

Regular Meeting OAKLEY CITY COUNCIL May 04, 2026

KAWG Awards 2026

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These minutes are unapproved

The Oakley City Council met in regular session on May 04, 2026, in the meeting room at the Oakley City Office, 415 W. 2nd Street, at 7:00 PM. Mayor Russ Kahle presided.

Council members present. Steve Badger, Leasa Huddle, Brian Joseph, Doug Reed, and Caleb Baalman.

City staff present. Operations Administrator Russ Moellering, City Clerk/Finance Administrator Leann Hughes, Police Investigator Danny Shanks, and Accounts Payable Clerk Joy Huffman.

Others present. Charlie Magley, Jethro Chrisler, Maddox Hubert, Mackenzie Hubert, Hadlie Younkin, Waylon Uhrich, Elliot Bloom, Beth Warren, and Leasa Huffman.

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

Public Hearing. Mayor Kahle opened the public hearing to consider vacating a portion of 7th Street and asked if there were any discussions, comments, or questions from the public; there were none. Council member Steve Badger stated he would like something in writing from the school stating if the City closes this portion of the street, the City won't be responsible for any of the cost of moving the utilities. It was a consensus with the council to table this matter and check with the City Attorney on how to move forward. Mayor Kahle closed the hearing.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting. Reed moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026, regular meeting, as presented. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

Approval of AP Payment Registers. Baalman moved to approve the April 30, 2026, AP Payment Register in the amount of \$149,703.01 (Check Nos. 1038-1051; 2604-2606; 53089-53091; 53097-53120) for checks dated April 30, 2026. Joseph seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

Reed moved to approve the April 30, 2026, Direct Deposit AP Payment Register in the amount of \$4,327.51 (Check Nos. 26000030-

26000032) for Direct Deposit Expenses dated May 04, 2026. Baalman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

Approval of Time Entry Report. Badger moved to approve the Time Entry Report for April 12, 2026 to April 25, 2026, for the May 1, 2026, payroll, in the amount of \$62,709.26 for hours 2,194.61 (Check Nos. 17865-17867; ACH Nos. 101064-101095; AP Check Nos. 53092-53096; and Wire Nos.1202-1205). Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

CITIZEN REQUEST TO SPEAK. None.

NEW DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS.

Ordinance No. 1198 - Vacating a portion of 7th Street. This matter was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

Beth Warren - KMU - Water Rate Study. Beth Warren from Kansas Municipal Utilities came before the council to review the water rates study that she has been working on the last couple of months with City Clerk/Finance Administrator Hughes and Operations Administrator Warren. Warren gave the council two scenarios for the water rates with the upcoming Water Treatment Plant Project. Scenario one is to not change any rates which will result in the City having significant financial shortfalls in the coming years. Scenario two is to increase the rates in 2027 and review each year for future rate changes. It was a consensus with the council to increase the rates in 2027 and refine/finalize figures in the next year before committing to any further rate changes.

Change Order No. 1 - Water Supply System Improvements. Operations Administrator Moellering informed the council Change Order No. 1 is to remove the well at the golf course from the Water Supply System Improvements Project. He stated the well is only used for watering at the golf course and the City could always add it at a different time. Huddle moved to approve Change Order No. 1, removing the piping from Well #9, Supply Line 9 at the Oakley Country Club, from the Water Supply System Improvements Project Contract with BSB Construction, Inc., for a decrease of \$134,045.50 in the cost and changing the total Contract Price from \$1,510,273.00 to

\$1,376,227.50; and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Change Order. Baalman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

KidWind Request - World KidWind Competition Donation. The Oakley STEM Club addressed the Council requesting sponsorship for the World KidWind event in Madison, Wisconsin, May 16-21, 2026. Maddox Hubert and Elliot Bloom explained Oakley has qualified four teams to move on to this event and the group is doing fundraising to pay for their expenses to attend. Huddle moved to approve a sponsorship to the KidWind Stem Club to attend the World KidWind Event in Madison, Wisconsin, in the amount of \$1,500.00, to be paid from Convention and Tourism Fund. Badger seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

VFW - Run for the Wall - Community Partnership. The council reviewed an application from the VFW for the Annual Run for the Wall Event to be held May 17, 2026. Huddle moved to approve a community partnership with the VFW by providing funding in the amount of \$750.00 to assist with the Run for the Wall Event/Stop in Oakley, which also promotes tourism in Oakley with the riders/participants fueling at a local business and mentioning Oakley as a sponsor at every stop along their ride. This is to be paid out of the Convention and Tourism Fund, Annual Events. Baalman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

Mayoral Appointments. Mayor Kahle provided a list of appointments to the Council and asked them to review it and proceed as they see fit, with one vote for the list as presented or by a vote for each one. The list of appointments presented was as follows:

- Operations Administrator Russell Moellering
- Finance Administrator Leann Hughes
- Chief of Police Daniel Cooper
- City Clerk Joy Huffman
- Deputy City Clerk Barbara Kelly
- Municipal Judge Anthony Haffner
- Municipal Court Clerk Jessica Masterson
- City Attorney Hirsch and Abbott Law Office
- Fire Chief

Russell Moellering
Huddle moved to approve the Staff Appointments, as presented. Badger seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

Planning Commission (3) 3 Year Term
Murray Bean, Glen Good, Jeff Dennis
Board of Zoning Appeals (3) 3 Year Term
K i l e Zerr, Curtis Larshus, Dee Siruta
Airport Authority (2) 2 Year Term
Dave Wieland, John Holzmeister
Library Board (2) 4 Year Term
Carol Johnson, Patrick Keyes
Museum Board (2) 4 Year Term
Charlotte Baalman, Mary Ochs
Oakley Housing Authority (1) ** see below
L i s a Preston
** Lisa Preston's term actually ended in 2025, so the appointment should be for 3 years instead of 4 years to get the position back in sync.

Reed moved to approve the Board Appointments, as presented. Baalman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

Oath of Office. Finance Administrator Hughes administered the Oath of Office to Joy Huffman as incoming City Clerk.

Update Signature Cards - Farmers State Bank. Finance Administrator Hughes informed the Council with a new City Clerk, they will need to redesignate authorized signers for the City Bank Accounts for the SuperNow/Checking, Prosecutors Charitable Trust, Drug Forfeiture, Petty Cash, and Safe Deposit Box at The Farmers State Bank. Mayor Kahle entertained a motion to add City Clerk Joy Huffman to the list of current authorized signers at The Farmers State Bank. Badger moved to approve adding City Clerk Huffman to the list of current authorized signers at The Farmers State Bank. Baalman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

Update Signature Card - The Bank. Finance Administrator Hughes informed the Council with a new City Clerk, they will need to redesignate authorized signers for the City Bank Account for the Flexible Spending Cash Account at The Bank. Mayor Kahle entertained a motion to add City Clerk Joy Huffman to the list of current

authorized signers at The Bank. Badger moved to approve adding City Clerk Huffman to the list of current authorized signers at The Bank. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#)

U N F I N I S H E D DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS. None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/DISCUSSION:

Russ Moellering - Operations Administrator. Operations Administrator Russ Moellering reviewed several of the duties City staff have been doing:
The Pool should open June 6, 2026 if we get enough guards and office staff.
Finance Administrator Hughes, City Clerk Huffman, and himself attended the Budget Workshop in Colby today. Canopies are going up at the park and pool.
Still working on building, electricity, and plumbing permits.

Leann Hughes - Finance Administrator. Finance Administrator Hughes inquired of the Council when they would like to start budget workshops. The Council came to a consensus to start on May 18, 2026 at 6 PM to 7 PM before the next council meeting.

Hughes reminded the Council the City is hosting a League City Forum on June 3rd at the Oakley Country Club from 5 PM to 7:30 PM and would like a head count of how many will be able to attend.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/DISCUSSION: Steve Badger asked if A T & T was going to start putting up the tower. Operations Administrator Moellering stated that they have already started.

Doug Reed informed the Council that Police Officer Jon Schroeder will be talking to the school about bicycle safety on May 13, 2026. He stated Police Officer Schroeder has done a lot of work on this and there will be a Bike Rodeo in June at the Western Vista. Employee Butch Burris will be bringing many bikes and there will be some giveaways also.

Adjourn. Badger moved to adjourn the meeting. Baalman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (5-0). Action (#). Mayor Kahle adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:56 PM.

Joy L. Huffman
City Clerk

up surrounded by wheat and corn fields on his family's farm in western Kansas, Goetz said his agricultural experiences inspired both his work ethic and career goals.

As a longtime participant in 4-H and FFA, Goetz has been active with livestock projects, public speaking and parliamentary procedure contests. He credits those experiences with helping him develop leadership skills and a motivation to contribute to the future of food production.

"Through hands-on involvement in organizations like 4-H and FFA, agriculture has shaped my morals, instilled a relentless work ethic, and ignited a passion to contribute to sustainable food systems for future generations," Goetz said.

Goetz hopes to combine his agricultural background with professional expertise in milling and agribusiness to help address challenges facing the food industry.

"In a world where agriculture feeds billions, I am prepared to contribute, honoring the legacy that shaped me while forging a road toward a more resilient future," Goetz said.

Leo DeDonder of Admire, KS, plans to attend Kansas State University to study agricultural engineering and pursue minor in agronomy. Growing up on his family's farm near Admire, DeDonder had an early appreciation for agriculture and the value of conservation.

DeDonder said agriculture introduced him early to hard work, responsibility and innovation. His experiences range from operating his own sweet corn business, helping with planting, harvesting and cattle management on the family farm. From FFA, 4-H, athletics and community service projects, DeDonder has stayed active in both school and agriculture while developing an interest in technology-driven farming practices.

"My passion is in improving agriculture through precision farming technologies and sustainable resource management," DeDonder said.

He said he hopes to use precision agriculture tools such as GPS-guided equipment, soil sensors and data-driven crop management systems to improve efficiency and sustainability.

"I hope to carry forward my family's legacy of stewardship and innovation, while developing a career and skill set that directly benefits the agricultural industry and future generations," DeDonder said.



**Ag Loan Officer/
Credit Analyst**
Due to increased loan growth, Farm Credit of Western Kansas is accepting applications for a full-time loan officer/credit analyst. The Position requires a four year college degree in Agriculture, Business, Accounting, Economics, or related field. Prefer a minimum of 3-years agriculture lending, financial statement analysis, accounting or equivalent combination of education and experience, but college graduate or entry level applicants are welcome to apply. The successful applicant will have an understanding of agriculture production in Northwest Kansas and will display strong communication, marketing and computer skills. Salary to be determined based upon qualifications, with benefit package provided. To apply submit letter of application and resume to Farm Credit of Western Kansas, PO Box 667, Colby, KS 67701 attention Jessica Vaughn or email to jessica.vaughn@fcwk.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EEO/AA/Minorities/Female/Veteran/Disability



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