

City of Victoria
Council Minutes

February 16, 2026
Regular Meeting

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The Governing Body of the City of Victoria met in regular session on February 16, 2026, at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers of City Hall.

- Roll Call** Council Members Ryan Lichter, Matt Sander, Andy Wellbrock, Harland Rupp and Chris Dreiling
- Presiding** Honorable Mayor John Schulte.
- Also Present** Police Chief Cole Dinkel, City Superintendent Brad Schmidtberger, City Clerk Jamie Sterling, Fire Chief John Weber, Utility Billing Clerk Rachel VonFeldt, Nathan Schippers, Elizabeth Herrman, Sarah Meitner, Dallas Karlin, Danielle Karlin, Dustin Karlin, James Robben, John Grimes, and John Smith.
- Pledge** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- Minutes** Minutes of the January 19, 2026, regular meeting were presented for review. Motion by Matt Sander, second by Chris Dreiling to approve the minutes as submitted.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Minutes from the Victoria Fire Department were also reviewed.
- Warrant Ordinance A-02-26** Ordinance A-02-26, consisting of bills against the City for the month of February was presented for review. Motion by Harland Rupp, second by Matt Sander that Ordinance A-02-26 be approved and all bills paid.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Agenda** Motion by Ryan Lichter, second by Chris Dreiling to approve the agenda as presented.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Police Department Report** Chief Dinkel was present and gave his department update. He stated his Police vehicle has been repaired and the grant for a new police vehicle will be funneled through the Sherriff's Office. Chief Dinkel also stated he is registered for a conference in the near future.
- Fire Chief Report** Fire Chief John Weber was present regarding purchase of one set of bunker gear for fire fighters. This set of gear will be split 50/50 with the County Fire Department. Motion by Matt Sander, second by Ryan Lichter to approve \$1,900.00 for new gear.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- City Superintendent Report** City Superintendent Brad Schmidtberger gave his department report. Brad informed council he has bids out to remove the old water tower. He informed council the generator panel at the south lift station went out and he is getting a bid to replace that from Younger Electric. Brad is also getting a bid on a crack seal machine so we do not have to borrow from Crack-N-Seal in Hays when doing the streets. He would like to start crack sealing in March depending on the weather. Brad told council within the next week he will be getting the street sweeper out to pick up the sand left behind from treating streets due to snow.

**Continued
Hearing 810
Ash Street.**

Motion by Ryan Lichter, second by Chris Dreiling to open the Hearing regarding 810 Ash Street.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

Elizabeth Herrman was present on behalf of the property located at 810 Ash Street. After lengthy discussion, Elizabeth stated that the house would be demolished within 21 days. Mayor Schulte suggested continuing the hearing until April in case M & D can't get to it. Elizabeth argued and mayor Schulte suggested to continue the hearing to the March 16th meeting. She asked if they needed to come back to the March meeting and the Mayor informed her if the house is not gone by then, yes she needs to come back to give an update. The Mayor informed Elizabeth if the house is not gone by the March meeting then the city will take the steps it needs to get it demolished and it will be charged to the homeowner.

Motion by Ryan Lichter, second by Chris Dreiling to continue the hearing until the March 16, 2026 council meeting.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

**Heartland
Community
Foundation**

Sarah Meitner was here on behalf of Heartland Community Foundation regarding February Match Month. She explained that Match Month is when they are challenged by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to grow the Ellis County Legacy Fund. It is the largest grant making fund that they make grants out of all throughout the county. She explained she is here asking for donation for match month.. She stated in 2025, Heartland granted out \$25,000.00 in Victoria. Motion to donate \$3,000.00 to Ellis County Legacy Fund by Harland Rupp, second by Matt Sander.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

Baseball Field

Nathan Schippers was present in regards to the baseball field. Nathan is wanting to replace the scoreboard at the baseball field. The total for a new scoreboard is \$5600.00. He has received a grant from Nex-Tech for \$3650.00 for a new wireless scoreboard. Motion by Ryan Lichter, second by Matt Sander to donate \$2100.00 for the scoreboard.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

**GAAP Resolu-
tion
C-332**

Each year, GAAP resolution needs to be passed. Motion by Chris Dreiling and second by Ryan Lichter to pass the GAAP resolution C-332.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

NWKPDC

We received the 2026 yearly statement for dues from Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission for \$3500.00. Council decided this will be a good thing to continue. Motion by Harland Rupp, second by Chris Dreiling to pay \$3500.00 for 2026 dues to NWKPDC.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

Flower Pots

The City will again allow residents to take care of the flower pots along Main Street. They can spend \$30.00 per pot. Motion by Ryan Lichter, second by Matt Sander to allow \$30.00 per pot.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

**PTO-Paid Time
Off**

Mayor Schulte has been researching possibly switching full-time employees from vacation, sick and personal days of leave to strictly one bank of Paid Time Off (PTO). He stated it makes more sense and easier to track. Motion by Matt Sander, second by Chris Dreiling to switch to PTO.

Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

- Citizen Comments** Dallas Karlin spoke on behalf of real estate in Victoria as well as his thoughts towards the street lights. No action was taken.
- Mayor Comments** There were no Mayor comments.
- Executive Session** Motion for an executive session for the evaluation of Utility Billing Clerk, Rachel VonFeldt for 3 minutes to include City Clerk, Jamie Sterling and City Attorney Don Hoffman by Matt Sander, second by Ryan Lichter.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Executive Session** Motion by Matt Sander, second by Chris Dreiling to go into executive session for 3 minutes regarding employee pay raise.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- VonFeldt Pay Increase** Motion by Matt Sander, second by Andy Wellbrock to increase the salary of Utility Billing Clerk, Rachel VonFeldt from \$17.75 to \$19.00 per hour.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.
- Adjournment** All business on hand having been discussed, Motion to adjourn the meeting by Chris Dreiling, second by Andy Wellbrock.
Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion declared carried.

John Schulte, Mayor

Jamie Sterling, City Clerk