

**MINUTES
BUHLER CITY COUNCIL
September 30, 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, September 30, 2025. Councilmembers present: Councilmember Michael Yutzy, Candace Davidson, Chuck Taylor, Ryan Brady, and Andrew Epp.

CONSENT MOTION

Council reviewed the Minutes of the August 26, 2025 Regular Council meetings, Appropriations Ordinance #1174, Budget, Income and Water Reports, Resolution 2025-11:Wage FT PD EH, and Ordinance No. 660-Standard Traffic Ordinance-2025. **A motion was made by Councilmember Yutzy, seconded by Councilmember Davidson to approve the Minutes of the August 26, 2025 Regular Council meetings, Appropriations Ordinance #1174, Budget, Income and Water Reports, Resolution 2025-11:Wage FT PD EH, and Ordinance No. 660-Standard Traffic Ordinance-2025.** Voice vote 5 yeas, 0 nay – Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Wage Discussion- Councilmember Taylor asked for a clarification on the cushion. Sara Howard responded it is a cushion within the budget to allow for raises, for certifications, and flexibility for wages. **A motion was made by Councilmember Yutzy, seconded by Councilmember Davidson to approve a \$2 wage increase with the 5% COLA.** Voice vote 5 yeas, 0 nay—Carried.

T-Mobile Contract-The council discussed the contract option agreement, as the agreement holds the city's spot in the project. Approval of the building the tower cannot occur this month to allow time for public petition, so formal approval will take place next month. The council needs to approve the contract to keep the process moving. Councilmember Yutzy requested time to review the contract before approval. It was noted that public opposition has been expressed, and those within 1,000 feet of the site may formally oppose the project. In that case, four out of five council votes would be required for approval. If the city does not sign the contract, T-Mobile may choose to proceed with another partner.

STAFF REPORTS

City Clerk Sara Howard- Sara shared with the council the Mayer sewer cleaning contract. **A motion was made by Councilmember Yutzy, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve the proposal for Mayer sewer cleaning.** Voice vote 5 yeas, 0 nay—Carried. A photo was presented showing IdeaTek painting numbers on parking spots along a public road, and the council discussed whether to require removal or allow them to remain. A volunteer gift idea was also shared—a \$22 sweatshirt featuring the city logo. It was noted that Sara and Sarah will be attending the institute during the October meeting, and Lauren will also be unavailable to take notes as

previously planned. The council agreed to reschedule the meeting, **A motion was made by Councilmember Yutzy, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to move the regularly scheduled meeting to October 21, at 7pm at the Buhler City Offices.** Voice vote 5 yeas, 0 nay—Carried.

Colonial Life supplemental insurance was presented, with discussion on whether employees should cover the cost or if the city should provide it. The city currently contributes \$505 per month toward health insurance, though not all employees participate. A resident on Social Security requested an exemption from late fees due to receiving their check at the end of the month.

Financial updates showed September sales tax revenue increased from the previous month but decreased compared to last year. The city's total is down \$90,494.43, while the county is up \$15,440.83, resulting in an overall decrease of \$75,053.60. Two written complaints and one verbal complaint were received regarding a property; if it is not cleaned up by the next meeting, a resolution to abate the property will be needed. Karter Noggle is seeking sponsorships for college basketball, and the city will share the flyer with local businesses and the public.

Deputy City Clerk Sarah Glass-The City has all the hardware and 8 banners for the veterans. There is one hanging for frolic so public can see and hopefully we get more interest the other 7 and all hardware will be hung by IdeaTek this month. There are already 3 more applications turned in. Sarah has now sent out the 2nd newsletter. Meters are reading but the software's are still in the processes of getting them to communicate.

City Superintendent James Perry- James stated that we are in need of hiring an engineer per KDHE for our phosphorous removal. James will talk to Chris Miller as the engineer; we will need to become compliant by 2027.

Chief Darrin Banning- Service calls on record in the office. Eric's training is going well. Councilmember Yutzy asked if there were any issues with the beverage trailer during frolic, no issues.

Wellness Director Tegan Meadors-Tegan presented the pool report for the season. Overall attendance was down which could have resulted with the weather. Lesson were up and season passes were down. Tegan also presents the revenues & expenses report. Tegan also brought up the high dive for continued discussion. Councilmember Brady would like to see some options on replacement of high dive and other input on what people want. Councilmember Davidson expressed that the requirements for the high dive should be both height and age, but also expressed just getting rid of it all together and just maybe adding another low dive. Possibly look into a new pool altogether and move forward with that. The pool is a huge community asset.

Community Development Director Lauren Meadors- The 2025 *Love Where You Live* survey from the Hutchinson/Buhler Community Foundation is underway, with 36 Buhler residents participating so far, placing Buhler third behind Hutchinson and Haven. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey at **renosurvey.com** by **October 17**. The 2024 report proved valuable in guiding city decisions, and the 2025 results are expected to provide continued insight.

Work is ongoing with the Buhler Chamber of Commerce to explore participation in the **Kansas Main Street Program**, which would provide support for downtown businesses in areas such as storefront design and business strategy.

The **Kansas Housing Conference** will be held **October 25–27** in Overland Park. A scholarship was awarded to cover registration and lodging, allowing Buhler to be represented and to gain ideas and partnerships for expanding local housing options.

The **Housing Standard Review** began September 18 with the Zoning and Planning Commission, addressing the need for affordable housing and blight concerns. The review includes analysis of local housing reports and ordinances, and community input is being sought. **Public forums** will be held at **9 a.m. on October 10 at the Buhler Senior Center** and **7 p.m. on October 20 at the Buhler Fire Station**, with feedback informing potential code updates later this year.

Anita Hagman Buhler Public Library Board Member-Anita informed council that the new LED lights were installed thanks to Jake Schmidt, Bill Ebeling, Ryan Brady, Rod Hagman and Mike Bryan. The Friends of the Library has been established and are now a 501C3. The library received a Hutchinson Community Foundation grant for \$8,000 for the mural and are in the process of moving forward with that.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

A motion was made by Councilmember Davidson, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to adjourn. Voice vote – 5 yea, 0 nay - carried
Adjourned at 8:07 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
Captain Anthony Baldwin
Officer Eric Hershberger

GUESTS:

Ryan Wray
Mike Knopp
Bill Ebeling
Anita Hagman
Rod Hagman
Brett Smith