of high school students that wanted to interview him and take a tour of the department. They have a possible new member that lives in Lincoln Township and is a firefighter at the Salina airport. He has come to two meetings so far. The new 800 radio system is being used but not going live yet.

18 calls in March

In The City - 8- Med Calls, 1 public service, 1 weather training, 1 power pole on fire, 2 canceled in route

In The County - 1 power line down, 2 false alarms, 1 MVA

Out of District - 1 grass

7. Public Works Director- Dan Britt reported he attended the KRWA workshop in Wichita. Don had knee surgery March 12th and will be back half days this week and then full next week. They've been working on pothole patching, rocking alleys, and running the street sweeper. The county was digging out ditches north of Solomon last week and they delivered 20 truck loads of good dirt that we can use for future projects.

8. City Clerk - Andrea McCook reported that the Pet Clinic went well. The vet administered 145 vaccines. The City had 88 pets registered. We currently have 234 pets registered for 2025. Andrea plans on starting phone calls and sending letters to those left unregistered. Building permits have started coming in now with the nicer weather. Her main focus in the next few months is code compliance.

9. Municipal Services Clerk- Krista Radke reported there were 20 Cases on the docket for March. 1 first appearance, 1 motion hearing, 7 pay or appear, 7 cases set for status, 2 trial cases.

Next court date 4/17/25 at 4:00

Krista continues to work with NexBill Pay to get everything moved over.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Council reviewed consent agenda items including:

(1) Approval of minutes dated March 3, 2025.

(2) March Check Register, Payroll Summary, & Fund Reports.

(3) License approval- Everett Larson Roofing, Sparky's Fireworks

(4) Special Event Permits- FCA, Gray, Solomon United Festival

A motion by Brian Duryea to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Kelley VanDeCreek, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

#### **5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. KDHE Property Resolution 2025-05 relates to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment providing cleanup services for a property on 6th street. Motion made by Kelley VanDeCreek to approve resolution 2025-05, seconded by Brian Duryea, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

2. Garden Board Appointment

It was moved by Jennifer Cross to approve Jim Daily as a new member to the Community Garden Board for a term of 3 years, seconded by Shawn Kirby, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

3. Planning & Zoning Board Appointment

It was moved by Shawn Kirby to approve Dalton Bledsoe as a new member to P&Z, seconded by Jennifer Cross, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4. Water Project Update

A meeting was held with Deb from NCRPC, Rob and Jim from CES, Andrea, and Mayor Gray last week. USDA funding remains intact. CES estimates the water lines are 80% engineered. Once complete, the engineering design must be submitted to KDHE for review, which can take up to 3 months. Bids would then likely go out Fall of 2025. Construction estimated start date is Spring 2026 and could take up to 18 months to complete. The well houses will be carved out separately. CES was informed of 3.7 million cap that was voted on at last month's council meeting. They will work on getting us a firm timeline once engineering is 100% complete. They will get input from Dan as they prioritize the project.

5. Sales Tax

Aaron Martin provided an update on our potential sales tax election planned for November. We will need to adopt a resolution to declare intent to hold a special election and must specify ballot language to County Clerk. It's currently too early to do this. He explained the 2 types of sales tax that we're looking at. There is a general purpose sales tax that has no limit and can be used for anything and goes into the general fund. There is also a special purpose Sales tax that is limited to 10 years and must be ear-marked for a specific purpose. This would require re-election after 10 years. Aaron will consult with Gilmore and Bell and see if they have a recommendation. The council will continue to review and look at the different sales tax approaches to ensure long-term financial stability.

6. CITY MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jennifer reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt in the park this Sunday, April 13th at 2:00 put on by the Recreation Commission.

Brandy shared there will be a mini food resource fair April 22nd.

Brandy also noted she appreciates all the different committees meeting and getting involved and reporting back to the Council.

7. CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday, April 28th at 6PM- Council Workshop

Monday, May 5th at 6PM- City Council Meeting

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM by Kelley VanDeCreek, seconded by Colten Kohman, 5 Yays, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Signed:



Brandy Gray  
Mayor

Attest:



Andrea McCook  
City Clerk