



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

The Mission City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Flora. The following councilmembers were in attendance: Wanda Vaughn, Mary Ryherd, Lea Loudon, Brian Schmid, Ben Chociey, and Cheryl Carpenter-Davis. Councilmembers Kring and Haden Chomphosy were absent.

The public was invited to participate in the meeting by using the instructions included in the City Calendar item listed on the front page of the website. The members of the public participating virtually had the option of utilizing the "chat" feature to voice their comments which would be read aloud. Mayor Flora requested that anyone commenting please state their name and city of residence as well as to be conscientious of others talking and to speak clearly and slowly.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1a. Mission Marlins 2025 Season Presentation

Mayor Flora welcomed Mission Marlins swim team head coach Katie Dearing along with several of the team's swimmers and parents. Ms. Dearing presented the team's 2025 season and thanked the City for its partnership and support. She introduced award recipients for each of the team's awards given out annually. She welcomed swimmer Luke Swob who spoke about what he has learned and gained as a swimmer with the Marlins. His mother, Cristy Swob, also spoke and thanked the Marlins coaching staff for their work and for their accommodations because of her son's health concerns.

1b. Diaper Needs Awareness Week Proclamation

Mayor Flora issued a proclamation declaring September 15-21, 2025 as Diaper Need Awareness Week in Mission. For the past few years, Mission has observed this week in partnership with HappyBottoms diaper bank by issuing a proclamation to raise awareness of the widespread need for diapers to improve the health and welfare of infants and toddlers. HappyBottoms currently distributes over 580,000 diapers each month to more than 7,400 children across our six-county service area. Last year alone, they provided over 5.9 million diapers to families in our community – and the need continues to grow.



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

Diapers cannot be bought with food stamps or WIC vouchers, and a monthly supply can cost, on average, \$100.00, or as much as 6% of a full-time minimum wage worker's salary. Families living in the urban core without access to big box or warehouse stores must pay a premium at their corner store or local market. She encouraged the community to support this important effort and provide relief to those in need by donating to the HappyBottoms diaper bank in Kansas City.

1c. Johnson County Christmas Bureau 65th Anniversary Proclamation

Mayor Flora honored the work of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau, a nonprofit whose goals include providing warmth and support during the winter holiday season to low-income Johnson County, Kansas families; increasing awareness and understanding of poverty in Johnson County, Kansas; and giving neighbors an outlet to help neighbors. She stated appreciation of the work of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau over the last 65 years and the inspiration it has provided for program's like our own Family Adoption Program, which encourages both Mission and Roeland Park residents to donate food, gift cards, and gifts each holiday season in partnership with our local schools.

She welcomed Johnson County Christmas Bureau board member Deb McFeeder to accept this proclamation and offered best wishes for many more years of giving in Johnson County.

Ms. McFeeder gave history about the Johnson County Christmas Bureau and thanked Mayor Flora and the Council for their support.

1d. Mayors' Monarch Pledge Proclamation

The final Special Presentation of the night was a proclamation honoring the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Elected officials are taking action to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose eastern populations have declined by 90% and western populations by 99% in recent years. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, U.S. cities, municipalities, and other communities are committing to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate residents about how they can make a difference at home and in their community.



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

The City of Mission is excited to participate in this pledge and this proclamation recognizes specific ways the City is working to improve the monarch butterfly population in our community.

REVISED AGENDA

Mayor Flora explained that there was a need for a revised agenda. Ms. Smith added that the agenda was revised to flip the order of the Special Presentations to move them to the beginning of the agenda, ahead of the public hearing.

Moved by Schmid, seconded by Chocie j to adopt the Revised Agenda as presented.

Voting AYE: Chocie j, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, Vaughn, and Schmid.

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

2a. Public Hearing 2026 Budgets (City of Mission, Rock Creek Drainage District No. 1, Rock Creek Drainage District No. 2

2b. Resolution Levying a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate – City of Mission

2c. Resoution Levying a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate – Rock Creek Drainage District No. 2

Mayor Flora officially opened the budget and revenue neutral rate public hearings for the City of Mission, and Rock Creek Drainage District #2 for consideration of the 2026 Budgets as required by K.S.A. 79-2929 and K.S.A. 79-2988 and the budget hearing for Rock Creek Drainage District #1. She invited Ms. Smith to make a presentation. She also welcomed public comments following the presentation.

Ms. Smith [presented highlights](#) of the budget process, and highlighted an updated budget landing page on the City's website, which includes a culmination of budget materials from the past several months. Ms. Smith explained that Staff begin mid-year to begin to think about budget adjustments to the current year along with working through the upcoming budget. She highlighted the budget's



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

sources of revenues and expenses, noting that this is the largest budget to be adopted by the City in her 20-year tenure. She also reviewed the budget adoption timeline leading up to the final adoption of the budget.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Mayor Flora opened up the floor for Council questions.

Councilmember Vaughn voiced her appreciation for the hard work that goes into the budget and stated that taking the action of an increase in the mill levy is not done lightly. She thanked Ms. Smith and her staff for all of the hard work. Ms. Smith echoed those sentiments and thanked the Council for their hard work in working on the budget and decisions for the future.

Mayor Flora next opened up the floor for public comments related to the public hearings.

Joe Donaway of Mission, KS stated his belief that there are many necessary items in the budget and gave thanks to the city's mental health co-responder for their work with a teen needing help near his home, along with the police department's professional work. He also complimented the streets. However, he feels that the mill levy increase consideration is very important as it affects people's ability to pay their mortgage with increased property taxes. He feels that it is important to look at how far people are being pushed with increased taxes. He hopes to see balance between the work the city is doing and the tax increase, in conjunction with increased values from the County.

Judith Shotwell of Mission, KS asked when taxes from new construction are incorporated into budget revenues. Ms. Smith explained that the answer varies a bit and gave some information about how the County appraises the value of the project as they begin to be constructed. The valuation comes onto the assessed valuation list over time. When a roof is on a structure, it typically then reaches full valuation for the city's valuation purposes. The projects that have been approved with a request for incentives (which is not all new development, but some), this Council has not given a 100% revenue abatement to any of the Developers to ensure that the City is making at least as much, and in each case so far more, tax revenue throughout the life of the incentive. She explained that this Council has made it a priority to not be setting back the City in terms of revenue due to incentives, but rather to ensure that the City is moving ahead in



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

collecting revenues from those projects. Mayor Flora pointed out that the increased valuation from the new project is what helps offset the incentives.

Kim Donaway of Mission, KS stated that she has had good interactions with the City and thanked staff. She did state that she does not agree with increasing the mill levy and having the City be a "profit center" is not something she agrees with as she herself has to keep a budget and has to pick and choose what her budget can cover. She hopes to see tax incentives to Developers pulled back as she does not agree with abatement programs as she does not feel like she should be paying for new residents. She has spoken with residents in all wards and hears property tax concerns when she attends garage sales. She also hopes to see a minimum wage increase at the State level. She also sees discrepancies with Mission's mill levy compared to other cities who may have a lower mill rate. She believes Mission has become unaffordable and would like to look at why that is happening. She also believes there is a lot of waste of city resources.

Melanie Monson of Mission, KS thanked Councilmember Chociey for his quick replies to emails, and to City Clerk Robyn Fulks for her help with a snowplow issue last winter, she also gave a thank you to the police and fire departments. She then asked if sidewalks could be added around schools and parks as she feels there are not enough of them. She finds the city parks to be wonderful but feels like it can be difficult to get to them due to lack of sidewalks. She would like to see more. Ms. Smith provided that the Council recently adopted a connections plan which is a bike and pedestrian plan done by Federal grant funding to look at improvements and enhancements in pedestrian connections and Staff is now working to overlay that study to the annual Capital Improvement Projects to incorporate those recommendations. Mayor Flora also had Ms. Smith speak to the Safe Streets for All project which will be a discussion of how to make the street network friendlier for all users, which was a recommendation included in the recent Comprehensive Plan.

Nora Moore of Mission, KS stated that she believes the amount of investment in parks, while nice, are not necessary, especially to have so many. She lives close to Water Works Park and does not see the park busy in her experience. She only sees a number of people there when school dismisses at the local elementary school. She would like the City to look at parks usage before putting money into the parks. She then asked what the Johnson Drive Metcalf project is. Ms. Smith explained that the project is a reconstruction project occurring in 2026 from



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

Lamar to Metcalf. The street configuration will not change, but significant infrastructure needs exist under the street. Stormwater issues, utility work and investments from utility companies, widened sidewalks, and street enhancements. The project is a major investment with a \$6 million Federal surface transportation grant obtained several years ago for the project which offsets a significant portion. There is also an additional \$2 million in County assisted road dollars. Utility work for the project will begin in the coming weeks as well before construction next spring. One lane will remain open for traffic during the utility work. A page on the City's website will contain updates for the project.

Ron Monson of Mission, KS asked a few questions related to Ms. Smith's presentation, along with questions about expenditures related to wage increase and new building construction for City Hall, Mayor Flora explained that is future facility planning. He also brought up that his property taxes have doubled over the ten years he has lived here, and he feels like a 20% increase is exorbitant and worries about retiring with a paid off mortgage but not being able to afford the taxes. Mr. Monson asked for clarification about what use-tax refunds mean. Ms. Smith explained that the City does not have a specific plan for the facility needs, but that the current City Hall and Police Department facilities are in dire need of replacement and have needed that for many years. Staff are not contemplating anything grand, but rather facilities that work better. She explained that in the Police Department there is not enough room for female officers to use a locker room space, and what is available is very small. She also explained that the outdated and lacking facilities become recruitment and retention issues with police staff. Staff is hopeful to move forward with planning in a couple of years. She then explained that use-tax is similar to sales tax, but is charged on materials at the site they are delivered, typically seen with internet sales. Use tax has had to be refunded due to tax appeals which goes to a Board of Tax Appeals who renders a decision, which can be a refund of property or sales and use tax. Mayor Flora further explained that the City does not control the tax amount or the appeal, however if an appeal is won the City can have to refund. The appeals can take years to work through the system, where the City could end up refunding tax dollars collected ten years ago due to that process, with no warning. Mayor Flora gave an example of AT&T, who appealed use tax stating they should not have to pay it as a utility. That appeal was granted and the City was forced to refund several hundred thousand dollars. Ms. Smith also explained that she has a comparison chart for mill levy comparison. The chart



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

reflects mill levy rates for several cities and how those stack up. She will be happy to provide the chart to anyone in the audience. Ms. Donanway in her comments had referenced Prairie Village, whom she believed has a lower mill levy rate. Ms. Smith explained that Prairie Village's mill levy is 18.076 for 2026. The chart also varies due to larger cities having fire departments as part of the City structure, rather than a separate fire district. The combined rate for Prairie Village is 29.096 and for Mission is 32.097. She also pointed out that the chart shows a mill levy being held constant, which still generates an increase in revenues due to an increase in valuation. Mayor Flora added that Mission does not set the assessed valuation, and looking at assessed valuations helps to see the mill rate discrepancies. Using Prairie Village as an example, their assessed valuation is around \$675 million in assessed valuation, and Mission was at \$222 million. That gives Prairie Village three times the amount of valuation that taxes are paid based on, and the mill rate is only slightly lower.

Jerry Cofeldt of Mission, KS stated he has lived here for 34 years and moved to Mission to be close to family. He feels the streets were good then and he is unsure what happened, but believes they were not well cared for and now have to be totally replaced. He feels the streets were neglected for too long. He echoed the sentiments about cutting spending by Staff as he has to not spend more than he can afford and believes the City is not doing that. He feels that residents, houses, streets, and buildings are not as nice as they were when he moved here and he would like to ask that the spending be more closely monitored.

Frank Estrada of Mission, KS thanked the police for their hard work. He stated his agreement with many of the other comments. He hopes to see the Council take into consideration pricing seniors out of their homes as he is concerned about that. He believes many other residents have that concern as well.

Ron Monson of Mission, KS returned to ask a question he forgot previously, wanting to know why taxes increase when a neighbor makes improvements as he feels it's an unrealized gain for that homeowner. He also wondered why, since the Council doesn't set the valuations of property, the people who do set those valuations are not in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Flora explained that the Council sets the tax rate for Mission, but does not determine the value of the property that the assessment is based on, that work is done by the County and applied county-wide. Mayor Flora pointed out in the handout materials that there is a breakdown of what taxes go to what entity and what percent of each dollar



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

goes to which entity. Ms. Smith explained that there is a process for appealing the County's assessed and appraised value, and that is done at the County level. She did state it can be hit or miss as to whether the appeal is successful. She also explained that the sales price of a home is what drives the assessed valuation and the gain isn't realized unless you sell the home.

Councilmember Chocie explained that Mr. Donaway had previously thought the City's taxes were higher than the school district, however there are four different mill levy lines on a tax bill which puts the school district at the highest taxing entity when those are added together.

Tom Orrick of Mission, KS for thirty years. He was shocked by the increase and really found the presentation by Ms. Smith helpful to explain the why. He echoed earlier comments that he feels the increase is hard to swallow and he doesn't necessarily agree with all of the proposed spending. He hopes to see a careful watch over spending. He asked what long-term planning looks like related to what residents could expect to see in 2027 or 2028 in terms of additional increases. Ms. Smith said she believes this budget was built to look several years into the future and the hope would be to address structural imbalances. From a pure revenue and expenditure standpoint, the City is not operating from a deficit. More accurately, the increase is to address priorities while maintaining the fund balances dictated by the Council. She also explained that 25% of all revenue streams gets put into reserve funds. From her perspective as someone making recommendations, this mill levy increase is not intended to happen annually. Mayor Flora also added that the GFOA recommends a reserve fund in case of extreme events or emergency situations. She also added that having a healthy reserve fund helps with bond ratings which keeps bond interest rates and cost of borrowing low. Mission is currently rated AA+, which is the second-best rating possible.

Mary Funk of Mission, KS stated that for 16 years she has had questions about things being done around City Hall, as she is a volunteer. She questioned the cost of native plantings maintenance of \$45,000 which she believes is too high and she does not understand that expense. Ms. Smith explained that is a combined maintenance expense for all landscaping beds along Johnson Drive and at all city facilities. Ms. Funk asked to clarify if any of those were outside of Mission and Ms. Smith confirmed they are only in Mission. Ms. Funk didn't feel like that cost justifies the work. Ms. Smith offered to provide the scope of work



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

from the bids. Ms. Funk stated she believes the native plantings are a failure, partly she feels due to the wrong company, and she feels nothing has changed when issues are presented. She stated she has learned that others in the community would provide time to help with the landscaping, and that could offset the costs.

Finding no further comments, Mayor Flora closed the combined public hearing.

Mayor Flora highlighted the resident rebate program. In 2025, the eligibility and the scope of the program was expanded to be able to better serve more residents. This program is designed to help residents stay in their home by providing some tax revenues back to them. She also explained that 1.5 mills of the increase are directly related to police services and police salaries. She views those services as necessary and have those who can pay for those services do so, while assisting those who may struggle with tax payments. There will also be increased outreach for those programs.

Councilmember Ryherd acknowledged the difficulty of raising the mill levy rate while considering resident needs and wants. She believes the conversation brings about a good reminder that everyone on Council also pays the increases, adding that deferred street maintenance for many years has led to the need for more street funding now, so continuing to defer maintenance would only make matters worse in the future. She hopes residents take advantage of the City's resources related to the rebate program as well.

Councilmember Chociej added that these two resolutions to be voted on are formalities regardless of whether the mill levy rate increases or not. There will be additional budget discussions later in the meeting.

Councilmember Loudon stated that the need to exceed the revenue neutral rate is to not get locked into paying for a future year's expenses from the previous year's rate of income, which would be a challenge due to rising costs of goods and services. She also added that nothing fancy or new is being added, other than the Johnson Drive project which has been planned for many years due to need.

Councilmember Chociej added that a budget deficit was close to \$1 million originally, and emphasized that spending, department budgets, and unfilled staff



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

roles have been realized to reduce that. There are many items that will not be considered for 2026, which reduced the deficit by almost half already. He also pointed out that the \$1 million deficit is about equal to the amount of sales and use tax refunds that have had to be paid out. The process is very difficult for the City to predict and is often paying back tax dollars spent many years previous, without any warning. This practice is a fairly new one, and the refunds often benefit large entities who have the time and resources to appeal. He does not take the increase lightly regardless but hopes everyone will think about how large corporations appeal tax bills and hopes more people will speak to their State legislative representatives more about this process.

Councilmember Vaughn expressed that she has been impressed with the transparency of the budget process and encouraged the public to come to earlier budget conversations and meetings or to seek out information on the City's website to help with explanations of what is happening and why.

Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Vaughn to approve the Resolution levying a Property Tax Rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the City of Mission's 2026 Budget.

Voting AYE: Chociey, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, Vaughn, and Schmid.
Motion Carried.

Ms. Smith briefly explained the Rock Creek Drainage District #2 works follows the creek channel from Roeland Drive to Lamar.

Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Carpenter-Davis to approve the Resolution Levying a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Rock Creek Drainage District #2's 2026 Budget.

Voting AYE: Chociey, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, Vaughn, and Schmid.
Motion Carried.

ISSUANCE OF NOTES AND BONDS

There were no items related to the Issuance of Notes and Bonds.

CONSENT AGENDA



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

- 4a. Minutes of the August 20, 2025 City Council Meeting
- 4b. Milhaven HOA Picnic – Mohawk Park
- 4c. Adoption of the 2025 Uniform Public Offense Code and Standard Traffic Ordinance
- 4d. MFAC Orange Slide (Slide 1) Restoration
- 4e. Contract Award for 2025 Pavement Marking Project

Moved by Chociej, seconded by Schmid to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Voting AYE: Chociej, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, Vaughn, and Schmid.
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Donaway of Mission, KS stated there is a home at 5610 Riggs Street that she believes is operating an illegal car rental business and is parking vehicles she does not believe they should be able to. She has had negative interactions with the neighbor and also believes the neighbor is breaking State laws as well. She does not feel like city staff is responding to her complaints.

Josh of Mission, KS asked for help with sidewalk issues near his home at the Mission Hills apartments so he and his friends can navigate the sidewalk safely.

Joe Donaway of Mission, KS stated that he believes the play structure at Water Works Park is unsafe for smaller children at the top. He is worried that parents are having to rush to the area and he has seen some almost roll off. He hopes to not have to see a child get hurt, and it would cost him time to have to go over and help, call emergency services, and then have to think about that happening which would be inconvenient. He has spoken with Parks and Recreation Director Penn Almoney and wanted to bring it up again to the Governing Body.

PLANNING COMMISSION

There were no items from the Planning Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee

Councilmember Schmid explained that the Finance and Administration Committee met on September 3 and considered seven items. The meeting minutes, Milhaven



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

Homeowners Association Picnic at Mohawk Park, and adoption of the 2025 Uniform Public Offense Code and Standard Traffic Ordinances were approved under the Consent Agenda. The Resolution adopting step plan for the Mission Police Department, Resolution Adopting the 2025 Revised and 2026 Recommended Budget for the City of Mission, and Resolutions adopting the 2026 Budgets for Rock Creek Drainage District One and Two will be considered under the regular agenda tonight.

7a. Resolution Adopting Step Plan for Mission Police Department

Councilmember Schmid explained that in a February 2025 City Council Work Session, Staff presented information on current challenges and concerns surrounding compensation for the City's sworn law enforcement personnel. The recommendation following the February presentation was for the Chief of Police to work with the City Administrator to develop recommendations to implement a step pay plan for the Mission Police Department. A step plan is essentially a road map for wage increases in a defined period of time and provides stability to both the employee as well as the City. One advantage of a step plan is it is very transparent and is intended to provide motivation for staff to strive for promotional opportunities because they can see what their earnings would be if they were promoted. Another benefit to the City is that, while the initial expense for implementation can be significant, over time, personnel budgeting becomes more stable and predictable.

In May 2025, Council authorized significant pay adjustments for sworn, non-exempt staff which were very well received and appreciated by Department staff. At that time Council was made aware that a step-plan pay structure would be presented for consideration at a future Council meeting.

In anticipation of that step plan implementation, most staff received pay increases equivalent to where they would be in the step plan implementation phase. The exceptions were those who would have received more than a 20% increase and the three sworn positions - Chief, Deputy Chief and Captain - which are salaried/exempt employees and will not be included in the step-plan structure. These positions will continue to be included within the City's overall salary structure and position ranges.

Staff has prepared a Resolution for Council consideration which would formally adopt a step-plan structure for the Mission Police Department, effective October



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

1, 2025. If approved, the remaining adjustments, along with procedures surrounding the maintenance/administration of the plan for sworn Police Department staff from Police Officer through Lieutenant will be finalized and shared with staff.

Kim Donaway of Mission, KS stated that every industry right now is struggling to retain employees and find qualified employees, and finding budget funds to pay staff is also difficult. She hopes that can be considered, especially when thinking about providing benefits to staff as that should not be a focus on the backs of taxpayers.

Councilmember Chociej expressed that the step plan largely aligns with raises already given to the police department and is a vital effort for recruitment and retention as it is an area very difficult to recruit and retain for. He believes this plan is a matter of wanting the department staffed with officers who like to be here and care about their work. He also wants to keep people here who are doing a good job already.

Ms. Smith provided some additional information, responding to Ms. Donaway not to not diminish that residents and businesses do fund a significant amount of general fund revenues. However, property tax revenues are 33% of the budget, with 17% going out to fund streets. The largest component of the City's budget is sales tax. Thinking about sales tax, a pull factor is considered. The pull factor is whether the community is bringing in non-residents to spend money and help fund city operations, or are residents being lost to other communities. Anything over a pull factor of 1 indicates that the City is pulling in outside visitors paying sales tax. In 2024, Mission's pull factor rating was 1.56 which means 56% of sales tax revenues are contributed by people who do not live in Mission. That consideration is important for governing bodies now and in the past, and why sales taxes have been relied on for streets and parks because it's known that those outside of the community are generating sales tax revenues.

Ms. Donaway clarified she is not objecting to pay raises for the police department. She only wants to state that all staff and departments should not have to be supported for residents and wants awareness of how much salaries are increasing and to use mindfulness.

Councilmember Schmid explained that he likes to speak with residents frequently and hears concerns about streets and safety the most. He believes this increase



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

directly addresses safety concerns to retain officers who want to be here, and he is excited about this new plan. He believes the police do a great job and should be recognized and also likes that this action directly addresses a concern he hears.

Mayor Flora echoed Councilmember Schmid, stating that to have the best people we have to be able to keep the best people. She also acknowledged that officers can and will leave for other jurisdictions if they don't feel like Mission has enough to offer.

Councilmember Loudon stated that in a region that is so large and offers many different agencies to work for, it's important for Mission to be a good option to choose from. She also highlighted that getting a new officer ready to patrol independently takes about one year from start of the academy and that this step plan is only for the police department to retain rather than having to re-hire.

Councilmember Ryherd stated that when open positions are unfilled in the police department, that forces more work from the current officers which also impacts mental health in many ways. She expressed her support of the department and their work.

Moved by Schmid, seconded by Carpenter-Davis to adopt the Resolution Implementing a step-plan (step) pay structure for Mission Police Department personnel for positions of Police officer through Lieutenant effective October 1, 2025.

Voting AYE: Chociej, Vaughn, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, and Schmid.
Motion Carried.

7b. Resolution Adopting the 2025 Revised and 2026 Recommended Budget - City of Mission

Councilmember Schmid explained that as a part of the annual budget process, the City Council adopts a budget resolution which outlines and describes the financial policies, tax and fee structures and other related issues identified in a particular fiscal year. The attached Resolution has been prepared based on the input received from staff, Council and the public through the budget development process.

The 2025 Revised and 2026 Recommended Budgets were developed through a series of public meetings and work sessions throughout the summer and are now



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

ready for final adoption. This timing allows for the final budget and tax levy information to be communicated to the County Clerk by October 1, 2025 in order to certify rates and charges for the 2025 tax bills.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Chociej clarified this is the action item that will adopt the 2026 budget. He added his final thoughts on the budget and mill levy increase included that a typical home will have a mill rate of 117 mills, of which 22 are Mission's and 3 are from the increase, for some perspective. Ideally, expenses increase in line with rising costs. The additional mill levy is really more for catching up things beyond valuation increases as stated by Ms. Smith where things are not anticipated in the future. He believes this increase will cover the deficit now and hopefully it will not have to be done again in coming years.

Mayor Flora echoed Councilmember Ryherd's comments that the Governing Body faces the increases along with residents and no one takes that lightly. She also added there is a lot of pressure to address rising personnel costs and degrading infrastructure, and those things do not want to be pushed down the road. Meeting the desires of residents related to parks, roads, and police does cost money, and the City is very good about competitive bidding processes related to projects, but increased costs related to city operations can only be controlled so much. She also pointed out that, from Ms. Smith's presentation at the beginning of the meeting, tax increases amount to about \$74 per month, which related to other monthly fees is not out of line. She hopes to continue to deliver the services residents ask for and ensure that the rebate program continues to be highlighted.

Councilmember Chociej addressed streets specifically, noting that low mill rates for many years have degraded streets as they were very poorly built from the beginning, so there is a lot of work to be done. Getting ahead without huge budget impacts is difficult and he believes the Public Works and City Hall staff do a great job of balancing those needs. But very low mill rates for many years is why streets specifically are now such a large expense. He also hopes to see additional economic development and growth to offset expenses.

Moved by Schmid, seconded by Chociej to approve the Resolution outlining the policy decisions, mill levies, and fees included in the City of Mission's 2026 Budget and adopting the 2025 Revised and 2026 Recommended Budget for the City of Mission, Kansas.



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

Voting AYE: Chocie, Vaughn, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, and Schmid.
Motion Carried.

7c.-7d. Resolution Adopting the 2026 Rock Creek Drainage District #1 Budget & Resolution Adopting the 2026 Rock Creek Drainage District #2 Budget

Councilmember Schmid explained that in addition to the City's Budget, the City Council serves as the governing body for Mission's Rock Creek Drainage Districts No. 1 and No. 2. The City of Mission's budget was considered and adopted with the previous Resolution. Two additional Resolutions have been prepared for Council consideration to adopt the 2026 Recommended budgets for the two drainage districts.

Moved by Schmid, seconded by Carpenter-Davis to adopt the Resolution approving the 2026 Recommended Budget for Rock Creek Drainage District #1.

Voting AYE: Chocie, Vaughn, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, and Schmid.
Motion Carried.

Moved by Schmid, seconded by Chocie to adopt the Resolution approving the 2026 Recommended Budget for Rock Creek Drainage District #2.

Voting AYE: Chocie, Vaughn, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, and Schmid.
Motion Carried.

Community Development Committee

Councilmember Carpenter-Davis explained that the Community Development Committee also met on September 3 and considered three items. The meeting minutes MFAC Orange Slide Restoration contract, and contract award for the 2025 Pavement Marking Project were approved under the Consent Agenda earlier tonight. No items will be considered under the Regular Agenda this evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Chociej thanked Staff for their work on the budget process and also thanked the residents who came to the meeting to share their comments.

Mayor Flora echoed those sentiments and encouraged people to come out sooner in the budget process in coming years. She also welcomed email questions.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Sustainability Commission (Loudon/Haden Chomphosy)

Councilmember Loudon stated that the group met on September 8. She reminded the group about the Go Green Environmental Fair on October 18, which will include Plug-In America with EV cars for test drive. The commission also tabled at the Mission Market three times this season to share their work and have been able to sort 800 lbs of batteries and are excited about The Lanes sustainability scorecard. Ms. Smith added that The Lanes have also submitted their certification for their LEED silver status.

Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission (Kring/Schmid)

Councilmember Schmid reported that a Walk and Roll event for the Rock Creek Trail will be held on October 4, with advanced registration open. The tree drive distribution will also be September 20, and a concert in the park will be held on September 19 at 6pm at Mohawk Par.

Mission Magazine Editorial Board (Ryherd/Chociej)

Councilmember Ryherd reported that the newest issue has been delivered and is focused on music and musicians in Mission. She also thanked staff for their quick work of pivoting when page counts had to be reconsidered. She also explained that the next issue will be centered around food in Mission and will be delivered in December.

Family Adoption Committee (Carpenter-Davis)

Councilmember Carpenter-Davis reported that the Family Adoption Committee will help 71 families this year from the Mission area. They are working with



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

school social workers to identify families and food will be distributed at Thanksgiving time, with gift and food gift cards distributed in December. Trees will be up at the Powell Community Center later this year for gift tags.

MAYOR'S REPORT

There was not a Mayor's report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

13a. Business Updates

City Clerk Robyn Fulks shared new business openings including:

Legacy Forge, 6950 Squibb Road

Arnone Tax & Accounting, 5201 Johnson Drive

Enlightened KC, 5300 Martway Street

13b. Interim Financial Report

Mr. Carroll reviewed the interim financial reports, noting that the two reports in the packet show estimated columns that include the 2025 adopted budgets from tonight.

Ms. Smith gave reminders about upcoming events including a candidate forum for contested races the following week sponsored by the Johnson County Post, and a work session on September 24 at 6 pm to discuss the Complete Streets concept. She gave an update on the condemnation petition process for the Johnson Drive right-of-way and easement process, noting that compensation is offered to all impacted property owners based on a formal appraisal. All of the right-of-way and easement documents must be certified to KDOT prior to the project going out to bid. With the filing of the petition, Staff have now heard from all but three of the property owners. A hearing has been set in District Court for October 20, where she and Public Works Director Stephanie Boyce will attend. She is hopeful that most of the acquisitions can be completed without having to use the court process.

Finally, she touched on the Safe Streets for All grant program, in which the City of Overland Park had some terms and conditions imposed that raised questions for Mission's similar grant. Ms. Smith believes that, because the grant agreement was executed in December of 2024, the new terms and conditions Overland Park was exposed to did not affect Mission's agreement as they were put into place



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2025

in March of 2025. Those terms and conditions that raised questions included language around cooperation with Federal immigration officers and climate related matters, along with DEI initiatives. Those items are not included in Mission's agreement. She also noted, in general related to police involvement with Federal immigration activity, there is no authority to enforce Federal regulations so Mission police would not be involved in that work.

Ms. Fulks reminded the group about Cone With A Cop the following evening at Baskin Robbins.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was not a need for an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Flora announced that the public video from tonight's meeting will be available through a link on the City's website at missionks.org.

Moved by Kring, seconded by Chociej to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk.

Solana Flora, Mayor

Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk