

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

September 3, 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)

- none

Public Comments

- None

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

Correspondence

- The Board of Elections and Ethics Commission were notified that Councilperson Angela Spangler has resumed her maiden name and will now be known as Angela Bennett.

Reports of Special Committees

- Health and Safety Committee- none
- Public Service Committee- none
- Planning Committee- none
- Recreation Committee- none
- Finance Committee- Councilperson Angela Bennett reported that the Finance Committee met to review the 2026 budget and begin discussion of the 2027 budget. The committee agreed to hold budget meetings prior to each council meeting until the 2027 budget is prepared for council consideration. Meetings are expected to begin at 6:00 p.m. before regular council sessions.
- Community Action- none
- Civic Organization Liaison- none

Old Business

- Councilperson Karen Boch thanked city employees for their response to recent storm damage and debris cleanup.
- Boch expressed concerns regarding the projected 2027 budget, overtime expenses, and the need to avoid returning to fiscal emergency status, but believes there is a layer of accountability that is lacking due to the absence of Auditor Dupree.
- Discussion also included the desire for additional time to review legislation prior to council meetings.

- Council then discussed: Police department staffing and overtime costs; Historical staffing levels during fiscal emergency; Fire department coverage and staffing practices; and the need to review departmental fee schedules.
- Dave Walton reported that the Gus Macker Tournament finished within approximately \$1,500 of breaking even financially. Council requested a detailed revenue and expense report. Discussion also included employee comp time, sponsorships, and recreation department finances.
- Council discussed contributions from the Fire Department Booster organization and the use of bingo proceeds to support recreation programming after charitable obligations are met.
- Dave Walton reported revised plans had been submitted to ODOT for review.
- Dave Walton reported that cameras for the McNally facility have been purchased and GPS units have been installed in approximately 10 to 11 city vehicles.

New Business

- None

Legislation

- Third 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: Discussion included the recent sale of city surplus vehicles through GovDeals and the continuing citywide inventory process.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Bennett, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.
- Third 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: Walton explained this was an excess in an account that was used to pay utilities for the McNally site.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Boch, seconded by Bennett, and approved by all in attendance.
- Second 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.
- Second 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: no new discussion
- Second 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: no new discussion

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Boch, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Bennett, seconded by Boch, and approved by all in attendance.

- Second 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: no new discussion

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Boch, seconded by Bennett, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Bennett, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.

- Second 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: Discussion included increased chemical costs related to water treatment operations.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Bennett, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Boch, seconded by Bennett, and approved by all in attendance.

- Second 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.

- Second 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: no new discussion

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-48- A Resolution awarding the Sanitary Sewer Improvements Phase 2 Construction Contract in accordance with the Engineer's Letter of Bid Recommendation, subject to final approval of funding requirements of the project and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Downey

Discussion: Discussion included a project cost of approximately \$2.6 million, significantly below estimate, and award recommendation to Fields Excavating of Lawrence County.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Bennett, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Bennett, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-49- A Resolution supporting the City of Wellston's application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program for the Wellston Legacy Parks and Mine Land

Revitalization Initiative; authorizing the Mayor and other City Officials to execute all necessary documents and agreements; and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Bennett

Discussion: Proposed projects include: 14th Street Basketball Court improvements
Completion of Blamer Park improvements; Replacement of playground equipment at Kelly Lambert Park; Creation of a sensory garden; and historical coal mining markers throughout the city.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Browning, seconded by Downey, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Bennett, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

Mayor

- Not present

Service Director

- Sanitary Sewer Improvements project expected to begin soon.
- New York Avenue paving scheduled to begin the following week.
- Approximately 5,000 visitors attended the Gus Macker tournament.
- Thirteen new home permits have been issued with four additional permits pending.
- Storm cleanup costs are expected to reach approximately \$30,000. FEMA reimbursement documentation is being prepared. Five culverts sustained storm damage and require repair.
- Sewer main installation near the fairgrounds has been completed.
- Water main replacement on Michigan Avenue has been completed.
- North Water Plant pump repairs were completed at a cost of approximately \$30,000.
- Delinquent income tax collection efforts generated approximately \$8,000.

Law Director

- none

Auditor

- not present
- Council approved a line-item transfer
- July expense and revenue received
- 2 unexpended balance reports were received
- Finance Committee Audit Report Comparison received
- BHM Regular Draft Audit for year ended December 31, 2025, received
- August expense, revenue, and statement of cash position received

City Clerk's Reports

- July and August Reports received

Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer reported all accounts remain balanced.

Recreation

- Not present
- Walton reported: Gus Macker hosted 100 teams, 213 youth participants, and 187 adult players. Participants traveled from ten states. Youth soccer and volleyball participation remains strong. Co-ed volleyball will return this fall. Youth basketball registration opens September 17. A Halloween 5K is planned for October 31.

Fire

- Not present

Zoning/Code

- Not present

Police

- Overtime, July calls, and July Activity Summary received

At approximately 7:40 p.m., Council entered Executive Session for discussion of personnel and contractual matters. No action was taken in open session following Executive Session. Bennett made the Motion, Browning seconded, and all in attendance voted to go into Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


Council Clerk


Council President

