

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Rick Hudson by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge. He then called for the roll call.

Councilpersons answering the roll call included: Rhonda Downey, Fred Duby, Karen Boch, Angela Spangler, Keith Woolum, Tami Phillips, and Roaby Browning.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)

- Browning was excused from the previous meeting.

Public Comments

- None

Minutes- All in attendance voted to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Correspondence

- None

Reports of Special Committees

- Health and Safety Committee- none
- Public Service Committee- none
- Planning Committee- Committee met regarding the Lake Alma agreement. Discussion ended due to legal implications and is awaiting review and response from legal counsel.
- Recreation Committee- none
- Finance Committee- Finance Committee meeting scheduled prior to the next council meeting to discuss police fund issues identified through audit findings and budget planning for 2027.
- Community Action- none
- Civic Organization Liaison- none

Old Business

- Council discussed mosquito spraying services available through the Health Department. Further discussion will occur after receiving additional information from the Health Department representative.
- Council requested monthly Police Department and Code Enforcement reports. Administration confirmed reports will be provided monthly.

New Business

- None

Legislation

- Second Reading of 2026-36- A Resolution by the Legislative Authority for the City of Wellston authorizing the sale, by internet auction during calendar year 2027, of City owned personal property which is not needed for public use or which is obsolete or unfit for the use for which it was acquired.
Sponsor: Downey
Discussion: none
- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-37- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the McNally Carryover Fund to the McNally Supplies, Materials, and Maintenance Fund for the Water Treatment Plant Project and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Woolum
Discussion: none
- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-41- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations in the 606 Sewer Distribution Fund from the 606 Carryover Fund and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Administration explained the appropriation is necessary to replenish Sewer Distribution funds due to extensive lift station pump repairs and replacements. Approximately \$100,000 has already been expended on lift station repairs this year. Council decided to pass as an emergency on the 3rd Reading.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-42- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Wellston and the Village of Coalton to provide fire protection.
Sponsor: Downey
Discussion: Administration and Fire Chief Pelletier reviewed details of the agreement, facility ownership, building maintenance responsibilities, insurance requirements, and occupancy arrangements. The Village of Coalton would continue to own the facility while the City operates fire protection services from the station.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-43- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Wellston and Coal Township to provide fire protection.
Sponsor: Boch
Discussion: Administration explained the proposed annual contract amount of \$25,000 with a 3% annual increase. The contract follows the same formula currently used for other township fire service contracts.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-44- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Wellston and Jackson Township to provide fire protection.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Administration reported the agreement mirrors the Coal Township contract and provides fire protection services at \$25,000 annually with a 3% annual increase.
- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-45- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 601 Water Fund to the Supplies, Materials, and Maintenance Fund.
Sponsor: Boch
Discussion: Administration explained additional funding is needed due to water system repairs and maintenance expenses. Discussion included potential reimbursement through OWDA emergency funding.
A Motion to Amend the Legislation to include an Emergency Clause was made by Spangler, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance. Council will pass as an emergency on the 3rd Reading.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-46- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 606 Sewer Fund to the Supplies, Materials, and Maintenance Fund.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Administration explained funding is needed for generator repairs, valve replacement, and electrical repairs at wastewater facilities.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-47- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wellston to negotiate and enter into a loan agreement with Ohio Valley Bank for funds to be available upon purchase of fire equipment and vehicles and declaring an emergency.
Sponsor: Downey
Discussion: Fire Chief Pelletier explained the City proposes purchasing the Coalton Volunteer Firefighters Association equipment and apparatus. Estimated financing amount is \$450,000 and includes apparatus, equipment, and rebranding costs. Extensive discussion was held regarding value, future fleet consolidation, and operational planning. Council will pass as an emergency on the 3rd Reading.

Mayor

- Mayor Brenner provided an update on the upcoming Gus Macker tournament and thanked Recreation Director Kate Smith for her efforts. More than 100 teams were registered at the time of the meeting.
- The Mayor provided an update on the New York Avenue project and reported that additional utility and water line work has been identified and is underway.
- The Mayor discussed ongoing water leak investigations and expressed optimism regarding a recently discovered leak beneath the Louvee.
- Administration discussed budget impacts resulting from extensive water repairs and overtime costs and noted some planned projects may need to be deferred.

Service Director

- Service Director Walton provided updates on sewer lift station repairs, water system maintenance, and the New York Avenue project. Walton presented 3 reports- Street and Water Distribution Highlights; Wastewater Treatment; and Water production.
- Administration reported that cooperation with local contractors is generating significant project savings on the New York Avenue improvements.
- Walton reported that employees may have discovered a significant water leak beneath the Louvee building that could substantially reduce water loss.

Law Director

- none

Auditor

- not present

City Clerk's Reports

- none

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer reported all accounts remain balanced.

Recreation

- Not present

Fire

- Fire Chief Pelletier reported the successful transition of emergency services coverage for Coalton with no interruption in emergency services. Five Coalton firefighters were retained by the City.
- Chief Pelletier discussed regional fire protection operations and presented a fleet consolidation and transition plan for Council review.

Zoning/Code

- Forty-eight nuisance properties are currently being maintained.
- Fourteen active code complaints are being investigated.
- Fourteen certified letters were issued.
- Thirty-four contractor registrations were processed.
- Rental inspection activities continue.
- Approximately eleven new homes are currently under construction within the City.

Police

- Chief Robinson provided an update on staffing plans for the upcoming Gus Macker tournament. Additional officers will be assigned to ensure adequate public safety coverage.
- Monthly reporting enhancements are being developed and will be shared with Council.

At approximately 7:49 p.m., Council entered Executive Session for discussion of contractual matters. No action was taken in open session following Executive Session. Spangler made the Motion, Phillips seconded, and all in attendance voted to go into Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


Council Clerk


Council President

