Cole Camp City Council Meeting
Regular Session
June 18, 2026   7:00 P.M.

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Cole Camp, Missouri met in Regular Session in the council room at City Hall on June 18, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. Administration in attendance: City Clerk Dawn Paul, Public Works Director Dana Hayes, Police Chief Christopher Horn. Attendance: Diana Burdick, Johnny Ehlers, Jason Sivils, Jo Ann Lane, Jon Beckman, Barbara O'Brien, John Meyer, Mildred Duffey, Kenda Gilbert, Kevin Kumpula, Mark Eckhoff, Eric Wilson, Lenny Gerken, Mike Dieckman, Wanda Brown, Steven Noel, Tim Craig.

Mayor Garrett called meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Invocation by Mayor Garrett

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present:

Mayor Nicole Garrett

Alderman Jeremiah Crider

Alderman David Massingill

Alderman David Locke

Absent:

Alderman Steve Knox

Alderman Locke moves to approve the agenda with a second from Alderman Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

Alderman Crider moves to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes May 21, 2026 as written with a second from Alderman Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

Great River Update: Jason Sivils with Great River Engineering: Mr. Sivils presented an update on the North Maple Street Sidewalk Project.

Mr. Sivilis gave an overview of remaining construction, as well as addressed challenges encountered during early weeks of construction, including significant elevation changes from original plans, ADA compliance requirements, and undocumented underground utilities. To address these issues, plans were significantly redesigned to match existing building structures and avoid potential utility impacts.

Following concerns raised during construction, the city, contractor, and engineering staff completed a comprehensive field review of the project. Survey crews verified and corrected elevations, drainage structures, ADA ramps, stairs, and utility locations. GRE preemptively began a full review of the East side of Maple Street to avoid the same project pitfalls, to prioritize keeping the project on schedule.

The engineer additionally acknowledged that communication early in the project could have been improved and outlined corrective measures, including daily project updates, additional GRE staffing, and closer coordination with the contractor. Great River agreed to absorb the costs of redesigning plans, additional drainage improvements, drainage grates, and handrail modifications beyond the original plans, with the engineer also assuming responsibility for certain contractor-related costs to avoid additional expense to the City. Mr. Sivilis said these concessions were made as a good faith gesture to the City of Cole Camp. Mayor Garrett thanked Mr. Sivilis for his candor addressing the City in a public forum and for stepping up for a tough discussion.

Mr. Sivils reported construction remains on schedule, with the first side of the projects expected to be completed by the end of July and the second side by August 14, weather permitting. Work is also progressing within the City's budget, with anticipated overages for handrails and drainage grates, which will not impact on the City's budget. His number one goal is to keep constructing from being delayed. Mayor Garrett asked when the renderings of the entire East side would be available, Mr. Sivilis said he would keep working on them.

Questions that were asked:

Mayor Nicole Garrett asked about the final completion dates for the projects. Mr. Sivils responded that one project is scheduled for completion by the end of July, and the other has a deadline of August 14, 2026**.**

Mayor Garrett also asked whether the projects were on track with the budget. Mr. Sivils reported that they are, with only minor cost overruns anticipated for handrails and drainage grates.

Mayor Garrett inquired about re-installing the American flags on the sidewalk and whether there is a warranty on the new concrete that could be voided. Mr. Sivils explained that, due to federal government requirements, there is no warranty on the concrete. He did state that drilling holes for the flag poles will not damage the new concrete. Mayor Garrett inquired of American Legion Commander Roy Wagner, to see if related questions remained. Mr. Wagner added that the American Legion will install protective sleeves for the flag poles when they are approved by the City.

Mayor Garrett brought up a concern about the salon on the west side and concrete being poured against the siding the siding with an expansion joint. She was wondering what the plan for that area was. Two options were presented: an ADA-compliant ramp with an expansion joint and flashing, or two steps leading to the entrance. Mr. Sivils confirmed that the sidewalk would maintain the proper slope to ensure drainage away from the salon entrance.

Mr. Mark Eckhoff questioned the plan for the sidewalk adjacent to the salon if using the 2 steps and if the water would fully drain. Mr. Sivils responded there would be a slope from the end of the step to the doorway of 1 ½% to 2% moving away from the building and then would add a trench drain. He also asked how big of a step would it be? Mr. Sivils responded that they are using steps 4" x 11" tread. MoDOT has rules for the size of stairs.

Mr. Eckhoff asked if the city would keep the drains clean. Public Works Director responded that the goal is to keep the drains clean.

Mr. Eckhoff also asked how many handicapped parking spaces would be provided. Mr. Sivils responded that no handicapped parking spaces are included in the project.

Mrs. Diana Burdick commented that the project has been in development for more than three years through multiple city administrations and praised the engineering company. She noted that it had been requested to complete both sides of the project simultaneously to reduce costs and minimize disruption to the public. She asked those in attendance to remain patient during construction and reminded those in attendance that several public meetings had been held prior to construction. Mrs. Burdick ended her remarks by stating that it was the responsibility of the public to make their comments and questions known earlier in the process, and it is not solely on the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Sivilis assured members of the public he has no issue answering questions or addressing comments on the project.

Mr. Mike Dieckman asked whether there was a way to mitigate potential water issues if decorative stone were used, such as applying epoxy. Mr. Sivils replied that cost was unknown, and if pavement was used it would be $45 per square foot and noted that he has not had any negative experiences with decorative stone.

Commander Roy Wagner asked whether a weed barrier would be installed. Staff confirmed that a weed barrier is included in the project.

RES 2026-04 Approve Accounts Payable May 22, 2026 to June 15, 2026/City Clerk: Mayor Garrett announced before the motions considered that Alderman Massingill has indicated he will abstain from discussion and voting on the city's payment to HP Tire & Muffler, the business he owns. Mayor Garrett is looking to put forward a motion to pay the HP Tire & Muffler bill in the amount of $227.40 for multiple vehicle oil changes, during which Alderman Massingill will abstain from discussion and voting. Then we will return to approval for the remainder of the bills listed in RES 2026-04.

Alderman Locke moves to approve payment of the HP Tire & Muffler invoices contained within RES 2026-04 in the amount of $227.40 for services on the CCPD Durango and the Ford Police Interceptor and added to have two separate bills excluding any work that HP Tire and Muffler does, so they can vote with a second from Alderman Crider. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – abstain. Motion Carried. Mayor Garrett requested the motion to be withdrawn on abundance of caution, in case three votes are needed for a resolution for payment, and Alderman Knox was absent.

Alderman Locke moves to table the HP Tire & Muffler bill to July 16, 2026 with a second from Alderman Crider.

Alderman Locke moves to approve the accounts payable remaining in RES 2026-04 for the period of May 22, 2026 through June 15, 2026 with a second for Alderman Crider. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

RES 2026-05 Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission Membership/Administration: Mayor Garrett explained the RES 2026-05 Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission Membership and in the past has appointed the mayor to be the city's representative for this board. Alderman Locke requested that Alderman Knox be present before the vote is taken. Mayor Nicole Garretted invited Economic Developer Jo Ann Lane offer comments on the membership. Mrs. Lane commented that the city has two businesses with the Paul Bruhn Grants. Alderman Crider moves to approve the membership of Kaysinger Basin RES 2026-05 for $345.36 with a second from Alderman Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

RES 2026-06 Approve REJIS Proposal/Police Department: Chief Horn explained that LETS stands for the Law Enforcement Traffic System, the traffic crash reporting system that is used across the State of Missouri. REJIS is the company that houses the digital form. Officers are currently filling out these forms in antiquated books and duplicating efforts. This system saves time and money and is at no cost to the city. Alderman Crider moves to approve the agreement with a second from Alderman Locke. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

Discussion Item - ORD 2025-08 Amend 2026 Budget/Administration: Mayor Garrett brought up the discussion about amending the 2026 budget and reconciling accounts at mid-year. She explained that the budget process involves estimating expected revenue and projecting annual expenses, and that actual revenues and expenditures rarely match those projections exactly.

Several city accounts are currently out of balance and need to be reconciled. Some variances were anticipated; however, the city also experienced a 20% increase in employee health insurance costs that could not have been anticipated when the 2026 budget was adopted.

The city will need to determine how to fund the current budget shortfalls. Mayor Garrett asked department heads to review the accounts within their departments and identify opportunities to bring those accounts back into balance. Other options for balancing the budget include using cash reserves, increasing taxes, or reducing expenditure. The Police Department budget currently has a significant shortfall of approximately $40,000. Mayor Garrett stated that her goal is to present a proposal in July to balance the overall budget, including the Police Department budget. She also expressed her hope to involve both the community and the Board of Aldermen in the discussion and decision-making process. Alderman Locke agrees the budget needs to be amended in July. There is another cost that could not be foreseen such as the historic post that was destroyed at Water Tower Park. Mayor Garrett has had an anonymous donor pledge $1,000 for the historic post restoration. The city will begin accepting donations for the parks to help pay for this unanticipated cost.

Financial Reports: Alderman Locke moves to approve the financial reports as written with a second from Alderman Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

Planning & Zoning: Planning & Zoning Commissioner Dr. Eric Wilson reported that Planning and Zoning has no report at this time. They are waiting until some legal questions are answered and will meet as needed.

Clerk Report: Submitted reports in writing.

Public Works Report: Submitted reports in writing.

Police Report: Submitted reports in writing.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Garrett's office hours will be by appointment only. During the last meeting she introduced the Community Street Assessment. She has created a rating scale and a grid that includes all of the streets. She is requesting volunteers and participants are asked to complete the assessments for at least 50% of the streets. The average assessment scores will be used to help develop a community's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. The deadline for the assessment is September 30, 2026.

Citizens' Comments: Wanda Brown – Will ask about the budget at the next meeting. Jon Beckman – Asked questions about the Police Department and the Police Chief's contract. He stated there was no residency requirement, and Alderman Locke stated it was in the contract. Beckman also commented on the sunshine request about the Chief Horn's contract that was missing page 2 of 3, and he also commended DJ Hayes in the public works department. Mildred Duffey – appreciates the report for accounts payable. Mayor Garrett complimented Clerk Paul for working with her to improve presentation of accounts payable.

Alderman Crider moves to adjourn with a second from Alderman Massingill. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Minutes by Dawn Paul:

Minutes approved by:

Nicole Garrett, Mayor

Attest:

Dawn Paul, City Clerk

CITY SEAL OF COLE CAMP MO