

MINUTES
BUHLER CITY COUNCIL
August 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jake Schmidt called the regular session of the City Council for the City of Buhler to order at 7:00 pm at the Buhler City Offices on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Councilmembers present: Councilmember Michael Yutzy, Chuck Taylor, and Ryan Brady. Councilmembers absent Councilmember Candace Davidson and Andrew Epp.

DETERMINE ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Jake Schmidt is adding into New Business-Goertzen Annexation.

CITIZENS FORUM

Lauren Meadors Community Foundation-The Love Where You Live Initiative resident survey, results will be distributed at workshops and shared through grant opportunities, with a goal of collecting 100 responses. The previous survey received 93 responses, with 38 residents attending the workshop. Residents expressed optimism for the community's future, and the upcoming survey will be open from September 3 through October 7. To broaden participation, especially among young adults and renters, Lauren asks council to help spread the word, share the survey link, and complete the survey themselves.

CONSENT MOTION

Council reviewed the Minutes of the July 29, 2025 Regular Council meetings, Appropriations Ordinance #1173, Budget, Income and Water Reports, Ordinance No. 657-Standard Traffic Ordinance -2025, and Ordinance No. 658-Uniform Public Offense Code-2025. **A motion was made by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve the Minutes of the July 29, 2025 Regular Council meetings, Appropriations Ordinance #1173, Budget, Income and Water Reports, Ordinance No. 657-Standard Traffic Ordinance-2025, and Ordinance No. 658-Uniform Public Offence Code-2025.** Voice vote 3 yeas, 0 nay – Carried

A motion was made by Councilmember Yutzy, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to go into executive session to discuss personnel until 7:18pm. Voice vote 3 yea, 0 nay—Carried.

A motion was made by Councilmember Yutzy, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to extend executive session by 10 minutes. Voice vote 3 yea, 0 nay –Carried.

Mayor Jake Schmidt call the regular meeting back in session at 7:28pm all those present before sill present.

OLD BUSINESS

Wage Discussion- A question was raised to the Council regarding whether city staff are underpaid, noting that both Public Works and the Police Department were recently trying to hire and had difficulties and, while not fully competitive with other communities, are not far behind. Sara H. stated that given budget constraints, she would not want to exceed a \$2 increase with a 5% COLA, which includes benefits, leaving a \$7,470 cushion, along with the potential for an additional \$1 for certifications. No decision was made, as the full Council was not present. Discussion also took place regarding evaluation-based raises.

NEW BUSINESS

Goertzen Annexation- A request to annex Wendell Goertzen's land is presented to the city. **A motion was made by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Yutzy to approve the annexation of Wendell Goertzen land.** Voice Vote 3 yea, 0 nay—Carried. **A motion was made by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve Ordinance 659.** Voice vote 3 yeas, 0 nay –Carried.

STAFF REPORTS

City Clerk Sara Howard- Sara shared that most meters have been installed, new accounting software installed on computer, and will be integrated in a couple weeks. This is her last year for institute; online classes have started. With it being her last year, she is required to stay for the banquet which takes place the night of council, and both her and Sarah Glass will be at institute so Lauren has agreed to take minutes.

City Superintendent James Perry- James stated that we hosted KMU class, they introduced a tool for assessment management to plug in figures to see if you are saving enough money. They are finishing with meters.

Chief Darrin Banning- Service calls on record in the office. The new hire is set to start next week, Sept. 2. Also, the Red Dirt and Diamonds is Aug. 29th.

Wellness Director Tegan Meadors-Tegan stated that participation has begun in the Leadership Reno County Academy, which started with a retreat. Admission required an application process, and a scholarship was awarded. The program will take place every Thursday and will include tours and classes. The Recreation Department has also launched an initiative to strengthen community engagement through youth sports, beginning with basketball and soccer, with plans to add flag football in the fall. A multi-year grant has been awarded to support these efforts over the next four years. Additionally, the pool report will be presented in September, with further discussion on the high dive.

Community Development Director Lauren Meadors- Lauren stated that our first issue of the newsletter has been sent out. Lauren is also wanting to get going on Housing-code review and start getting planning commission involved.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

A motion was made by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Yutzy to adjourn. Voice vote – 3 yea, 0 nay - carried
Adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Glass, Deputy City Clerk

PRESENT:

City Clerk Sara Howard
Deputy City Clerk Sarah Glass
City Superintendent James Perry
Chief Darrin Banning
Wellness Director Tegan Meadors
Community Development Director Lauren Meadors
Librarian Virginia Philbrick

GUESTS:

Shelly Bartel
Mike Knopp
Ryan Wray