

**BOOK 27**  
**January 7, 2026**

**BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION 1-7-2026**

City of Burlington Governing Body met in Regular Session at City Hall's address, 1013 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Burlington, Kansas, at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Council Member Curtiss called the meeting to order.

**THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**  Stan Luke, Mayor

Council Members present:

Jerilyn Curtiss (President of Council)                       Maxi Berryman                       Cara Mays  
 Lila Van Horn     Nathan Strawder                       Martin Ernst

Superintendents Present:

Kevin Boyce (Parks)                       Alan Schneider (Electric)                       Kyle Dauber (Street)  
 Mike Roney (Chief of Police)                       Danny Hawkins (Water/Wastewater)

Also Present:

Anne Brown (City Clerk)     Shayla Befort (Administrative Assistant)  
 Philip Wright (City Attorney)     Jimmy Hugunin (Zoning/Grants Clerk)  
 Kerri Weltha (Deputy City Clerk)

**Media Present:** Mark Petterson (Coffey County Republican)

**VISITORS:** Doug Feldhausen, Kristi Johnson, and Jay Hale

**AGENDA:** Council Member Curtiss, "As far as our agenda, I have an addition as far as a claims ordinance, Claims Ordinance #2026-01, \$182,504.92. Payroll Ordinance #2026-01, \$115,834.15, for a total of \$298,339.07. Are there any other additions to the agenda? Hearing none, I would accept a motion to approve the agenda as amended."

*Council Member Strawder, "I move to approve the agenda as amended." Council Member Ernst, "I second the motion." Motion unanimously carried, 6:0.*

**MINUTES 12/17/2025:** Council Member Curtiss, "You have before you the draft minutes of December 17, 2025. Are there any additions or corrections?"

*Council Member Ernst, "I move to approve the draft minutes of December 17, 2025, as presented." Council Member Strawder, "I second the motion." Motion unanimously carried, 6:0.*

**APPOINTMENT – American Legion - Doug Feldhausen – Mouse Races**

Council Member Curtiss, "Okay, Doug (Doug Feldhausen, American Legion Post Commander), you're up." Doug Feldhausen, "Well, alright! I think everybody knows me, I'm Doug Feldhausen, and I'm the commander of the American Legion here in town. This last November, we had a very good turnout for our mouse racing, and I'd like to request the 4-H building for November 7<sup>th</sup> of this year so we can hold another mouse racing event. I'd like to have the same basic..." City Clerk Brown, "Agreement." Doug Feldhausen, "...process that we did the last several years. We'll pay the deposits, we'll pay the liquor tax, and then the use fee will be waived since it's non-profit." Council Member Ernst, "And you want it from noon to midnight?" Doug Feldhausen, "Yes. Basically, that will give us time to set up. Normally, they get there around between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to set up for the racing, and so...and we would like to open the doors for the public to come in by 6 p.m., so..." Council Member Van Horn, "This is at the 4-H building?" Doug Feldhausen, "Yes. It's the biggest building, and it seems to be about the right size for the event we

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need and for the people that we bring in. We actually about had to set up more tables this last year.” Council Member Curtiss, “I would accept a motion for this.”

***Council Member Ernst, "I move to approve the American Legion to use the 4-H Building with a deposit of \$200, \$15 alcohol permit fee, and to waive the reservation fees, on November 7, 2026, from noon to midnight." Council Member Van Horn, "I second the motion." Hearing no further discussion, Council Member Curtiss called for a vote. Motion carried, 6:0.***

Doug Feldhausen, “Thank you very much.” Council Member Curtiss, “You’re welcome.”

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Council Member Curtiss, “Okay, any public comments? Okay.... Kristi (Kristi Johnson)?” Kristi Johnson, “No, I’m just here to observe.” Council Member Curtiss, “Oh, okay.”

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT: DISTRIBUTION Update**

**General:** Superintendent Schneider, “So, at the line department, we are pretty much in the normal routine of things: doing some locates, doing line maintenance.”

**Fiberoptic Companies:** Superintendent Schneider, “We finally got mapping from MT Networks (Madison Telephone Company) on their fiber deployment. Although very vague, we did get that. So, the last two days and probably part of tomorrow, the linemen will be scanning our system and to make sure that we don’t see any obstacles that as they go to deploy that if there’s something that we recognize, then we’re going to request and try to get ahead of them and we are doing it as well to make sure that they’re not going to interfere with our daily routine and maintenance of our powerlines as well. Other than that, we are just doing normal duties.”

**Personnel – Cody Goracke:** Superintendent Schneider, “Cody (Goracke) has been back since last council. He has been doing light duty. He completed our inventory at the distribution shop, and he’s doing some computer work for our automatic metering system and a few other light duties. He is not released to get back out in the field yet, but it has been useful having him back, so he’s been staying busy.”

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT: PRODUCTION Update**

**General:** Superintendent Schneider, “The men at the power plant...everything has just been routine there. We haven’t had any malfunctions or anything since the last council, so basically just normal routine maintenance for the power plant and completing reports as needed.”

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Council Member Van Horn, “So the squirrels are behaving themselves?” Superintendent Schneider, “Actually, we had one yesterday, it was just after 4 o’clock in the afternoon. We had one, the people North of town by the big brick house and the old Decker place, and that’s all that would have been affected. The squirrel caused our system to do what it’s supposed to do; it blew a line fuse out just North of the high school, before it heads East and goes back North. As soon as we got notification that they were out of service, we probably had it back on in about 20 minutes, so everything went good there. I’m just glad that we found the evidence; it saves any doubt. You know, you get home, and you get called again when you

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miss something, and we don't like doing that. So, that's about all that we've been up to in the Electric Department." Council Member Van Horn, "Thanks." Council Member Curtiss, "Thank you, Alan (Superintendent Schneider)."

**WATER AND WASTEWATER: Distribution Update**

**General:** Personnel have been doing normal duties: line locates, work orders, customer calls and concerns, and rereads.

**Contractor Assist:** Superintendent Hawkins, "We did assist the contractor over here, where the old medical building used to be, across from the hospital, with water and sewer. He just wanted us there to make sure that he didn't tear them out. We're very appreciative of that; we didn't want it either."

**Reports:** Superintendent Hawkins, "I've been working on year-end reports, trying to get them done. I've been working with Anne (City Clerk Brown) and Shayla (Administrative Assistant Befort) and the others on some of that."

**Waterline:** Superintendent Hawkins, "I did turn over the drawings for the lowering of the water line on Martindale Street over there. I think we're going to have to lower it, roughly a length of around 416 feet of waterline. So, I've given that over to the engineers, and then KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) will have to go through their normal process of what we've done in the past for lowering that, so the engineers are moving forward with that for us."

**Goals and Accomplishments:** Superintendent Hawkins, "We did complete the Goals and Accomplishments."

**Inventory:** Superintendent Hawkins, "We did get our inventory completed."

**Sludge Ponds:** Superintendent Hawkins, "Also, I talked today with Dan (Daniel Stack) with Schwab-Eaton, and he said that he'll be here at the next council meeting too. He's going to go over the drilling of the properties and what's going on, but as of what I know right now, the two properties that are down South, they were supposed to come on the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> (of December), but they came early, which the one that was on the East side of the river; he didn't have his beans out, so we don't know why they didn't come back after. They were out on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, but they have completed the drilling on the other two properties down South, and they are almost done with the analysis on that, so we should have something on that. I am not sure where it's going to go. He'll give us an update on that, but that's all that I know as of right now on that part."

**WATER AND WASTEWATER: Production Update**

**Pretreatment Plant:** Superintendent Hawkins, "I'm still working with the engineers, still talking with Dan and Jonathan on the plant upgrades and getting that stuff done."

**Training:** Superintendent Hawkins, "We did go over and look at the Rural Water District #6 (RWD #6) clarifier over in Franklin County. That was a really good thing. It was really close for us to go to too. We looked at their solid contact basin clarifier, which is a circular clarifier. We also had a meeting with the companies that make the solid contact clarifiers, and I want to thank Anne (City Clerk Brown). She helped get us set up and ready for a Zoom meeting with some of the other contractors who actually designed them. And then, we will be viewing the City of Osawatomie's clarifiers. They have a rectangular clarifier that they want us to come over and see. So, we are going to plan a day to go do that as well. Other than that, that is all I have."

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**Personnel – Cody Cowan Rehire:** Council Member Berryman, “What about Cody (Cowan)?” Superintendent Hawkins, “Oh yes, I’m sorry! I’m sitting here looking at that. So last council meeting, Cody gave his resignation; he was going to go to Alaska. The very next morning, he comes in and hands me an email, and he says, ‘I can’t believe they did this to me’. Anyway, I’m not sure—this is my first time reinstating somebody—I want Cody back! So, I’ll just let Anne (City Clerk) take over from here with that.” City Clerk Brown, “Our policy does state that if someone terminates on good terms, and if they reapply within 90 days, and if we would choose to rehire them, everything stays as is. So, we just need to go through the formality of making a motion to approve to rehire him at the same pay/same title as he was.”

***Council Member Berryman, “I move to hire Cody Cowan for the position of Water/Wastewater Certified Operator at an hourly wage of \$25.34, effective January 8, 2026.” Council Member Van Horn, “I second the motion.” Hearing no further discussion, Council Member Curtiss called for a vote. Motion unanimously carried, 6:0.***

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Council Member Van Horn, “Welcome back!” Superintendent Hawkins, “I’ll let him know tonight. Thank you so much. I appreciate that.” Council Member Curtiss, “Okay. Good to have him back. Thank you, Danny (Superintendent Hawkins).” Superintendent Hawkins, “Thank you.”

**STREET DEPARTMENT: Update**

**General:** Superintendent Dauber, “Our guys have been performing normal duties.”

**Maintenance:** Superintendent Dauber, “We’ve been doing vehicle and equipment maintenance.”

**Road and Alley Repairs:** Superintendent Dauber, “We’ve been working on gravel roads and alleys pretty hard lately. I had a couple of guys go out, and they found some potholes on some of our asphalt streets, so we patched them with some of the cold patch that we have.”

**Parking Lot Repairs:** Superintendent Dauber, “We did fix up the municipal parking lot next to the dog park because it was getting some potholes in it, so we took a day and dressed it up. We tear it up a little bit every winter when we put snow there, so I figured it was our responsibility to take care of it.”

**6<sup>th</sup> and Neosho Sign:** Superintendent Dauber, “We did install an LED lighted stop sign at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Neosho. We’ve been having some complaints of people running that from the West. On the Westbound traffic, they are having a hard time seeing the stop sign. It sits far off to the North because of the parking stalls, so this was one of our ways to try to mitigate some of that. It is not properly working at the moment. It works during the day, but it doesn’t work at night. So, I have been in contact with the company. I went out at 6 o’clock last night and videoed myself flipping the switches and trying to change the settings, and sent that to them this morning, so they are supposed to be getting back with me tomorrow or in the next few days to figure out what is wrong with that. And then I’ve got—that’s about all we’ve been doing work-wise for right now.”

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Request for Bids**

Superintendent Dauber, “I would like to ask the council if I can go out for quotes and bids on a new skid steer for the new year of 2026. We had budgeted for a new one-ton dump truck last year to be bought in 2026. Our skid steer has taken priority over that at this point. Out of the two pieces of equipment, if the skid steer were to go down tomorrow, that would be more of a hindrance to us than the dump truck would be at this point. Maintenance-wise, it’s starting to get a little pricey, and it’s 10 years old at this point, so

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we'd like to look into buying a new skid steer for this year." Council Member Ernst, "When you say pricey, can you about that a little bit?" Superintendent Dauber, "Last year, in about April, we sent it down to the Machine Shed in Iola. The wheel motors were leaking hydraulic fluid. They gave us two options: to either (a) reseal the motors or (b) replace them. To reseal them was about \$6,000, to replace the motor was \$6,000 a side, so it would be about \$12,000—about twice as much. At that time, we opted just to reseal them. At this point, they're leaking already, again. They were pitted enough when they resealed them that they couldn't guarantee they would hold. So, within less than a year, they're leaking, and they're leaking worse than they were before, so we're looking at, at least, another \$12,000 to repair it. We've already put \$6,000 into it last year, and I think we've got, probably, \$6,000 in some valve work that we've had done on it within the last couple of years. We've had a couple of electrical issues, also, so if we were to put the \$12,000 into it, then we'd have over \$24,000-\$25,000 just in repairs in the last five years. So, cost effective-wise, is it worth maybe putting in another \$12,000 or starting to look into a new machine that we hopefully will not have these problems with in the near future?"

Council Member Van Horn, "Kyle (Superintendent Dauber) ..." Council Member Berryman, "What's a skid steer?" Superintendent Dauber, "A skid steer is...it's a rubber tire loader—a small rubber tire loader, it's our, probably most used piece of equipment in the shop right now. It's a—it's hard to explain. It's got a bucket on the front and four tires. We can put different attachments on the front. We've got a grapple that goes on the front of it for picking up brush. We've got a snowplow that goes on the front of it that makes it a vital part of our snow removal operations during the winter. It's got a bucket on the front for our normal gravel work on our alleys, ditches, and gravel roads. We've also got a brush—or a broom, a pickup broom, that we put on the front of it to pick up stuff. It's got a brush that throws it into a bucket. What I'm saying is like if corn or something gets spilled on the road or any debris on the road, we can pick it up that way. We've also got a jackhammer that goes on the front of it. So, it's a very..." City Clerk Brown, "...universal..." Superintendent Dauber, "...very universal part of our operation." Council Member Berryman, "Well, it's a steal at whatever you're going to pay for it. Thank you." Superintendent Dauber, "I've been in contact with a couple of companies trying to get a few demo machines down here for us to look at and try to see what my guys want to run. I could pick one, but they might not like to run it, so I want them to get in the seat and see what feels best for them and then get a consensus on what we want to try to buy." Council Member Curtiss, "Sounds good." Council Member Berryman, "Thank you."

Council Member Mays, "So are you putting off the dump truck then?" Superintendent Dauber, "Yeah, we'll put off the dump truck for..." City Clerk Brown, "Until next year..." Superintendent Dauber, "...hopefully until next year. If not, it'll be—this will be our piece of equipment for this year." Council Member Mays, "Okay." Council Member Van Horn, "How does the price compare to a dump truck...skid steer prices/dump truck?" Superintendent Dauber, "So, I think we had around \$85,000 budgeted for the dump truck. One company that I've got a quote back for so far, we're looking at \$68,000 with a new bucket. And that's before any trade-in or anything like that." Council Member Van Horn, "That sounds like a deal to me." Superintendent Dauber, "We're still going to come in under what we had budgeted for a dump truck."

***Council Member Ernst, "I move to authorize Superintendent Dauber to go out for bids for a skid steer." Council Member Van Horn, "I second the motion." Hearing no further discussion, Council Member Curtiss called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously, 6:0.***

Superintendent Dauber, "Thank you." Council Member Curtiss, "Thank you, Kyle."

**STREET DEPARTMENT: Personnel Annual Evaluation - John Hegg**

Superintendent Dauber, "And then, the last thing I have, John Hegg has been with our department for two years now, on, I think it was the 27<sup>th</sup> of December was his start date with us. I did his annual evaluation;

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he's a valuable member of our team. He's there every day. If we have a callout, he's quick to answer the phone and come out with us. I'm glad to have him on our team. I'd like to propose that we give him a 3% raise for a merit raise."

***Council Member Ernst, "I move to accept John Hegg's annual evaluation as presented, and to grant a pay increase to \$24.91 per hour, effective December 27, 2025." Council Member Van Horn, "I second the motion." Hearing no further discussion, Council Member Curtiss called for a vote. Motion carried, 6:0.***

Superintendent Dauber, "Thank you guys." Council Member Curtiss, "You're welcome. Thank you."

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT: Update**

***Activities/Cases:*** Council Member Curtiss, "Officers have been working on several big reports. One is a scam report with a loss of over \$15,000. Another is the mistreatment of a dependent adult. Officers have been conducting several traffic stops, citizen assist calls, medical assist calls, lockouts, funeral escorts, and a fire assist with a grass fire."

***Nuisance Properties/Nuisance Vehicles:*** Council Member Curtiss, "January 7, 2025, there was a structure fire that destroyed the Hogan house behind the post office. January 7, 2026, there is a new slab foundation in place, ready for construction to move forward on a new build. Working with the owner on the property in the 800 block of Shea Street on demolition of a house, and there are no questions for...me (Council Member Curtiss)."

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Council Member Berryman, "Question...." Council Member Curtiss, "No." Council Member Berryman, "No, just kidding."

**PARKS DEPARTMENT: Update**

***General:*** Personnel have been doing normal duties: cleaning public buildings and restrooms, and building and equipment maintenance.

***Mulching Leaves:*** Superintendent Boyce, "At Kelley Park, I believe yesterday will be our last day of doing that, so..."

***Hazardous Tree Removal Cleanup:*** Superintendent Boyce, "We're still cleaning up stump grindings from the hazard tree removals. Hopefully, we'll finish that up this week also."

***Banners:*** Superintendent Boyce, "Yesterday it was very nice weather. We changed out the banners from the holiday banners back to the 'Welcome to Burlington' banners."

***Inventory:*** Superintendent Boyce, "Worked on the inventory and got it complete."

***Goals and Accomplishments:*** Superintendent Boyce, "Worked on Goals and Accomplishments, and that's complete. And that's all I have."

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

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Council Member Curtiss, “Thank you, Kevin (Superintendent Boyce).” Superintendent Boyce, “You’re welcome.”

**FINANCE: Claims Ordinance & Payroll Ordinance**

a. Claims Ordinance	2026-01	\$	<u>182,504.92</u>
b. Payroll Ordinance	2026-01	\$	<u>115,834.15</u>
	TOTAL	\$	<u>298,339.07</u>

**CLAIMS 2026-01:** *Council Member Ernst moved to approve City of Burlington Claims Ordinance 2026-01 for the amount of \$182,504.92. Council Member Strawder gave the second. Council Member Curtiss, “Anne (City Clerk Brown), would you give us an update on...?” City Clerk Brown, “These are all 2025 expenses still. We didn’t have any 2026 in this one. Bahr Tire for \$3,002.00, Core and Main for \$3,864.60, Crow Moddie Ford for \$44,831.00, Dave’s Pumping, LLC for \$2,890.00, Hawkins, Inc. for \$3,195.00, and SEK COOP, Inc. for \$17,031.81.”*

*Hearing no further discussion, Council Member Curtiss instructed City Clerk Brown to poll Council for a vote. Council Member Curtiss declared, “Claims Ordinance 2026-01 passed unanimously, 6:0.”*

**PAYROLL 2026-01:** *Council Member Van Horn moved to approve City of Burlington Payroll Ordinance 2026-01 in the amount of \$115,834.15.” Council Member Ernst gave the second. Hearing no further discussion, Council Member Curtiss instructed City Clerk Brown to poll Council for a vote. Council Member Curtiss declared, “Payroll Ordinance 2026-01 passed unanimously, 6:0.”*

**PLANNING & ZONING: Update**

**Goals and Accomplishments:** Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “I finished my Goals and Accomplishments.”

**Permits:** Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “I’ve issued a few permits this week.”

**Inventory:** Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “I’m still working on inventory. I got Danny’s (Superintendent Hawkins) today. That’s the last one I needed, so hopefully I’ll be done with inventory this week or early next week.”

**Permits:** Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “And getting permits ready to send up to the courthouse...to you (Council Member Mays).” Council Member Mays, “Thank you.”

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Council Member Curtiss, “Any questions/concerns? Thank you, Jimmy (Zoning Clerk Hugunin).” Zoning Clerk Hugunin, “Yeah, concerns...are there any concerns?”

**LEGAL DEPARTMENT: Update**

**General:** City Attorney Wright, “I don’t have anything specific unless anybody has anything for me.” Council Member Curtiss, “How come you were late?” City Attorney Wright, “I was taking my comp time.” Council Member Curtiss, “Oh, okay. Good reason! Well, alright.” Council Member Van Horn, “He brings in caramel, and he thinks he can show up late.” City Attorney Wright, “Any other questions?” Council Member Curtiss, “No, that’s fine. Thank you, Mr. Philip (City Attorney Wright).” City Attorney Wright, “You’re welcome. Thank you.”

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**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

**CITY CLERK: Update**

**General:** City Hall staff have been busy with year-end reports, getting the new year opened up, customers paying utility bills, dog tags, work orders, preparing vouchers for bill paying and payroll, and minutes for council.

**Kansas Set-off Program:** City Clerk Brown, “For December, we’ll be sending \$3,882.41 in delinquent utility accounts to the Kansas Set-off Program for collections.”

**Reports:** City Clerk Brown, “I am starting to work on all of the reports that are due at the first of the year: Annual Water Report, Coffey County Infrastructure Report, and others that are needed.”

**Closing:** City Clerk Brown, “And just a reminder that we will be closed, the City will be closed, on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.”

**Annual Employee Benefits Meeting:** City Clerk Brown, “And we have set the employee benefit meeting for Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, at Kelley Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.”

**Calls/Inquiries:** City Clerk Brown, “Just normal calls and inquiries.”

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Council Member Curtiss, “Any questions for Anne (City Clerk Brown)? Any council members have any questions or comments? Well, this is short and sweet. Municipal Court tomorrow?” City Attorney Wright, “Yes, Municipal Court tomorrow. This happens every—I think a couple of weeks a month, where City Council meeting is just back-to-back like that, so...” Council Member Curtiss, “Okay.” City Attorney Wright, “And we’re ready to go.” Council Member Curtiss, “And...don’t be late.” City Attorney Wright, “I think I used my comp time, so we’re good.” Council Member Curtiss, “Our next council meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. Everybody have a good night. Do I have to do this again (*referring to banging the gavel*)?” City Clerk Brown, “Yes.”

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS:**

**REPORT BY CITY OFFICERS:**

Approved by Governing Body and signed by Anne C. Brown, City Clerk