

City of Clearwater, Kansas
Sedgwick County
City Council Meeting - **MINUTES**
November 25, 2025
Clearwater City Hall – Council Chambers
129 E. Ross Avenue Clearwater, KS 67026

1. Call to Order/ Invocation and Flag Salute

Mayor Burt Ussery called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed the invocation and flag salute.

2. Roll Call

The City Clerk called the roll to confirm the presence of a quorum. The following members were present:

Mayor Burt Ussery, Councilmembers; Justin Shore, Jason Gordon, Shirley Palmer-Witt and Tim Robben.

The following staff members were present:

City Administrator Zollinger, City Clerk Poe and Kirk Ives. Jared Dinwiddie, Cole Hollis, and City Attorney, Scott Ufford were present via Go To Meetings.

Others present:

Larry Kleeman via Go To Meetings

3. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Ussery asked if there were any modifications to the agenda, there were none.

Motion: *Shore* moved; *Robben* seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. Voted and passed unanimously.

4. Public Forum

None.

5. Consent Agenda

Mayor Ussery asked if there was any question on the consent agenda and if not asked for a motion to approve.

Previous Council Meeting Minutes

Claims and Warrants

Approve the 2026 CMB Licenses

Department on Aging 2026 Agreement

Court Write Offs

Motion: *Robben* moved; *Palmer-Witt* seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Voted and passed unanimously.

6. Staff Reports:

- Administration Office – Courtney Zollinger – Shore congratulated Zollinger on her certification for the Certified Public Management course. Shore asked what the highlighted addresses on the nuisance list were, Zollinger said it was for the ones that Resolutions were adopted at the last meeting.
- Fire Department – Jared Dinwiddie – Council asked about Carl Fry retiring, Dinwiddie stated that he retired May 31st he has been with Clearwater for 30 years and a recognition will be scheduled at a later date.
- Police Department – Kirk Ives – Palmer-Witt asked if DARE was always at the end of the school year, Ives answered that it was when Lee Harp was running it. Since Jacks took over he changed it to the beginning of the year since there are many events at the end of the school year.
- Public Works/Parks – Cole Hollis – Shore passed a long a thank you for the batting cages.
- Senior Center – Courtney Zollinger – Zollinger mentioned the Silver Stockings are available at City Hall.

7. Business

a. GO Temporary Note 2025B – Indian Ridge Phase 2

This process is for the second Temp Note taken out for Indian Ridge phase 2. On October 28 Council adopted Resolution 18-2025 authorizing the sale of temp notes for the Indian Ridge Phase 2 Paving. The Temporary Note principal is \$255,000. Maturity date for General Obligation Temporary Notes Series 2025B will be 10/01/2028. Two bids were

received with the lowest bid going to Northland Securities with a true interest cost of 3.9264%. Council verified that there were only 2 bidders for this temp note.

Motion: *Shore* moved, *Gordon* seconded to award bid – to Northland Securities @ 3.9264% true interest costs. Voted and passed unanimously.

Motion: *Palmer-Witt* moved, *Gordon* seconded to adopt Resolution – 22-2025 Authorizing And Directing The Issuance, Sale And Delivery Of General Obligation Temporary Notes, Series 2025b, Of The City Of Clearwater, Kansas; Providing For The Levy And Collection Of An Annual Tax, If Necessary, For The Purpose Of Paying The Principal Of And Interest On Said Notes As They Become Due; Making Certain Covenants And Agreements To Provide For The Payment And Security Thereof; And Authorizing Certain Other Documents And Actions Connected Therewith. Voted and passed unanimously.

Motion: *Shore* moved, *Palmer-Witt* seconded to authorize GO Temp Note 2025B Issuance to be executed by the Mayor and Clerk. Voted and passed unanimously.

b. FCMI 2026 Renewal

In 2024 the City of Clearwater cancelled partnership with the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) and moved to offer insurance with a broker. For the 2025 calendar year the city partnered with Freedom Claims Management Inc (FCMI), to manage the City's employee health plan. There were growing pains at the beginning of the year for staff but now pharmacies and doctor's offices can process claims easier for the benefit of the employee. This contract is to renew with FCMI for 2026. Year to date the city has put \$68,682 in reserves to pay the city's portion of claims. The current balance is \$37,735. The City gets to keep that money rather than sending it into the State. When reviewing the SEHP plan the city would have paid all of that to the State plus an increase of around 8% with the deductible increasing for individuals and families. The FCMI fee per employee per month is \$45.00. FCMI will also receive a percentage of savings recovered by the Company as a "Risk Based" MERP fee. The percentage of savings to be charged will be 15% which was 10% for 2025. The renewal fee is \$550.00 where it was \$850 in 2025. Regarding the proposed reserve funding it is recommended to go with option 1 because staff believe it is easier to budget a flat funding rate. The flat rate will be around 4% less funding for 2026 than 2025 but all parties feel that it is still reasonable for funding all claims that may come through. Palmer-Witt asked if the employees gave feedback. Zollinger stated that they had, noting that the outcomes were mixed but had improved compared to the beginning of the year. Zollinger explained with the State plan, they took care of everything, but with FCMI the City has had more work in managing the insurance. Zollinger has been working more closely with the employees and the broker for individual needs and believes that this year will be much smoother. Palmer-Witt asked how much the City saved by switching, Zollinger stated around \$336,000 was going to the State before and the City saved around \$60,000 this year. The pricing and deductibles for employees were kept the same for 2026 whereas the State went up on both costs and deductibles as it did every year, therefore she believes it is worth keeping this plan. Mayor Ussery asked if the reserves went into the general fund, Zollinger said no, it stays in that fund because there is a goal to build it up so the City can eventually offer lower deductibles or premiums. There is an exact percentage goal, but Zollinger did not recall it at that time. There is more flexibility with this plan. Zollinger mentioned there were more claims this year than in the past and there was still money in the reserves, but more people hit their deductible. The plans offered are Plan A and Plan C where one is a high deductible and one is not there are different options for funding which option 1 is recommended. Zollinger worked on keeping the reserves to \$250 or \$500 in option 1 for more appropriate budgeting.

Motion: *Palmer-Witt* moved, *Shore* seconded to authorize the mayor to sign the FCMI contract with Rate Option 1 reserve funding for 2026. Voted and passed unanimously.

9. Governing Body

Shore – Mentioned he has been stewing on networking within our region and said the Western Coalition meeting was great and kept everyone informed of what the County is doing. SCAC is good for networking within the communities and knew there was concern regarding value vs what we get back when it came to REAP and offered to pay when the renewal came in. Zollinger and Mayor Ussery stated that it was not taken out of the budget but would double check. He stated that the last SCAC meeting had Goodwill and the County presenting with lots of changes. The Greater Wichita Partnership also had a presentation that was mostly about constant inquiries regarding data centers. There's a lot of negativity surrounding the perceived consumption electricity, the possible consumption of water aesthetics, however it does bring in some jobs, more than PCCA for example. Clearwater won't have much say since the Urban Growth Area (UGA) barely escapes the City limits which has been mentioned since 2021. Shore wants to push this since the County is now behind it. Mayor Ussery spoke with Zollinger and will be working on a draft/request to include influence a mile East

and West of 135th all the way to K-42 as well as a mile North and a mile South of 103rd all the way to Broadway. Currently Clearwater does not have a say regarding solar or anything being brought in. This would allow Clearwater to at least be advised and maybe have a voice. He has heard there is a second solar system being discussed that would potentially impact 135th and would like to be involved with that as it may have a negative impact on Southwest growth. Something will be brought to the governing body to review. Ussery does not see a need to include the West as it is not a growth area for Clearwater in his view. Shore stated that most other cities have a mile perimeter around the limits and mentioned island annexing in our wells. They discussed ARC 95 on 119th, 95th or 103rd and growth potentially being affected if solar panels are present.

Gordon – None.

Palmer-Witt – Will be gone for the next meeting.

Robben – None.

Ussery – There will be a workshop on December 23rd. Zollinger stated the Rec director is trying to get a meeting scheduled with the School, Rec and City next year. Half of Council has stated that February 17th or 25th would work for them but Shore or Gordon had not responded to her email, they stated that either day works for them.

10. Executive Session

None.

11. Adjournment

Motion: *Shore* moved; *Palmer-Witt* seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voted and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

CERTIFICATE

State of Kansas }
County of Sedgwick }
City of Clearwater }

I, Jaye Poe, City Clerk of the City of Clearwater, Sedgwick County, Kansas, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the November 25th, 2025, City Council meeting.

Given under my hand and official seal of the City of Clearwater, Kansas, this 9th day of December 2025.


Jaye Poe, City Clerk

