

Atwood City Council
August 21, 2025
Minutes
Regular Meeting
City Hall, 7:00PM

Atwood City Council met in regular session on August 21, 2025, at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Janet Stice at 7:00 PM. Present were Mayor Janet Stice, Councilmembers: Dakota Dunker, Dietrich Kastens, Diana Tongish and Mark Vrbas; City Clerk Dana Philpott; City Superintendent Rick Kramer; Rosalie Ross with the Rawlins County Square Deal, Tyrel Prideaux, Leslie Smith, Mallory Helms, Susan & Xara Brenn. Absent: Councilwoman Sandy Mulligan; City Attorney Charles Peckham; & Chief of Police Brian Withington.

Flag Salute – Pledge of Allegiance

The **agenda was approved** on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilwoman Tongish, approved by all.

The **minutes** of the regular meeting on 07/17/25 were approved as circulated on motion of Councilman Vrbas, seconded by Councilman Kastens, approved by all.

The **bills were approved** as read on motion of Councilman Kastens, seconded by Councilman Vrbas, approved by all.

Public Comments: Tyrel Prideaux asked the council about the company installing fiber optics. He had a citizen ask him about the construction. City Superintendent Kramer told Tyrel that residents can call the company directly to have their questions or concerns answered. There was a letter sent to all residents with the contact information and there are copies at city hall.

Appearances:

Mallory Helms owner of Beds & Biscuits dog boarding and grooming business addressed the council with ideas to help streamline the process of locating the owners of the dogs at large and strays. She receives numerous calls from people who have found the dogs to board or assist with finding the owners. Her ideas were to micro chip the dogs when registering with the city, holding a health clinic to get dogs vaccinated and registered. Mayor Stice told Mallory that she would need to discuss these ideas with Chief of Police Withington to see if he is on board with the program. The council thanked Mallory for coming to the meeting and presenting her ideas.

Old Business:

Greason Industrial Park erosion & drainage –Mayor Stice reported that a workshop was held on August 1st at the Greason Industrial Park to look at the drainage issues. Jeff & Linda Vap with Vap Construction were in attendance along with David Blau & Bernie Straetker engineers with Miller & Associates. Bernie Straetker gave suggestions for some quick fix solutions for the drainage issues. Council agreed they would like to set up a workshop in September to see what can be done to move forward with a plan for a long-term solution to the drainage and erosion problem at Greason Park.

Rawlins County & City of Atwood Dispatch Agreement -Mayor Stice reported that County Attorney Chris Rohr contacted City Attorney Charles Peckham regarding the status of the communications agreement between the City of Atwood and the Rawlins County Commissioners.

The Council agreed to request a joint meeting with the County Commissioners in September to discuss the following matters:

- The communications (dispatch) agreement
- The airport agreement
- The lease for the Rawlins County Road & Bridge building, which is set to expire on September 30, 2025

New Business:

STO Ordinance #912- Councilman Kastens made a motion to adopt Ordinance # 912 the Standard Traffic Offense code for Kansas cities, seconded by Councilwoman Tongish, approved by all.

STO Ordinance #913- Councilman Vrbas made a motion to adopt Ordinance #913 the Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas cities, seconded by Councilman Kastens, approved by all.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Dana Philpott reported that the Kansas Water Office has opened applications for the 2026 water projects and technical grants for water infrastructure projects. The applications are due by September 30th. Dana is working with David Blau to put together figures for the Surepoint water main extension project and the water tower tank project. This will be on the agenda for the September council meeting. The legislature amended the Kansas Open Records Act fee requirements. All fees associated with copies need to be based on the actual cost to fulfill the records request. She reported that she updated the records request form to reflect the new fee requirements. City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 1st for Labor Day. **Compliance** – we delivered twenty-one notices to residents that were out of compliance for tall weeds and grass. Two tickets were issued for non-compliance.

City Attorney Charles Peckham was absent but provided his report to the council.

Chief of Police Brian Withington was absent but provided his report to the council.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer presented his report showing the areas where the city crew has spent their time since the last meeting. They have been busy locating, mowing and street sweeping. They did have a timer go out at the wells; they are getting that fixed. **Zoning** – approved five building permits.

Council Reports:

Councilman Dunker- Library -reported that librarian Grace Kastens is asking for letter of support to write a grant to get new computers. **Airport** – the voted to hire Olsson Engineering Firm as the engineer company for the next five years. The AWOS, they are working on the paperwork to relocate the AWOS, so it is certified. They should be able to relocate it next spring.

Councilman Kastens –Fire Department – had their meeting this week. There are a couple of ordinances regarding zoning he would like to address yet this fall.

Councilwoman Mulligan -absent

Councilwoman Tongish – Pool – the pool is closed for the season. She had people tell her that they really appreciated the warm water this year. They held the doggie swim last Saturday evening – there were six dogs at the doggie swim. Superintendent Kramer reported that they lost a lot of paint this season and he contacted the contractor who painted the pool. There was a 7-year warranty for the paint. The contractor will be coming out to inspect it this fall.

Councilman Vrbas – Receive 1 complaint from a resident from the concrete crushing project. The issue was resolved with another resident who talked to the contractor who was crushing the concrete.

Mayor's Notes: No report

City Clerk Dana Philpott also reported that she had received 208 LMI (Low-Moderate Income) surveys. Information about turning in the surveys was on the water bills this month. We need at least 550 surveys to be turned in to submit to the KS Department of Commerce. She will continue to advertise through the online portal and Facebook.

With no further business to come before council, **Councilman Kastens moved to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Dana Philpott, City Clerk

Janet Stice, Mayor