

Oakley City Council Minutes from July 7 Meeting

(These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Oakley City Council.)

OAKLEY CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
July 7, 2025

The Oakley City Council met in regular session on July 7, 2025, in the meeting room at the Oakley City Office, 415 W. 2nd Street, at 7:00 P.M.



myron flickner

Do Ya Really Wanna Know

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I love to cook...and I cook a lot. Cooking is considered a love language...and apparently nobody loves better than Myron Flickner...just ask my family and friends. I’m single and have dealt with an eclectic and diverse range of partners throughout the years, but if you ask any one of them about my good attributes...cooking will be at the top of the list...and several might tell you it was a portion of the reason for our demise.

After feeling the negative side of my love language...the weight gain...several went on the “Myron Flickner Diet Plan.” The first step...get rid of Myron Flickner.

I once dated a celiac...you know...allergic to wheat...gluten free lifestyle...and I found it very difficult to cook for her. Although I did my best to incorporate gluten free aspects into my recipes...it felt like a very one sided effort and eventually led to our parting of ways. Relationships are two way streets with compromise coming from both directions in any solid, working situation. The problem was not that she didn’t want to compromise...but that she couldn’t...and I couldn’t open up her pallet to show her what I was really capable of...and there ended the unfulfilling relationship.

I’ve cooked for dates...I’ve served small groups...and I have put together meals for very large groups...all of which have been very fulfilling. You know what’s not fulfilling?!...cooking for contests. It’s wonderful to have people compliment you after a meal and tell you how much they enjoyed this and that...some even ask for recipes (which by the way...I don’t really like to share...mainly because it takes away from the uniqueness of what I prepare)...but I’m not in competition with others when I prepare meals.

I don’t like contests! In a contest they are almost never looking for the greatness of what you prepare, but rather comparing you to ability (or lack thereof) of others in the contest. Judges look for reasons to tear down your dish more so than ways to lift it up. They don’t want to admit to perfection or judge a dish based upon the pallet of more than just themselves. Give me a room full of people any day appreciative of the fact that they didn’t have to cook that evening and happy that the food didn’t suck...them’s my folks.

I also like to walk through a grocery store while inventing a recipe on the fly. This goes with that...or that would enhance this...or even combining things that you would never imagine going together...that is fulfilling in itself.

However, I have gone too far before in adding to perfection where I have taken one step too far to improve on an already perfect dish. My sister is quoted as saying, “you should have left it alone...you took it from love to hate in one ingredient,” ...which sometimes explains how my relationships work...life lesson.

One final thing...don’t be too critical of how other people prepare their dishes. Arrogance goes a long way in ensuring you don’t get invited to others dinner parties. What may be intended as helpful advice can go south quickly when your advice is unsolicited. Just enjoy what is in front of you...and be thankful that you didn’t have to prepare it. And don’t forget to compliment the cook...and critiquing their dish is never considered a compliment in any love language...just sayin.

Mayor Shane Stephenson presided.
Council members present. Steve Badger, Leasa Huddle, and Russ Kahle were present; Trevor Mader arrived after the meeting was called to order and Cheryl Stewart was absent.

City staff present. City Administrator Brock Sloan, Police Chief Daniel Cooper, General Manager of Public Works Russell Moellering, Water/

Wastewater Director Rodney Huffman and City Clerk Leann Hughes.

Others present. Emily Faulkender, Chris Crotts, Carrie Evins, and Kraig Siruta.

Call to order. Mayor Stephenson called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s). Kahle moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025, regular meeting, as presented. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (3-0).

Approval of AP Payment Register. Kahle moved to approve the June 30, 2025, AP Payment Register, in the amount of \$77,378.06 (Check Nos. 818-826; 52414; and 52419-52446; and Direct Deposit No. 24000056) for checks dated June 30, 2025. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (3-0).

Huddle moved to approve the July 3, 2025, AP Payment Register, in the amount of \$12,675.69 (Check Nos. 827; and 52447-52469; and Direct Deposit Nos. 24000057-24000058), for checks dated July 3, 2025. Badger seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (3-0).

Huddle moved to approve the June 30, 2025, AP Payment Register, in the amount of \$880.00 (Check No. 1026), for a check dated June 30, 2025, to be paid out of the Prosecutor’s Charitable Trust Fund. Kahle seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (3-0).

The Council acknowledged Voided Check Number 52317, made payable to JR Audio, Inc, which was voided because it appears to have been lost in the mail; payment was re-issued via ACH.

Approval of Time Entry Report. Kahle moved to approve the Time Entry Report for June 8, 2025 to June 21, 2025, dated June 25, 2025, for the June 27, 2025, payroll, in the amount of \$85,955.20 for 3,767.74 hours (Check Nos. 17790-17796; ACH Nos. 100170-100241; AP Check Nos. 52415-52418; and Wire Nos. 1101-1106). Badger seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (3-0).

Citizen Request to Speak. None.
Department Head Reports. None.

NEW DISCUSSION/ ACTION ITEMS:

Emily Faulkender – Western Kansas Career Showcase. Emily Faulkender met with the Council to present information on the Western Kansas Career Showcase. Faulkender explained this is an area wide program to show high school seniors what small communities have to offer for careers.

Students from all schools in a defined area are invited to attend a “showcase” where they will talk to all employers who attend. There are three showcases scheduled in Northwest Kansas; a Multi-Career Showcase in WaKeeney, a Multi-Health Career Showcase in Oakley and a Multi-Career Showcase in Goodland. The City may attend all three showcases with a booth for a membership fee of \$500.00. Kahle moved to approve the purchase of a Western Kanss Career Showcases 2025-2026 Annual Membership in the amount of \$500.00. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (3-0).

Logan County Fair Board – Beer Tasting. Kraig Siruta, Logan County Fair Board Member, met with the Council to request approval to have a beer sampling event at the Logan County Fair on August 1, 2025.

Council Member Trevor Mader arrived at approximately 7:10 PM.

Siruta stated this will be set up like it was last year with a limit on the number of drinks per person and there will only be one entrance. They will also be partnering with Tallgrass Liquor again this year. Kahle moved to approve a beer tasting event at the Logan County Fair on August 1, 2025, being hosted by the Logan County Fair Board in Partnership with Tallgrass Liquor, with State rules being followed as they were in 2024. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

USD #274 Oakley Schools – Sales Tax. Chris Crotts and Carrie Evins, USD #274 School Board Members, met with the Council to discuss the possibility of a sales tax to help offset the cost of a bond issue for improvements to the local schools. They reported research has shown that a one percent sales tax could potentially bring in \$550,000.00, which is a tax relief of roughly 8 mills. They also stated this issue would have to be on the ballot in the fall for citizens to vote on, so some decisions will need to be made by the first part of August. Council Member Badger inquired of the total cost; Evins stated the total is approximately \$25 million. Mayor Stephenson inquired if the Board Members are also addressing the Counties the School District serves; they stated that, yes, this has been discussed. Mayor Stephenson noted the Council needs to consider whether or not a sales tax would be needed for any City improvements before making a decision. It was the consensus of the Council to have Administrator Sloan research more details on the process and report back to the Council.

Tri-County Amusement Association – Community Sponsorship Application. Administrator Sloan reported Tri-County Amusement Association has applied for a Community Sponsorship in the amount of \$450.00 to assist with advertising during the Logan County Fair. He stated this is the 30th anniversary of the Amusement Association, and they have added some new rides. Huddle moved to approve a donation of \$450.00 to the Tri-County Amusement Association, to be paid from the Convention and Tourism Fund, Annual Tourism Events. Mader seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

Gove County Sales Tax Overpayment 2024.

Administrator Sloan reported the City received a notice of an error in sales tax distributions from February 2024 to January 2025, resulting in an overpayment to the City in the amount of \$1,182.19. The State has requested the City of Oakley remit the overpayment to the City of Grainfield, as shown in the emails and the spreadsheet provided in the Council Packet. Kahle moved to approve the remittance of \$1,182.19 to the City of Grainfield, Kansas, to re-distribute an overpayment from the State to the City of Oakley. Badger seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

KDHE Loan Agreement. Administrator Sloan reported KDHE has approved a loan agreement for the construction of a Water Treatment Plant. Sloan noted the documents in the Council Packet, which show the loan is not to exceed \$6,860,886.00 and there is an estimated principal forgiveness of \$2,500,00.00, which leaves net loan costs of \$4,360,886.00, with an interest rate of 3.40%. The agreement is for a 30-year note starting in February 2028 and semi-annual payments will be \$116,509.53, with a total of 60 payments. Discussion followed. Kahle moved to accept the Loan Agreement between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, acting on behalf of the State of Kansas, and the City of Oakley, Kansas. KPWSLF Project No. 3151. Badger seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

Ordinance 1190 for KDHE Loan Agreement Water Treatment Plant. The Council reviewed a proposed Ordinance to authorize the execution of a Loan Agreement with the State. Administrator Sloan noted this proposed Ordinance has been reviewed by City Attorney Steve Hirsch. Badger moved to approve Ordinance No. 1190, authorizing the execution of a Loan Agreement between the City of Oakley, Kansas, and the State of Kansas. Mader seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

2026 Budget Summary. Administrator Sloan presented information on the proposed 2026 Budget, noting he received a notice the City’s Workers’ Compensation Insurance will increase approximately 44%, due to some accidents. He also stated he included a 4% wage increase for employees and up to a 15% increase in health insurance premiums. Sloan stated he has a proposed mill levy of approximately 89.029 for 2026, which is slightly lower than the 2025 levy of 89.196. Since valuation has increased, the slightly lower mill levy will generate more tax dollars for 2026.

Resolution 2025-3 – Intent to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate – Co. Clerk. Administrator Sloan explained the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2026 Budget is 83.626 mills and the proposed budget is for 89.029 mills, so a Resolution must be approved and filed with the County Clerks in order to proceed with the higher levy. This Resolution also sets a public hearing date of September 2, 2025. Kahle moved to approve Resolution 2025-03, Intent to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate, and to send notice to the County Clerks. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

KAIP Fuel System Agreement – Airport. Administrator Sloan

reported the City was awarded a KDOT grant to install a new fuel system at the Municipal Airport. This grant will pay 90% of the costs, with the City paying the remaining 10%. The grant amounts are \$180,000.00 to be paid by KAIP and \$20,000.00 to be paid by the City. Sloan noted there are copies of the agreement and other documents in the Council packet. Kahle moved to accept the Agreement between the Kansas Department of Transportation, acting on behalf of the State of Kansas, and the City of Oakley, Kansas, KAIP Project No. AV-2026-39. Mader seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

U N F I N I S H E D DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

City Administrator Evaluation. Kahle moved to recess to Executive Session for personnel matters of nonelected personnel for five (5) minutes with the Mayor and Council present, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(1). The meeting will resume in the meeting room at the Oakley City Office, 415 W. 2nd Street at 7:43 PM. Badger seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

Mayor Stephenson re-convened the meeting with no action taken in the executive session and he stated he will schedule a time to review the annual evaluation with Administrator Sloan.

Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel.

Badger to recess to Executive Session for personnel matters of nonelected personnel for five (5) minutes with the Mayor, Council and City Administrator Sloan present, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(1). The meeting will resume in the meeting room at the Oakley City Office, 415 W. 2nd Street at 7:51 PM. Mader seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0).

Mayor Stephenson re-convened the meeting with no action taken in the executive session.

Kahle moved to approve moving wages to Q5 on the pay grid for a City Employee whose employment date was June 23, 2018. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0). Action (#5755).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/DISCUSSION:

Russ Moellering – General Manager. Russell Moellering, General Manager of Public Works, reviewed some of the duties/projects City staff has been, and will be, addressing in the upcoming weeks. He also discussed landscaping for the Veterans Memorials and OWLS plot at the Bertrand Park, noting they need to do some work. Council Member Mader inquired how the code enforcement was going. Moellering stated he thought it was going well and that residents appreciate phone calls rather than just receiving a notice.

Brock Sloan, City Administrator. Administrator Sloan reported on various items, including:


Sloan reported updated dispatch agreements for 2026 have been mailed to Logan and Gove Counties for review. Also, 2025 payments were received from both counties today.

Sloan stated he and General Manager


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INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO
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