

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL
Lindsborg City Hall
January 21, 2025–6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Corey Peterson, Rebecca Van Der Wege, Kirsten Bruce, Blaine Heble, Tanner Corwin, John Presley, Andrew Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Clark Shultz, Joshua Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristi Northcutt, Roxie Sjogren, David Hay, Milton Collins, Denny Walker, Chief Terry Reed, Noah Flores, Lauren Doak, Marcus Petty, Holly Lofton, Scott Bontz, Noel Eshelman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Corey Peterson, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT:

There was no public input.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Council President Corey Peterson thanked TACOL for hosting the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, which was well attended. City Administrator Kristi Northcutt and Councilmember Andrew Smith were in attendance.

On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, some members of the city staff and council will be in Topeka for the League of Kansas Municipalities' Local Government Day and will meet with legislators as well as staff from Federico Duerst.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2025, regular Council meeting, Payroll Ordinance 5518, Purchase Order Ordinance 5519 and the Axon In-Car Camera Invoice. Motion seconded by Councilmember Andrew Smith and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

There were no appointments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sales Tax 2024 Final Report

Unallocated local sales tax (half-cent sales tax) is usually budgeted to be transferred each year-end to either the Equipment Reserve Fund or the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. At the December 16, 2024, City Council meeting, December revenues had not yet been received. At that time, City Council voted to transfer \$100,000 to the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund and \$8,700 to the Special Parks Fund from the local half-cent sales tax.

The final 2024 half-cent sales tax revenues were \$238,905.80, which is slightly above staff's projection of \$235,121.11 at the December 16, 2024, City Council meeting.

This information is to update City Council as to the final totals of local sales tax received; no action is expected or requested from City Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Workers Compensation Insurance

City Council was provided with a copy of the renewal quote from Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT) for the City's 2025 workers compensation insurance. The quote is based off estimated payroll for 2025.

The cost of coverage is driven by the Experience Mod, a multiplier used to calculate workers' compensation premium. This shows how the organization workers' comp claims compare to others in our industry; anything below 1 is considered good. The rate for the City of Lindsborg has been set at 0.78 for 2025, which is .03 higher than 2024.

KMIT also offers a premium discount based upon various criteria affecting the City's safety rating. For 2025, based upon a low experience factor, a 10% discount is being given.

Staff is evaluating bids from other providers for workers compensation insurance and may present a recommendation to transition to a new provider at a future City Council meeting; however, to do so, a 60-day notice must be given to KMIT to terminate service. Therefore, it is prudent to renew the policy with KMIT for continuity of service at this time.

Councilmember John Presley moved to approve the 2025 KMIT Workers Compensation Insurance in the amount of \$34,631.00. Seconded by Councilmember Tanner Corwin and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

Rural Opportunity Zone – Resolution 01-2025

At its regular meeting on January 17, 2022, the City Council resolved via Resolution 01-2022 to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) Student Loan Repayment Program. Annually during the five-year period through 2027, the City shall revise its ROZ budget and submit a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30.

By participating, the City partners with the Kansas Department of Commerce to reimburse up to three new residents of Lindsborg (\$1,500/each) for a total cost to the City of up to \$4,500 for this educational opportunity.

Participation in the expanded ROZ program through the Kansas Department of Commerce is an available tool as the City seeks to attract a highly skilled workforce. New residents to rural Kansas may receive a 100% State Income Tax Credit and Student Loan Repayment Assistance of \$3,000 per year for five years.

Applicants must have a newly established permanent address in a participating county so long as that address was established after the county began participating in the program.

- Applicants must have an active student loan balance in their name, as well as an Associate's, Bachelor's, or post-graduate degree prior to moving to the participating county.
- Applicants must provide proof of domicile in the ROZ County, proof of previous permanent residency (prior to earning degree), transcripts with degree dates, and student loan balance with distribution dates.

In 2022, the City's first year with the program, the City of Lindsborg approved one application through the Department of Commerce for a Rural Opportunity Zone candidate, resulting in the relocation of a new resident (and small business owner) to Lindsborg. In 2023, Lindsborg approved a second application. In 2024, a third applicant was approved, thus completing the three sponsorships for the City of Lindsborg.

More information on ROZ: [Rural Opportunity Zones \(ROZ\) \(kansascommerce.gov\)](https://www.kansascommerce.gov)

Councilmember Andrew Smith moved to approve Resolution 01-2025 authorizing continued participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone program for the calendar year 2025, and to provide \$4,500 in matching payments. Seconded by Councilmember Kirsten Bruce and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

In other business, Councilmember Blaine Heble said he had received lots of positive comments about the city's snow response and removal. He received only a handful of negative comments regarding sidewalks that were not cleared. He asked what the City's response had been to negative comments. City Administrator Kristi Northcutt, Community Development Director Milton Collins, and Interim Public Works Director Denny Walker provided responses and cited examples. Council President Peterson suggested that downtown business owners and city staff should meet to discuss plans about a more coordinated business response should there be another large snowfall.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved for adjournment, seconded by Councilmember Andrew Smith, and passed 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxie Sjogren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roxie Sjogren, MMC
City Clerk