

CITY OF ELWOOD, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2026

At 6:00pm Mayor Travis Holcomb called the regularly scheduled meeting to order. Those attending: council members Megan Shackelford, Dustin Robinson, Nate Daniels, Matt McFarland and CJ Garner. Also attending Charles Baskins, Bill Johnson, Brandon Whetstine, Darrell Lamme and Pam King.

Jarrold Mann arrived at 6:45pm.

INVOCATION

Mayor Holcomb gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dustin Robinson moved, Nate Daniels seconded, to approve as written the March 2, 2026 regular council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Dustin Robinson moved, CJ Garner seconded, to issue an alcohol permit to Janet Roberts for the community center on March 28, 2026. Motion carried.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Brandon Whetstine requested an executive session for personnel.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS

Megan Shackelford moved, CJ Garner seconded, to approve checks numbered 69301-69354. Motion carried.

GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Holcomb asked when Elwood's zoning regulations were last updated. The zoning regulations were updated in 2013. Holcomb asked if the zoning map is current. The zoning map

has some areas not correct-that need to be updated and corrected. Holcomb asked why zoning appeals/variances go to the County Zoning Board before coming to Elwood. Elwood has the final decision-regardless of what the County Board suggests. Holcomb is interested in code enforcement-saying there are no nuisance violations currently in municipal court. Chief Whetstine said normally his department starts ticketing in the spring-but first a 10 day notice is given. Council member Megan Shackelford prepared a hardship letter, allowing the resident to apply for help with cleaning up the property. The hardship letter would be given to the resident along with the 10 day notice. Mayor Holcomb asked the governing body to look over the hardship letter, making changes if necessary. Council member Nate Daniels said Chief Whetstine is making progress, but the court needs fewer continuances on the violations. Council member Dustin Robinson said he spent thousands of dollars tearing down a house his family owned to be in compliance. Shackelford suggested hiring a code enforcement officer. The governing body agreed someone needed to make a list of nuisance properties. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Robinson asked if the City was going to hire summer help this year. City Supervisor Bill Johnson said he is hiring summer help and will run the ad in April for a start date the first of June.

Mayor Holcomb wants bids taken for tuck pointing City Hall.

Council member CJ Garner said the property at 9th and Kentucky Streets is getting cleaned up-and the dog is gone.

Garner said a property on 9th Street is piling stuff outside. Chief Whetstine will look into the matter.

Garner said the crew did a great job sanding and salting the streets.

Garner said the property suggested for utility pole storage will not work.

Council member Megan Shackelford gave prayer for our Troops.

Shackelford asked the status of not allowing parking on Vermont Street, between 6th and 7th Streets.

Shackelford asked how long a property can remain boarded up-secured. Daniels asked why it mattered as long as the property is secured. More discussion followed, including the

boarded up structures lower property values, not being good for the community; among other things. Shackelford suggested amending the current nuisance ordinance-changing what we allow.

Shackelford reminded everyone of the City Wide clean up on April 9, 10 and 11, 2026.

Shackelford requested an executive session for legal.

Shackelford discussed the City Wide Garage Sale-which will be the first weekend in June.

Matt McFarland said he did not think the property to the east of the City barn would work for storing utility poles. Mayor Holcomb has concerns about using the property at 15th Street and 164th Road for storing City maintenance supplies. Holcomb's concerns include the transport of the poles and taking away from a business interested in coming to Elwood. McFarland asked Supervisor Johnson his thoughts on driving the backhoe that far to get supplies. Johnson said he would be able to deal with whatever the Governing Body decided.

McFarland discussed the City Wide Clean Up-suggesting another letter go in the utility bills.

Dustin Robinson asked Supervisor Bill Johnson if he was going to hire help for the City Wide Cleanup. Johnson and Council agreed help would be needed.

Nate Daniels discussed the number of nuisance citations issued and the number of nuisance citations in Municipal Court.

Robinson asked if Sue Bartley has been contacted regarding the selling of the property on the west side of Agape Apartments.

Robinson wanted the Kansas League of Municipalities contacted asking what is the normal time limit for boarded up structures to remain boarded up.

VISITORS

Jarod Mann, engineer for Government Assistance Services, appeared before the governing body to discuss the proposed sidewalk project. The City is considering applying for a grant for sidewalks. Mann explained how the process works. More discussion followed including the cost to the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:10 Dustin Robinson moved, CJ Garner seconded, to go into executive session for personnel and legal for 10 minutes. Matt McFarland, Nate Daniels and Megan Shackelford, yea. It was extended for 35 minutes.

At 7:50 Council member Matt McFarland left the meeting.

REGULAR SESSION

At 7:55 regular session resumed.

Megan Shackelford moved CJ Garner seconded, to give Officer Cadyn Allen \$1 per hour raise. Nate Daniels and Dustin Robinson, yea.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 CJ Garner moved, Nate Daniels seconded, to adjourn. Dustin Robinson and Megan Shackelford, yea.

Mayor Travis Holcomb

Pam King, City Clerk