

Cole Camp City Council Meeting
Regular Session
September 17, 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 September 17, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. Administration in attendance: City Clerk Dawn Paul, Public Works Director Clinton Raetz, Police Chief Christopher Horn. Attendance: Jo Ann Lane, Johnny Ehlers, Eric Wilson, Mildred Duffey, John Meyer, Barbara O'Brien, Brad Garrett, Steven Noel, Tim Craig, Andy Brockman, Diana Brudick, Rachel Wienberg.

Mayor Garrett called meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Invocation by Mayor Garrett

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present:

Mayor Nicole Garrett

Alderman David Massingill

Alderman David Locke

Alderman Jeremiah Crider

Absent:

Alderman Steve Knox

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

Alderman Crider moves to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes August 20, 2026; Special Meeting Minutes August 26, 2026; Closed Meeting Minutes August 26, 2026; Special Meeting Minutes September 1, 2026 with a second from Alderman Locke. Roll Call: Alderman Massingill – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye. Motion Carried.

North Maple Street Sidewalk Project/Great River Engineering: Mr. Sivils was unable to attend due to scheduling conflict, and Mayor Garrett read the update that Mr. Sivils sent via email: "The contractor has completed all concrete placement form both sides of the project. They have demobilized the concrete crew and are going to work on some final pieces. The contractor placed temporary hand railing for the fair and is working with his supplier for final hand railing. The next steps will be for the contractor's sub-consultant will submit shop drawing. Once submitted we will review and respond as quickly as we can. With approved shop drawing they will fabricate the railings. At the

time of the handrail installation the contractor will complete additional cure/staining, clean up on the retailing wall ties, and filling all small holes left from the temporary. Doing this at one time will help ensure uniform color. Additionally, there is one spot of honey comb, the crew will repair this spot at the same time. As soon as we hear the production schedule of the railings we will pass it on."

RES2026-11 Amended Agreement for Water Operator/Public Works: Mayor Garrett stated that the City had previously approved an agreement with Kirk Leimkeuhler to serve as the operator of the City's drinking water system, as required by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Leimkeuhler initially agreed to the contract but later requested several changes. The amendments include clarifying in Section 6 that City staff, rather than the operator, will be responsible for ensuring the distribution system maintains at least 20 PSI. Section 10 adds an emergency service rate of \$75 per hour, with travel time compensated under the same terms as the regular rate. Section 11 establishes the standard compensation of \$150 per month plus \$25 per hour, with paid travel time beginning when the operator leaves Warsaw and continuing until he reaches Cole Camp. Alderman Locke moves to approve RES 2026-11 the amended agreement for the water operator with a second from Alderman Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Massingill – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye. Motion Carried.

RES 2026-14 Approve Accounts Payable August 18, 2026 to September 14, 2026 HP Tire & Muffler/City Clerk: There was a correction from when the bill was given to the City. The original amount was \$113.07; the new amount is \$62.50. Alderman Locke moves to accept RES 2026-14 for the substitute amount of \$62.50 for HP Tire & Muffler with a second from Alderman Crider. Roll Call: Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Abstain. Motion Carried.

RES 2026-15 Approve Accounts Payable August 18, 2026 to September 14, 2026/City Clerk: Alderman Crider moves to approve RES 2026-15 for the accounts payable of August 18, 2026 to September 14, 2026 with a second from Alderman Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Massingill – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye. Motion Carried.

RES 2026-18 Accept Blue Shield Grant Award/Police Department: Chief Horn informed the Board of Aldermen that the City has been awarded a Blue Shield Grant in the amount of \$29,069.76 from the Missouri Department of Public Safety as a result of the City's Blue Shield designation. He explained that the City's previous approval for Blue Shield designation made it eligible for the non-competitive grant. He also stated that acceptance of the grant does not impose any additional requirements beyond those already associated with the Blue Shield designation, including maintaining the required compliance measures, with which the City is currently in compliance. The Chief's intent for the grant funds is to replace the 2017 Ford Explorer with a newer, less-used vehicle. He further explained that the vehicle purchase would be limited to the amount allowed by the grant and that no additional expenditure of City funds is contemplated. The Board discussed the grant amount, noting that it was higher than anticipated. Alderman Massingill moved to accept Resolution 2026-18, with a second from Alderman Locke. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

RES 2026-17 Consideration of Termination Fall Citywide Trash Pick-up/Alderman Crider: Alderman Crider commented that the spring cleanup cost approximately \$3,700 and stated that he was looking for ways to reduce spending. He also referenced the trash fees paid by homeowners through their utility bills and the additional cost to the City. He also suggested that the Board consider not having a fall cleanup this year to see how it works out, noting that the City could resume the cleanup next year if needed. Mayor Garrett asked the other aldermen for their opinions. Alderman Locke stated that he would like to continue the cleanup, noting that citizens have a use for the service and that it is a service the City provides to its citizens. Alderman Massingill also expressed support for continuing the cleanup. Mayor Garrett thanked Alderman Crider for looking for ways to reduce costs. She stated that last year's fall cleanup cost approximately \$1,400 to \$1,500. She also noted an unintended consequence of discontinuing the cleanup could be increased abatement costs, including staff time and potentially attorney fees. Alderman Crider asked whether commercial properties were included in the cleanup. City Clerk Paul explained that the cleanup is for residential properties only and that adding commercial properties would increase the cost. She stated that last year the commercial property debris required a separate truck and would have cost approximately \$1,000. The fall cleanup is October 16, 2026. RES 2026-17 Consideration of Termination Fall Citywide Trash Pickup fails for a lack of a motion.

RES 2026-16 Consideration of Termination of General Code Codification Agreement/Mayor: Mayor Garrett requested this to go on the agenda. In January 2026 minutes the codification agreement was entered into by the previous administration for \$13,200, but was signed by the Mayor for over \$14,000, which exceed authority for given by the Board of Alderman. State law allows for more than just reprinting the book of code ordinances. Mayor Garrett read the RSMO 71.940 in full: *codification includes the compilation and revision of the general ordinances of the municipality; changing of sections deemed advisable; omission of sections deemed unnecessary; addition of new provision; and adoption of the whole by an adopting ordinance and publication in permanently bound or loose-leaf book form and allows to make changes.* She would like to see the agreement terminated, save the money, eliminate the problem of the contract being signed that exceeded the authority given by the Board of Alderman. The Board discussed whether codification was necessary and whether the City could save approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 by terminating the agreement. Questions were raised regarding whether the City had any outdated or legally unenforceable ordinances and whether codification would identify and remove ordinances that conflict with current state or federal law. It was noted that laws and legal interpretations change regularly and that law enforcement receives annual legal updates regarding changes that may affect enforcement. The Board also discussed the City's existing codification contract, noting that an initial deposit of \$2,835 had been paid and that the project had been placed on hold pending completion of the Planning and Zoning work. The City Clerk was asked to retrieve the contract to be reviewed for terms for termination.

Stand at ease 7:26 P.M. Back in session 7:31 P.M.

Mayor Garrett reviewed the contract and noted that it did not contain any provisions regarding cancellation. City Clerk Paul will contact General Code to find out about the fee. Alderman Massingill moves to terminate RES 2026-16 to save the City over \$11,000.

Mayor Garrett asked Alderman Locke if he intended to make a second and he said he was thinking about it. She then asked Alderman Crider if he intended to make a second and he said he was not; he wanted to table it until we find out the cost of terminating the contract. Alderman Locke agreed. Motion fails for a lack of a second. This will be discussed in October.

North Maple Street Sidewalk Flags: This will be laid over till next month when Commander Roy Wagner will be present.

Street Resurfacing: Mayor Garrett reported that when she was initially elected, she understood that the City planned to resurface Pine, Peach, Drennon, and possibly Hazlett Drive. However, after reviewing the projects over the past several weeks, it was determined that significant underground water and sewer work must be addressed before resurfacing can proceed. As a result, no major street resurfacing projects will be completed this year. The City may instead consider patching as needed. Mayor Garrett reported that the Public Works Director is working with a vendor to explore options for addressing the sewer issue near Pine and Eickhoff without excavation, due to the existing four-inch gas main in the area. A possible sleeve or similar method may be considered to address the compromised sewer area. Mayor Garrett also discussed the water system on Pine Street, noting that the City does not have adequate documentation showing which properties are connected to the old or new water main. The Public Works Director has been tasked with determining the existing underground infrastructure and obtaining bids for the necessary water work. Mayor Garrett stated that the project will remain on the agenda so progress can be documented and the Board can continue discussing available options. She further reported that the Water Fund has approximately \$18,000 available for capital expenditure, which will make funding the necessary work an additional challenge. She stated that the City will continue looking for funding options and communicating with affected residents. Regarding sewer inspections, it was reported that Pine Street from Eickhoff to Highway 52 had been camera-inspected, although no written documentation of the results was currently available. Peach, Drennon, and Hazlett have not yet been camera-inspected. The Board discussed the importance of determining the condition of the sewer and water systems before resurfacing any streets to avoid having to cut into newly resurfaced streets for underground repairs.

2026 Budget: Mayor Garrett reported that she will meet, or has met, with the aldermen to review their respective department budgets. She discussed the Sewer Fund with Alderman Massingill, the current Sewer Commissioner and Alderman Crider, previous Sewer Commissioner. Approximately \$100,000 has been spent this year on new lift station pumps as a capital expense, which may make it difficult for the Sewer Fund to balance. Mayor Garrett stated that, as previously discussed at public meetings, savings may be used for necessary capital expenditures, and citizens are welcome to provide input during public comments. Mayor Garrett also discussed the \$50,000 budgeted for capital outlay for a sewer jetter. She stated that capital outlay and savings are separate categories and that, rather than purchasing equipment and providing training, the City may be able to hire a knowledgeable service provider at a lower cost. She indicated that the funds could then be moved into sewer savings; however, the Sewer Fund would still be approximately \$12,000 short of balancing. Mayor Garrett stated that she and the

Street Commissioner will review the Street Fund budget on Monday, now that Maple Street is nearly complete, and will review the funds that may be carried into 2027 for the resurfacing projects previously discussed. Mayor Garrett stated that balancing the General Fund will be difficult. She indicated that at the next meeting, the Mayor's Office will either present a balanced 2026 budget or explain why certain funds, such as the Sewer Fund, may need to use savings to continue operations. She noted that the City faces long-postponed needs and prior spending decisions that have contributed to its current financial position. Moving forward, she stated that open communication with residents will be important in determining the direction the residents want for the City.

2027 Budget: The Mayor stated that the City Clerk would prepare revenue projections to help determine the amounts available for department budgets and planned expenditures for the upcoming year. The City Clerk reported that the General Fund and Streets Fund projections had been completed and that the Water and Sewer projections were still in progress.

The City Clerk initially anticipated completing the revenue budget by September 25 but agreed to move the target date to September 22. The Mayor noted that completing the revenue projections promptly would allow department heads and the Board to begin developing their expenditure budgets and planned projects. The Mayor also stated that additional budget meetings would be held as information becomes available.

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

Clerk Report: Submitted reports in writing. Alderman Crider asked City Clerk Paul for an update regarding the IRS penalty. City Clerk Paul explained that she had received a letter from the IRS indicating that the City was a monthly payer and, based on that information, made the required payments monthly. The IRS later assessed a penalty stating that the City was not making payments correctly. After contacting the IRS, she was advised to request an abatement. The abatement request was denied, and she was advised to file an appeal. City Clerk Paul stated that she is pursuing the appeal in an effort to recover the penalty, which was approximately \$3,000.

Public Works Report: Submitted reports in writing. Alderman Locke asked about the pump for the Spring Street Lift Station that is being repaired. Public Works Director Raetz reported that he had spoken with the repair company the previous Wednesday and was advised that the pump would be ready to be returned in approximately two to three weeks. The repair remains covered under warranty, to the best of his knowledge. He stated that he had not found any prior correspondence regarding the repair and it's noted that communication from the company has been limited.

Police Report: Submitted reports in writing.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Garrett welcomed Clint Raetz as the City's new Public Works Director and expressed appreciation for having him join the City during a busy and challenging time. The Mayor reported that the Cole Camp Fair was very well attended

and a successful event. She noted that this was her first year helping secure the event and expressed appreciation for the Board and volunteers who work to maintain the City's small-town tradition of hosting the carnival and related activities. The Mayor also recognized Andy Brockman and James Stoppel for volunteering at the wastewater treatment plant during an unusual and difficult situation. A pump weighing approximately 100-150 pounds had fallen into a 30-foot vault containing raw sewage after its chain broke. Using a hook fabricated onto a heavy metal pole approximately 25 feet long, the volunteers were able to retrieve the pump, install a new chain, and clear the pump so it could operate again. The Mayor also recognized Sewer Commissioner Massingill and Public Works employee Jeromy Sash for their involvement. At the time, both pumps serving the initial basin were out of service—one due to the broken chain and blockage and the other due to electrical issues. The plant was temporarily operating through a two-inch bypass line. The Mayor expressed her appreciation to everyone who assisted in resolving the situation and thanked the volunteers for their willingness to help the City during the emergency.

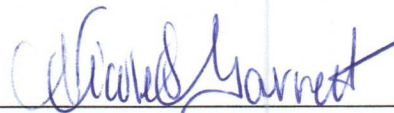
Citizens' Comments: Brad Garrett - Mr. Garrett commented that the meeting covered some heavy topics but was completed in 53 minutes. He commended the Board for keeping the meeting efficient and wished the Mayor a happy birthday. Diana Burdick - Ms. Diana Burdick commented that the water project began under a previous administration and involved long-term issues. She also asked about the anticipated completion of the Planning and Zoning ordinances and comprehensive plan, noting the projects have been ongoing for approximately two to two and a half years.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

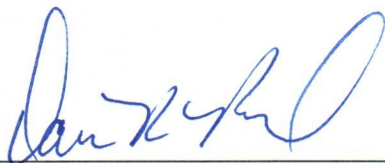
Minutes by Dawn Paul:

Minutes approved by:



Nicole Garrett, Mayor

Attest:



Dawn Paul, City Clerk

