

NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Stephanie Jump at (620) 896-7311 or email sjump@kconline.com

MINUTES

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in, was not likely to be a future target area for some time due to the few number of homes and owners that would meet the Low-to-Moderate Income guideline. Council determining it appropriate to order demolition, allowed a 30-day delay in commencing demolition to allow for time to explore the CDBG grant as an opportunity for funding assistance.

Motion by Ken Leu second by Eric Barker to adopt Resolution No. 931-25 a resolution finding that the structure located on the South half of Lot 04 and all of Lot 05 of Block 06 of the College Addition to the City of Harper, Harper County, Kansas, commonly known and referred to as 1912 Pine St. Harper, Kansas, is unsafe and dangerous and ordering that the structure be removed and the premises made safe and secure. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Latta opened the public hearing for 606 E. Main St. to determine if the property should be condemned as a dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished. Enforcing officer Sgt. Walter provided current photos of the property showing no activity since the notice of public hearing was published and sent. No parties of interest were in attendance for the hearing. Admin. Cooperrider shared information she had received that the owner was deceased and that none of the owner's next of kin were interested in the property, noting she wasn't able to verify the accuracy of the information. She referred to the inspector's report that had a recommendation of repair versus demolition. It might be a property that the Harper Land Bank would like to consider as a project property. Land Bank trustees Teel and Barker agreed it was worth the land bank's consideration. Council agreed to adjourn the public hearing until the November 24th regular meeting to give the land bank the opportunity to review.

Motion by Ken Leu second by Eric Barker to adopt Resolution No. 932-25 a resolution finding that the structure located on the East half of Lot 08 and all of Lot 09 in Block 08 of Martin's Addition to the City of Harper, Harper County, Kansas, commonly known and referred to as 606 E. Main St. is unsafe and dangerous, adjourning the public hearing until November 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Latta opened the public hearing for 607 E. Main St. to determine

if the property should be condemned as a dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished. Enforcing officer Sgt. Walter provided current photos of the property showing no activity since the notice of public hearing was published and sent. No parties of interest were in attendance for the hearing. Admin. Cooperrider reviewed with Council the inspector's report, noting the significant health hazard the structure presented. The property was relatively close to the target area for the CDBG Housing grant. Staff would submit to grant monitor for consideration of inclusion.

Motion by Lonnie Teel second by Rose Ann Green to adopt Resolution No. 933-25 a resolution finding that the structure located at Harper Unplatted Subdivision, beginning 408.8' east of the northwest corner of Government Lot 7 thence east 50', thence south 230', thence west 50', thence north 230' to the point of beginning less the road right-of-way in Section 06 of Township 32 Range 06 in Harper County, Kansas, commonly known and referred to as 607 E. Main St. Harper, Kansas, is unsafe and dangerous and directing that the structure be removed and the premises made safe and secure. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Latta opened the public hearing for 703 W. 11th St. to determine if the property should be condemned as a dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished. Mayor Latta contacted Geri Webber via phone and placed her on speaker phone so that she could participate in the public hearing per her request. She shared with Council that she was interested in doing what she needs to do remedy the conditions that would cause the property to be condemned as a dangerous structure. Her plan was to retire in Harper, but she had experienced some health issues and was no longer sure that would happen. She would like an opportunity to have her contractor perform a site inspection and see what might be done. Admin Cooperrider read the inspection report. Mayor Latta asked about a time frame in order to have the property assessed. Mrs. Webber said she could get someone there as soon as possible to perform an assessment. Council agreed to allow her 60 days to have the property inspected for necessary repairs.

Motion by Eric Barker second by Lonnie Teel to adopt Resolution No. 934-25 a resolution finding that the structure located on Lot 01 and East

40' of Lot 02 of Block 06 of Glenn's Addition to the City of Harper, Harper County, Kansas, commonly known and referred to as 703 W. 11th St. Harper, Kansas, is unsafe and dangerous, adjourning until November 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Deputy Clerk Befort gave a presentation on the research she conducted to resolve the municipal software issues the City was facing. Initially she explored a variety of software companies that service municipalities in the state of Kansas, she then narrowed based on who was able to provide the existing services that the City had. Caselle was the only provider, that was less than \$100,000 that provided municipal court software. The concern with proceeding with a firm that did not provide court was that it would leave the City open to price hikes by the current software provider gWorks. She reminded them that gWorks, in an attempt to force municipalities to transition to their cloud-based platform that was not fully developed or vetted by Kansas municipalities, more than doubled the annual maintenance agreements with their clients November 2024 without any advanced notice, even though they were well aware that cities perform their budgets in August. Harper did not experience the hike, but that was because staff had signed onto the cloud-based software. The transition had yet to occur due to Admin. Cooperrider setting aside a week in September 2024 to work with gWorks' IT staff to explore the cloud-based platform and help their IT staff identify any deficiencies. The IT director was pulled away mid-week and none of the concerns documented by Admin.

Cooperrider had yet to be resolved, at least to the knowledge of City staff. As well, the turnover at gWorks was creating significant, often times a week or more, delays in response to support calls. The bad acts of gWorks management caused an exodus of existing municipal clients in the state of Kansas. There is now more concern over the future viability of gWorks as a municipal software presence in the state of Kansas. If they are able to navigate through the obstacles of their online platform, the future fee amounts are likely to increase to account for the number of clients they have already lost. Staff had visited a Kansas city that had been with Caselle since 2020 to see it in action. Staff felt that their software was in line with the needs of Harper. Caselle's existing

customers had high marks for their support staff and timeliness. On paper Edmunds appeared to be in line with Caselle, however, Deputy Befort noted that their original price was around \$100,000 and their sales representative was doing everything to capture new clients, even under cutting their original quote by over half, noted in their contract language was a nearly a 4% annual increase. She was not comfortable with that business practice. Whereas, Caselle locked in their contract amount for three years with the gWorks discount being guaranteed for the life of the contract between Caselle and the city.

Motion by Eric Barker second by Ken Leu to enter into a contract with Caselle Inc. to provide municipal software solutions for General Ledger, Budgeting, Bank Reconciliation, Cash Receipting, Community Connect (online payment/messaging platform), Payroll, Timekeeping, Accounts Payable, Utility Billing, Maintenance Orders, Court Management, and Document Management, cost including training, conversion and first year maintenance and support for a cost not to exceed 62,286.00 to be paid from the General Fund, Diversion Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Funds. Motion carried 6-0.

Committee Reports: none

Admin. Report: She had looked into surplus fire equipment through the state Fire Marshall's office for a fire command vehicle, they did not have anything currently available. She informed them that her and Chief Flores had explored Council's suggestion of a salary structure for the fire department and were working on a proposal. She mentioned a solution to the budget issue may be resolved by pursuing funding through the Transient Guest Tax. An eligible expense was to defray the cost of municipal services, the fire department is a municipal service. Council was in favor of that pursuit, with Councilmember Earls recalling the HTTAC funding the Harper Chamber Director position in past years. Admin. Cooperrider shared that the ion-exchange resin evaluation had finally been received.

The report noted that it was in relatively good condition considering its age, but Layne's recommendation was to replace it within the next calendar year. Given the difficulty in obtaining the January evaluation from Layne, Admin. Cooperrider would like to source someone other than

Layne. She shared that Harper will be hosting KMU in November for WT/WW Training. The Ad Valorem Rebate Program expires at the end of this year, two weeks prior she had met with County Clerk, County Appraiser, County Community Development Director, the cities of Anthony and Attica, as well as representatives of the hospital districts in Harper County and developing a modified program for renewal was promising. Anthony and Harper were working with KWCH's marketing team for the development of the Small Town Marketing program. The BASE Grant was now closed out. Since there were grant funds remaining, the grant monitor allowed the 74/26 grant match to adjust to the original minimum requirement of 75/25, resulting in

Harper receiving a refund for funds paid from local match. of approximately \$16,800.00.

A Candidate Forum for the upcoming municipal election has been suggested by members of the public.

Councilmember Vogele shared that she had been approached for her government students to host and moderate it.

Mayor Latta shared that there was a grass roots effort in the works by individuals in the community.

Deputy Clerk Befort reported on RedFish Festival plans, she also thanked Council for being able to attend the Dale Carnegie class, she felt it was very valuable.

New Business: Mayor Latta announced the ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow at 11:00 am. for El Amigasos.

Notices/Communications: Councilmember Earls shared that the donations received for the MDA over the Labor

Day weekend got the attention of the MDA association and they wanted to show their thanks by giving everyone who volunteered a t-shirt.

Councilmember Earls identified a concern related to damages caused by Kansas Gas Service in the public right-of-way at HWY 160/Central Ave. Admin. Cooperrider responded that those damages, along with the damages at 19th St./Central Ave. were being submitted to Kansas Gas Services claims department.

Motion by Brande Vogele second by Rose Ann Green to adjourn. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Tiffany M. Cooperrider CMC, CPM City Administrator/Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025) It

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 4, 2025
CITY AND SCHOOL

In compliance with the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2018(e), notice is hereby given of an election to be held on November 4, 2025. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

- U.S.D. 361** School Board members to be elected are Positions 4 (Dist 3), 5 (Dist 2) and 6 (Dist 1).
- U.S.D. 511** School Board members to be elected are Positions 5, 6 and 7. Also, Position 1 for an unexpired four-year term.
- U.S.D. 255** electors that reside in Harper County will vote in *Barber County at the Community Building in Kiowa, KS.*
- U.S.D. 331** electors that reside in Harper County will vote in *Kingman County at the Dotzour Community Center in Norwich, KS.*
- U.S.D. 332** electors that reside in Harper County will vote in *Harper County at the Memorial Building in Attica, KS.*
- U.S.D. 359** electors that reside in Harper County will vote in *Harper County at the .*
- U.S.D. 361** electors that reside in *Kingman County* will vote in *Harper County at the Harper Senior Center in Harper, KS.*

Candidates

- U.S.D. 361 (Vote for 1 in each District)**
- District 1:** Shawn Williams, Harper
 - District 2:** Chris Matthews, Anthony
 - District 3:** Joe Mendoza, Anthony, Mark Yoder, Harper

- U.S.D. 511**
- Member at Large, Unexpired Term (Vote for 1):** Christy Mans, Attica
 - Member at Large (Vote for 3 or fewer):** Megan McDaniel, Attica

- U.S.D. 332**
- Member at Large (Vote for 1):** Bjorn Halderson

- U.S.D. 359**
- Member at Large (Vote for 3 or fewer):** Scott Jones, Sarah Vineyard, Mysteri Wedman, Shawn White

City Election will be held the same day as the School Election.

Candidates

City of Anthony, City Commissioner (Vote for 3 or fewer): Greg Cleveland, Howard Hatfield, Bryan Hilgemann, Jan Lanie, Curt Miller

City of Attica, Mayor: Branson Deen, Buckland (Buck) Smith
City of Attica, City Council (Vote for 3 or fewer): Buckland (Buck) Smith

Bluff City, Mayor: Nautica Smith
Bluff City, City Council (Vote for 3 or fewer): No candidate filings

Danville City, Mayor: No candidate filings
Danville City Council (Vote for 5 or fewer): No candidate filings

City of Harper, Mayor: Eric Latta
City of Harper, City Council (Vote for 3 or fewer): Jeff Capps, David Earls, Rose Ann Green, Pat Kerschen, Douglas Murphy, Darren Smithisler, Lonnie Teel

Waldron City, Mayor: No candidate filings
Waldron City Council (Vote 5 or fewer): No candidate filings

Ami DeLacerda
Harper County Clerk/Election Officer

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Since the NFL keeps cutting new deals with streaming services, many football fans struggle to figure out what subscriptions they'll need to watch the games. Fortunately, you don't have to be one of them!

Our online StreamNow guide is the playbook you need to easily navigate through the viewing fragmentation of NFL season. It includes a convenient chart showing where to watch each game, so you can see at a glance which Live TV or On-Demand streaming services will be required to follow your favorite teams.

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