

Commission Meeting

11:00 a.m.

January 21, 2026

The Governing Body of the City of Emporia, Kansas, met in Regular Session, Wednesday, January 21, 2026, with Mayor Smith presiding and Commissioners Duncan, Harter, Olge and Steinkuhler present. Also present were City Manager Cocking, Deputy City Manager Detter, Assistant City Manager Wash, City Clerk Sull and City Attorney Montgomery.

Representatives and the 5th Grade Class from Sacred Heart Catholic Schools were in attendance to accept a proclamation declaring the week of January 25 through January 31, 2026, as "Celebrate Catholic Schools Week" in Emporia. Each year the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas designates one week during the year to highlight Catholic Schools. The presence of a Catholic School in our community has proven to be an additional amenity and incentive in the education of the youth of the City of Emporia. Sacred Heart Catholic School is proud to be where students consistently work to their full potential. The school welcomes students from other communities and religions. The legacy of Sacred Heart School will live for many years thanks to dedicated administrators, teachers, and students as well as a supportive community.

Mayor Smith then presented the proclamation.

**CITY COMMISSION
(Public Comment)**

This is the time for the public to make comments.

The public is invited to make comments at this time. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes each. Please state your name and address prior to making comments.

Joe Salazar, 1417 Lincoln St., Emporia, Kansas, spoke in favor of city government, thanked the current and previous Mayors, and supports the new commissioners with their focus on listening, promoting change and tax relief.

Charles Brown, 1310 Lawrence St. Emporia, Kansas, shared concerns about hunting in city limits.

Raymond Rogers, 1704 Berkeley Rd., Emporia, Kansas, shared information on the Natrium reactor and spoke in favor of this type of nuclear power located in Lyon County.

CITY COMMISSION
(2025 Kansas Region 1 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan)
(Resolution Number 3786)

Deputy City Manager Detter was recognized and addressed the Governing Body. He stated the Kansas Region 1 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed with input from region 1 counties, which include, Chase, Geary, Lyon, Morris, Pottawatomie, Riley, and Wabaunsee Counties. The plan was reviewed by FEMA and the Kansas Department of Emergency Management along with coordination with the Lyon County Department of Emergency Management. The primary purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to make the City of Emporia eligible for federal funding for future mitigation projects. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a thorough review of hazard risks related to severe weather, fire, flood, earthquakes and other hazards. The plan dedicates an entire section to Emporia on the risks of various hazard issues throughout the community and outlying areas. The following lists of potential mitigation projects would be considered for grant funding requests and have been identified as specific hazard mitigation needs for the City of Emporia:

- 1. Purchase Generator for various City Facilities.**
- 2. Map all infrastructure and facilities within potential failure inundation areas to assess risk.**
- 3. Upgrade/Repair existing water supply infrastructure.**
- 4. Heat/Cold Shelter.**
- 5. Continued participation in NFIP.**
- 6. Flood control projects.**
- 7. Meet requirements and join CRS program.**
- 8. Engineering Study for Flood Mitigation at critical infrastructure and facilities.**
- 9. Install High Wind, Hail, and fire-resistant roofing on jurisdictional facilities.**
- 10. Construct community saferooms in select jurisdictional buildings.**
- 11. Purchase protective window film for all jurisdictional facilities.**

- 12. Educate residents about driving in winter storms and handling winter-related health effects.**
- 13. Create defensible space buffers at all critical facilities.**
- 14. Become Firewise Community.**

He stated there is no cost to adopt the Kansas Region 1 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The grant funding from FEMA could potentially fund several million dollars in projects. Staff recommend approval of Resolution Number 3786 to adopt Kansas Region 1 Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Following further discussion, Commissioner Harter made a motion to approve Resolution Number 3786 adopting Kansas Region 1 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Steinkuhler seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

**SOLID WASTE
(Transfer Station)
(N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc.)
(Consent to Continue Contract Under New Ownership)**

Deputy City Manager Detter and Charlie Sedlock, representing N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc., were recognized and addressed the Governing Body. N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc. has provided the City of Emporia/Lyon County with solid waste/recycling services since 2000 at the Emporia/Lyon County Transfer Station/Landfill. The agreement has been amended four times over a 25-year period and includes trash/recycling hauling. Hamm's partnership has been solid for the last two decades. The City was informed in December 2025 that N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc will become part of Allied Waste Systems, Inc. (Republic). Republic is asking Hamm to secure the consent of its customers to honor the existing contracts with Hamm. The contract with Hamm is scheduled to expire at the end of 2026. The City is planning to bid for the contract for trash/recycling hauling services in early summer of 2026. Staff would like to have to develop a Solid Waste Master Plan as the Solid Waste Fund cash balances have substantially dropped in the past 3 years. The approval of the consent agreement will not increase costs beyond the

scheduled increase in the agreements signed in 2024 with N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc. Staff recommend approval of N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc's request to allow Allied Waste Systems, Inc. to fulfill the contract commitment for solid waste/recycling hauling services to expire at the end of 2026.

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to approve N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc's request to allow Allied Waste System, Inc., a subsidiary of Republic Services, to fulfill the contract commitment for solid waste/recycling hauling services to expire at the end of 2026. Commissioner Olge seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; Commissioner Harter aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

**CITY COMMISSION
 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
 (Financials & Building Permits)**

This is the time for the City Manager to make comments and reports to the public. **The following is general information for the month of December 2025 for the community:**

1.	Monthly Local Retail Sales Tax Receipts Update		
	2024	2025	
	\$ 524,145.22	\$ 546,291.26	Increase of \$22,146.04 for the month, and
YTD	\$ 6,473,541.24	\$6,627,422.25	Overall increase of 2.32% from year 2024.

2.	City Share from County Tax		
	2024	2025	
	\$ 269,446.98	\$ 289,326.31	Increase of \$19,879.33 for the month, and
YTD	\$3,316,346.03	\$3,457,387.81	Overall increase of 4.08% from year 2024.

Building Permits issued from 12/1/2025 to 12/31/2025 for new construction, remodeling/repairs and demolition.

Total number of building permits issued through Code Services:	58
Total valuations associated with those building permits:	\$ 2,150,902.40
Total number of dollars collected for Building Permit Fees:	\$ 12,750.50
Construct – Single-family dwellings	1
Demo – Single-family dwellings	0

Flint Hills Mall CID for December 2025	\$ 14,517.83
YTD	\$ 203,724.97
Pavilions CID for December 2025	\$ 14,896.88
CID #2	\$ 14,896.88
YTD	\$ 378,300.62
Fairview Hotel CID for December 2025	\$ 8,088.18
YTD	\$ 88,153.04
West Plaza CID for December 2025	\$ 6,089.00
YTD	\$ 106,359.37

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Harter, seconded by Commissioner Steinkuhler that the Consent Agenda listed below be ratified as a whole:

- a. Commission Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 7, 2026.

The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

CITY COMMISSION (City Manager's Report)

This is an opportunity for the City Manager to present information to the public that may not be reported in other news accounts or City activities or to highlight accomplishments of the organization.

At the time this Agenda was prepared, the following items were in the works:

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2026, MEETING.

- Award Lift Station No. 1.
- Ordinance for Regulations of Mobile Food Trucks.
- **Study Session:**
 - Debt Discussion with Grey Vahrenberg.
 - Discuss Emporia Land Bank Housing Infill Project.
 - Discuss Common Consumption Area.

**CITY COMMISSION
(Governing Body Comment)**

This is the time for the Mayor and City Commissioners to make comments and reports to the public. No comments were made at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Harter made a motion to recess into Executive Session for 40 minutes, inviting pertinent city staff to discuss confidential data of a third party relating to economic development. The justification for the executive session is provided by K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4) to protect financial affairs and trade secrets of a third party. The open meeting will resume in this room at approximately 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Olge seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

Upon reconvening the meeting in Regular Session at 12:20 p.m., this same date, in the City Commission Meeting Room, Mayor Smith made a motion to continue the executive session discussion for the reason stated previously with all the same pertinent city staff and resuming the open meeting at approximately 12:31 p.m. Commissioner Olge seconded the motion. The vote follows: Mayor Smith, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Harter, aye; and Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye.

Upon reconvening the meeting in Regular Session at 12:31 p.m., this same date, in the City Commission Meeting Room, Commissioner Harter made a motion to continue the executive session discussion for the reason stated previously with all the same pertinent city staff and resuming the open meeting at approximately 12:48 p.m. Commissioner Steinkuhler seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; and Commissioner Olge, aye; Mayor Smith was not present at the time of vote.

Upon reconvening the meeting in Regular Session at 12:48 p.m., this same date, in the City Commission Meeting Room, Mayor Smith stated they had discussed confidential data of a third party relating to economic development and no action was taken.

Mayor Smith made a motion to recess the meeting until 1:00 p.m. at the Evora Wheeler Conference Room. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The vote follows: Mayor Smith, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; and Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye.

The following items were discussed at the Study Session:

1. Discuss Lift Station No. 1.
2. 2026 Street Rehabilitation Discussion.
3. Proposed Mobile Food Vendor/Unit Regulations Changes.
4. Appoint FHTC Interviewing Commissioners.

**City Commission
Designate Commissioners for Board Interviews
Flint Hills Technical College (FHTC)**

Commissioner Harter made a motion designating Mayor Smith and Commissioner Olge as Board Interviewers for FHTC. Commissioner Olge seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

5. Appoint Commissioner to Emporia Recreation Center Steering Committee.

**City Commission
Appoint Commission Liaison
Emporia Recreation Steering Committee**

Commissioner Harter made a motion to appoint Commissioner Steinkuhler as the representative of the Governing Body to participate in the activities of Emporia Recreation Steering Committee. Commissioner Olge seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; and Mayor Smith,

6. Discuss Visit Emporia Funding.

**City Commission
Visit Emporia Funding
Extension Agreement**

Following discussion, Commissioner Steinkuhler made a motion to approve a 3-month extension agreement between the City of Emporia, Kansas and the Emporia Chamber of Commerce related to the operation of Visit Emporia, commencing February 1, 2026, and expiring on April 30, 2026. Compensation shall not exceed \$120,000.00 for the 3-month term; subject to approval of the same 3-month budget and review of FY 2025

revenues and expenditures. Commissioner Olge seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; Commissioner Harter, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye. Commissioner Duncan was not present at the time of the vote.

Commissioner Harter then made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Steinkuhler seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Olge, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

Becky Smith
Becky Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kerry Sull
Kerry Sull, City Clerk

