



The City of Towanda

City Council Meeting Minutes
Towanda City Hall – 110 S 3rd St.
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 7:00 PM

Governing Body

Present Not Present

☒	☐	Mayor – Mike Hayes
☒	☐	Council President – Jennifer Watkins
☒	☐	Council Member – Kit Williams
☒	☐	Council Member – Drew Shaults
☐	☒	Council Member – Chris Hunt
☐	☐	Council Member –

Staff

Present Not Present

☒	☐	City Administrator – Sarah Gooding
☒	☐	City Attorney – Rob Lane at 7:15 p.m.
☒	☐	Planning/Zoning Administrator -Lisa Long
☒	☐	Court Administrator – Emelia Toney
☐	☐	

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Call To Order

- 7:00 pm by Mike Hayes

2. Roll Call

3. Consent Agenda

➤ January 2026 Reports

- Minutes of the January 14, 2026 Council Meeting
- Treasure's Information Reports January 2026
 - Statement of Activities
 - Fund Balance Report
 - Budget Execution Report
 - Water Loss Report
- Claims
 - Claims Report
 - Appropriations Ordinance 01-2026
- Staff/Development Information Reports
 - Sheriff Office Report
 - Court Clerk's Report
 - Planning and Zoning
 - Code Compliance Report
 - Towanda Maintenance Department
 - Towanda Public Library Report

Motion by Jen Watkins to approve the consent agenda from January 14, 2026 with amendment to Item No. 9, Pool Issues, under Other New Business. Second by Kit Willims. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Presentation and Guest Speakers

- Brad Shores, JEO Consulting Group, presented updates on engineering projects. The City's water system design is ready for the 90% milestone. Additionally, JEO shared that the Kansas Department has issued a Request for Proposals for improvements to the turn lane and line of sight at the K-254/River Valley Road intersection.

5. Public Comment Time

- **Lane Volavka:** Had an incident with an aggressive dog. The deputy came out and stated he can only enforce state statutes at this point as it pertains to the animal issues here in town because he's not been provided with any documentation on Towanda's specific city animal codes. Lisa said she will contact the Sheriff's office to make sure they have a copy of City ordinances and codes related to animal control.
- **Nick Wilhelm:** Owns the building next to Gambino's. It has been a year since the wall was hit by a forklift and he is concerned the building damage and bricks are still not repaired. He said the braces on the building make it look like the restaurant is also closed, which impact his business.
- **Perry Jones:** Is the owner of the damaged building and said he is working with a contractor to make the repairs. Mr. Jones said he has put a lot of money into the building but feels like it is a waste.

6. Old Business

- **Main Street Building Progress Update**

Lisa Long: The City has been working with the contractor, Roberto, on Mr. Jones' building. Roberto told City staff he is looking into grants that could assist with preserving the building. Staff don't know details but were told the grant Roberto is pursuing is through South Central Kansas Economic Development District (SCKEDD). Because of the ongoing timeline for completion, the City still recommends beginning condemnation proceedings to ensure action, but extensions can be granted in that process if a grant is secured. Lisa will need to update a previous resolution and will bring it to the March meeting.

- **Capital Improvement Plan Draft Presentation**

Lisa Long: City staff have been working to compile an updated Capital Improvement Plan and presented a draft of what has been gathered so far. The CIP will continue to be refined over the coming months and be presented along with the budget. After that, the CIP will be reviewed and updated annually. Staff also are looking at the condition of the City's equipment and what is needed in coming years and will continue to fill in with cost estimates, proposed funding sources, and proposed timelines.

- **Swimming Pool Filter – Updated Quotes**

Sarah Gooding: In January, Council approved a replacement filter for the swimming pool, not to exceed \$30,699. The next day after the meeting, the previous mayor, whose business is Little Richards Pools, reached out to express interest in the project. She said she had avoided submitting bids while in office, as that would have been a

conflict of interest, but asked to have two quotes considered for this project. Little Richards Pools quotes include a single unit for \$29,089 and three-filter unit for \$26,548.56. Both of those are on a much quicker timeline than the original proposal. The original quote that was submitted last month was from D. Gerber Commercial Pool products and services. They submitted a revised quote for \$28,750, but the timeline is still 16-20 weeks before delivery. A third quote was secured from Superior Pools for \$33,605.97, but that does not include installation. Council reviewed all quotes and timelines, and recommended Little Richards Pools' quote as the most optimal quote. Motion by Jen Watkins to accept the second quote from Little Richards Pools for a three-filter unit for \$26,548.56. Second by Kit Williams. Motion carried 2-0, with Drew Shaults abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

7. New Business

- **Master Street Building Progress Update**

In January Council approved closing out the Bond Fund and transferring the remaining balance to the Street Reserve Fund. At that point, it was mentioned that those could be found funds within the Street Reserve Fund that could be used to pay for a pavement management plan. The goal of creating a pavement management plan would be to take the many different street projects that we know were needed, to get a true engineering assessment of what's needed on each one. This would help to identify which streets can be preserved and which need to be rebuilt. The plan also would provide a strategy, funding estimates, and schedule to carry out street maintenance in the next 10 years. Council reviewed a proposed contract from JEO and requested a workshop on February 26 to discuss the item further. No action would be taken until at least the March Council meeting. Motion by Drew Shaults to table this discussion to March. Second by Kit Williams. Motion carried 3-0.

- **Kansas Gas Service Ordinance**

The City of Towanda has an agreement with Kansas Gas Service that includes a franchise fee that helps compensate the city for running utilities through City easements. When the ordinance was last updated, the template used did not include the correct volumetric terms language. Ordinance Number 731 updates all language to align with the City's agreement with KGS. Motion by Kit Williams to accept the Kansas Gas Service Franchise Fee Ordinance Number 731. Second by Jen Watkins. Motion carried 3-0.

- **Resolution for Cash Basis Compliance**

This is a resolution that deals with our accounting procedures. As a small city, we use a cash basis accounting system, and then we waive the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Motion by Jen Watkins to approve Resolution 2026-01 authorizing Cash-Basis Accounting. Second by Drew Shaults. Motion carried 3-0.

8. Other New Business

- **Council Vacancy**

Mayor Mike Hayes announced a process for filling a vacant Council seat. Applications will be available online, and hard copies will be available at City Hall. Applications should be completed and turned in by March 1, 2026, and candidates are encouraged to attend the Council Workshop on March 4, 2026.

- **Planning Commission Appointments**

Potential candidates have not been finalized at this time. Council will re-address at the March meeting.

- **Appoint Kansas Rural Water Association Voting Delegate**

The Kansas Rural Water Association conference is coming up and several staff plan to attend. There is a recommendation to appoint Rylan Rose as the City's voting delegate for that conference.

Motion by Drew Shaults to appoint Rylan Rose as Towanda's voting delegate to Kansas Rural Water Association. Second by Jen Watkins. Motion carried 3-0.

- **Council Workshop with Kathy Sexton on March 4, 2026**

A Council Workshop for a governing body orientation led by Kathy Sexton is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. March 4.

- **Workshop on Street Maintenance Plan: February 26, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Council members requested a workshop at 6:30 p.m. February 26 to receive more information and conduct additional discussion regarding the proposed Street Maintenance Master Plan.

9. Executive Session

- **None Scheduled**

10. Adjourn

- Motion by Jen Watkins to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Second by Kit Williams. Motion carried 3-0.



Sarah Gooding
City Clerk

Approved the 11th day of March, 2026 by the City Council, City of Towanda, Kansas.