City of Great Bend
August 17, 2026

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Alan Moeder called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following presents: Mayor Alan Moeder Councilmembers, Rickee Maddox, Shelly Peacock, Shelly Arnberger, Jay Luerman, Davis Jimenez, Gary Parr and Tina Mingenback. Absent was Councilmember Kevyn Soupiset. Also in attendance were City Administrator Logan Burns, City Attorney Allen Glendenning and Finance Director/City Clerk Shawna Schafer.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on August 3, 2026.

b) **Claim's Warrant Register 8-17-26:** Covering 2026 bills to date in the amount of $487,704.88.

c) **Payroll Register P/R 8-7-2026:** Covering payroll ending August 1, 2026, in the amount of $486,901.06.

d) **Appointments:** Mayor Moeder made no appointments.

e) **Change of Date for the Next Regular Council Meeting:** The next regular council meeting falls on Labor Day which is a Holiday observed by the City. It is recommended that the meeting be held on Monday, August 31, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

f) **Agenda:** Approval of agenda as submitted or amended.

Ms. Maddox made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Arnberger seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- J.C. Bosch addressed Governing Body about Flock cameras.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **2027 Budget Ordinance No. 4475**: City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer reported that City Administrator, Logan Burns, presented the 2027 Operating Budget to the Governing Body at the July 13, 2026, budget work session. The budget is funded at a mill levy of 40.975, which is the calculated Revenue Neutral Rate of 40.975 certified by the County Clerk. Senate Bill 410 was approved in 2024 which states that if the governing body did not intend to exceed its revenue neutral rate but the final valuations of the taxing entity used to calculate the revenue neutral rate changes, the governing body shall be permitted to levy a tax rate that generates the same amount of property tax revenue as

levied in the prior year. With this change in the bill, no RNR hearing is recommended. Mayor Moeder opened for public hearing. Ms. Maddox made a motion to close public hearing. Ms. Peacock seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor. Ms. Mingenback made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4475 as the 2027 Budget Ordinance. Mr. Parr seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

2. **Councilmember Reports**: There were no Councilmember reports.

3. **Administrators Update**: City Administrator Logan Burns presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.

4. **CVB Report**: CVB Director Amanda Gaddis presented her monthly report.

5. **Great Plains Development**: Bob Wetmore with Great Plains Development spoke to council about the services they provide to Cities and Counties.

6. **Salary Resolution 081726-A**: Human Resources Director Randy Keasling reported that in February, the City contracted with Evergreen Solutions to conduct a comprehensive Compensation Study. The proposed Salary Resolution reflects the first of a two-step implementation to bring City wages more in line with current labor market rates. Pending approval and available funding in the 2028 budget, the second step of the salary adjustment is anticipated to be presented next August. Ms. Arnberger made a motion to approve Resolution 081726-A. Mr. Luerman seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

7. **Sales Tax Ballot Resolution**: City Administrator Logan Burns reported that the City of Great Bend has been in discussions over the past several months regarding a proposed ¾-cent sales tax designed to address three significant priorities: rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant, property tax relief, and a funding source for the City's general obligation associated with the proposed STAR Bond project at the Expo Complex. The proposed initiative is intended to provide long-term sustainability for critical infrastructure, provide relief within the City's annual budget, and create opportunities for economic growth in Great Bend over the next several years. The resolution divides the proposed ¾-cent sales tax into two primary categories: ¼ cent for property tax relief and ½ cent for infrastructure. Of the ½-cent infrastructure portion, ¼ cent would be dedicated to the rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant. The City has been approved for financing through the Kansas State Revolving Fund, which would provide a 30-year loan at a lower interest rate than traditional general obligation bond financing. The remaining ¼ cent of the infrastructure portion would be available to support the City's general obligation associated with the proposed STAR Bond project. The annual debt obligation is currently estimated at approximately $1.3 million. The ¼-cent sales tax represents the maximum amount of sales tax revenue that could be dedicated toward that obligation. If the STAR Bond project performs successfully and project revenues are sufficient to support operations and the City's general obligation bond payment, any portion of that ¼-cent sales tax no longer needed for the STAR Bond obligation would be redirected toward priority water infrastructure projects. Those projects could include improvements to water blending and distribution infrastructure, improvements to the City's water wells, and ultimately a reverse osmosis water treatment plant with the goal of improving water quality throughout Great Bend. The resolution before you for consideration would formally

authorize the City of Great Bend to place the proposed ¾-cent sales tax question on the November 3, 2026, general election ballot for consideration by the citizens of Great Bend. If the proposed sales tax is not approved in November, rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant will still be necessary. Without the proposed sales tax as a funding source, the City would need to rely on water and sewer utility revenues to fund the required improvements, resulting in an estimated increase of approximately $240 to $300 annually for Great Bend residents. The purpose of the proposed sales tax structure is to avoid placing the entire financial burden for these significant infrastructure needs on Great Bend residents through utility rates and property taxes. Because sales tax is also paid by visitors and others who spend money in Great Bend, it provides an opportunity to broaden the funding base while addressing critical infrastructure, providing property tax relief, and supporting opportunities for future economic growth. Mr. Parr made a motion to approve Resolution 081726-B to place the ¾ cent sales tax proposal on the November 3, 2026, general election. Ms. Mingenback seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

8. **Mayors' Comments:** Mayor Moeder reminded everyone that the next council meeting is August 31.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Arnberger made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Luerman and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.