

A regular session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Eberline. Present: McDonald, Stensland, Smith, Lamp, and Kuester. Absent: None. Visitors: Lee Koch, Rich Ahlberg, Lindsey Freese, Kendra Lufkin, Ryan & Evan Bingman, Lexie Hach, Chad & Tina Ahlberg, Mel Bowen, Darrel Shuey and Leonard Stephens.

Smith moved and Lamp seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with no conflicts of interest. No discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Kuester moved and Stensland seconded action for approval of the minutes of the regular session held Monday, January 5, 2026; and approval of the December 2025 Treasurers Report. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

December 2025 Expenditures per fund: General: \$110183; Road Use Tax: \$25222; Employee Benefits: \$34062; Local Option Sales Tax Fund: \$62897; Fire Equipment Reserve Fund: \$14527; Library Gift Trust: \$296; Economic Development Fund: \$100; Debt Service Fund: \$850; Water Fund: \$35213; Water Reserves Fund: \$4700; Water Reserve Sinking Fund: \$7830; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$17822; Sanitary Sewer Reserve Fund: \$15875; Sewer Sinking Fund: \$19119; Sanitation Fund: \$30809; Ambulance Fund: \$64246; Storm Sewer Fund: \$1145; Total: \$444896. December 2025 Revenues per fund: General: \$78859; Road Use Tax: \$31026; Employee Benefits Fund: \$12386; Local Option Sales Tax: \$62897; Hotel Motel Tax Fund: \$4090; TIF Fund: \$4640; Community Betterment Fund: \$31448; PW Equipment Reserve Fund: \$614; Fire Equipment Reserve Fund: \$1981; Library Gift Trust: \$12173; Economic Development Gift Fund: \$100; Debt Service Fund: \$4698; Water Fund: \$56950; Water Reserve Sinking Fund: \$4700; Sanitary Sewer Fund: \$45141; Sewer Sinking fund: \$15875; Sanitation Fund: \$33420; Ambulance Fund: \$73866; Ambulance Equipment Reserve Fund: \$110; Storm Sewer Fund: \$4328; Total: \$479302.

Mayor Eberline opened the annual department updates with Kendra Lufkin, Community Center Director. Lufkin commented that no major changes in budget other than a wage increase of \$1/hour for the janitor position and potential future improvements needed are freezer replacement; HVAC unit; carpet fraying along edges; and floor tile beginning to crack. Lufkin also mentioned rentals are starting to increase since covid shutdown. Darrel Shuey, Ryan and Evan Bingman, and Lexie Hack presented annual update for Park Board. R. Bingman commented on increased budget lines are building maintenance for tuckpointing restrooms at Belpre Park, construction and maintenance line increase for potential dog park at Liberty Park and installation of a sidewalk in Orion Park along G Avenue. Hach presented a dog park proposal draft outlining an ordinance, rules, permit fees, etc. Bingman also present proposed budget for the sports complex showing increases in construction and maintenance line of \$5000 for a windscreen for the tennis courts and additional topdressing project. Lindsey Freese, Library Director, presented annual update of statistics of services provided by Kling Memorial Library over the last year. Freese commented on increases to her budget line items of wage of 3%; building maintenance for concrete and roof repairs; and computer equipment for computer replacements. No further discussions or formal action taken.

Smith moved and McDonald seconded action on the Third Reading of Ordinance 589, an ordinance to amend Chapter 92.02 Water Rates due to the 14% increase notice from IRUA. Stensland commented on a long-term plan for these types of rate hikes in the future. Bangasser mentioned we have not seen one this large before. No further discussions, motion carried five ayes.

Lamp moved and Smith seconded action on Resolution 2026-07, a resolution to set the annual community celebrations and permit fee for Chapter 126, Special Events. Celebrations labeled exempt from the special events permit are Felix Grundy Days, Chamber Main Street events Girls Night Out and Main Street Mingle. Discussion was held on events held by Grundy County Agricultural Society. Lamp commented that the Grundy County Fair week should be considered an annual community event exempt from the permit and racing weekends, or other events held at the fairgrounds should be required to have a special permit per event. Smith moved and Stensland seconded action to amend the motion to add the Grundy County Fair week to Resolution 2026-07 as exempt from Chapter 126.02. Motion carried five ayes to accept the amendment. No further discussion. Original motion with the amendment carried five ayes.

Stensland moved and Lamp seconded action on Resolution 2026-08, a resolution to set the permit fee for Chapter 125.05 Mobile Food Service Vendors. Fees will be \$50 per month or \$150 per year for Chapter 125.05 Mobile Food Service Vendor permit. No further discussion, motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Eberline asked to schedule a work session for further discussions on Chapter 51 Junk and Junk Vehicles and fiscal year 2027 budget preparations. Work session is scheduled for Wednesday,

January 28, 2026, at 5:00pm. No further discussion or action.

Mayor Eberline opened the public forum at 7:34pm. Leonard Stephens, 309 2<sup>nd</sup> St, commented on the Ordinance 588, Junk/Junk Vehicles amendment document and why it failed on the last vote. Rich Ahlberg, 403 G Avenue, commented on need for better communication with residents. Lee Koch, 406 4<sup>th</sup> St, feels communication is not the issues but repeated complaints on the same thing by the same people over and over. No further comments were made, public forum closed at 7:45pm.

Finance Committee/Clerk commented on next department updates for budget recommendations.

Public Safety Committee made no comments.

Public Works Committee commented on potential equipment upgrades at the wastewater plant and CIT Sewer Solutions crew repaired a 13 ft section of sewer main along the 300 block of G Avenue.

Council Member Stensland made comments on improving communication with GCMU regarding open meetings postings.

Smith moved and Mcdonald seconded adjournment of the meeting at 8:00pm. Motion carried five ayes. Next regular meeting will be Monday, February 02, 2026, at 6:30pm.

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Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk

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Dr. Paul Eberline, Mayor