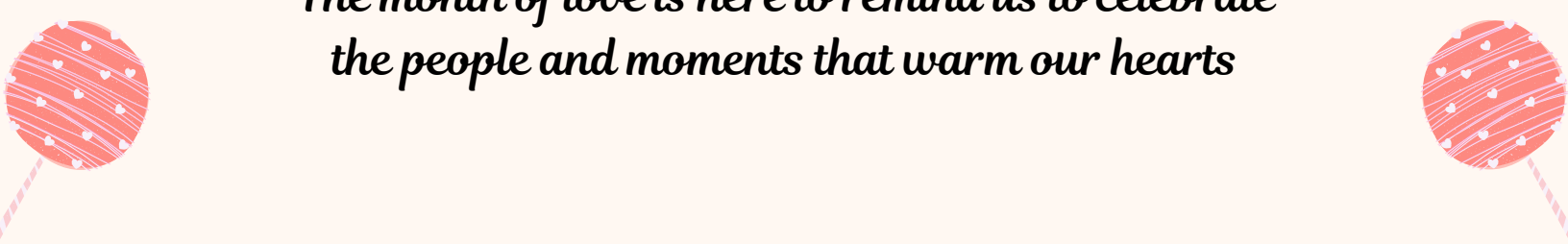




Americus Newsletter

February 2026

*The month of love is here to remind us to celebrate
the people and moments that warm our hearts*



Reminders

- Upcoming Change to Sewer Bill Late Fees.
Beginning March 1, 2026, the City will transition from annual sewer late fees to a monthly late fee system. Under the new policy, any sewer account with an outstanding balance at the end of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.
Please remember that sewer bills are due on the last working day of each month. To avoid late fees, payments must be received by that date.
If you have questions about your account or need assistance, please contact City Hall—we're happy to help!
- Food Pantry is needing spaghetti sauce & cereal

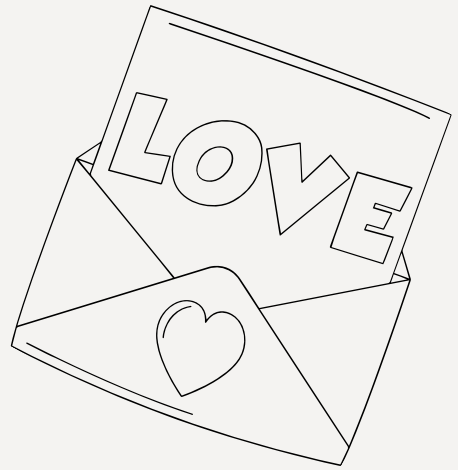
Contact Info

Hours: Monday- Friday, 9 AM- 3PM
Email: cityclerk@americusks.com
Phone: 620-366-5464
Fax: 620-366-5376
PO Box 526



February

2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Public meeting	4	5	6 	7
8	9	10 Council meeting Food Pantry	11	12	13 	14 Valentines Day
15	16	17	18 	19	20 	21 Food Pantry
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28

LYON COUNTY RECYCLE TRAILER

Located on the south side of the school gym

Recycle Items only.

**Please break down all boxes and
rinse all containers**

AMERICUS RECYCLE TRAILER

Located behind City Hall

Empty trash

**containers/bags into bins,
do not dispose of plastic bags
in the recycle bins**

Happy Birthday

1st - Annette Barr
Max Olson
2nd - Erin Way
4th - David Elbert
Trinity Duncan
6th - Takoda Lunsford
Aaron Larson
7th - Carly Piper
Colton Miller
Nicky Nuessen
9th - Katrina Morgan
Addisyn Hinrichs
10th - Lucinda Duncan
Vicki Ross
Jacquelyne Leffler
Matthew Kellison
11th - Dentin Matile
12th - Linda Edmunds
Deborah Webb
14th - Marcia Johnson
Cohen Birk
16th - Roy Nuessen
17th - Kortney Blount
18th - Ron Redelfs
19th - Jana Smart
20th - Betty Brown
Bill Leffler
21st Jessie Jo Hadley
22nd - Belle Grimsley
23rd - Eddie Lee
27th - Linda Clark

Happy Anniversary

February 3rd - Steve & Mona Wyatt
Feb 16th - Derek & Christina Wells
Feb 26th - Sid & Katrina Morgan
Feb 26th - Richard & Mary Littlefield

Call us to reserve a
place for your party
needs!

AMERICUS
Community Center

516 Locust Street ~ Americus, KS 66835
For reservations call City Hall at 620-443-5655

For more information on renting the
Americus Community Center
call Americus City Hall at
620-443-5655.

Americus Township Library

710 Main Street

Phone: 443-5503 Fax: 443-5218

Email: americuslibrary@gmail.com

Preschool Story Time
Every Thursday
10:00-10:30 am
Starts Sept. 4th



The Crayon Initiative
Ask for details!

Library Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri: 12:30-5:00pm

Tues, Thurs: 9a - 12p and 1p - 5:00pm

Sat: 9a—12p

Watch our Facebook page and signs on the front door for information on closure and times

To the Residents of Americus,

We are writing to inform you of an important and difficult decision regarding the future of the Americus Police Department. After careful consideration, extensive review of our town's finances, and consultation with legal and public safety partners, the governing body has decided to close the Americus Police Department effective February 10th, 2026.

This decision was not made lightly. We recognize the long history of service provided by our local officers and the trust they have built within our community. The safety of our residents remains our highest priority, and this decision was driven by financial sustainability, staffing challenges, and the increasing costs associated with maintaining a standalone police department while meeting state and federal requirements. Public safety services will continue without interruption. Law enforcement coverage will be provided through the Lyon County Sheriff's Office, ensuring protection and emergency response for our community. This partnership allows us to maintain essential services while using taxpayer resources responsibly.

We understand that this change may raise concerns and questions. Town leadership is committed to transparency throughout this transition. We will continue to share information, listen to community feedback, and work closely with our law enforcement partners to ensure a smooth and effective transition.

We want to sincerely thank the officers who have served our city with professionalism and dedication. Their service has made a lasting impact on our community, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact join us at the upcoming public meeting on February 3rd, 2026 at Americus City Hall.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work to ensure the long-term stability and safety of our community.

Sincerely,

**Nicky Nuessen
Council President
City of Americus**

FROM CITY HALL

The following minutes are from the January 13th business meeting. As of print time, the minutes have not been approved by council. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor WRIGHT. Council members present were NUESSEN, BURTON, HARMON HINRICHS, and GERLEMAN. Also, present City Attorney Steve Atherton, City Clerk Dodie Doudna and City Treasurer Dakota Hamlin.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Tim Burton, Tyler Hinrichs, KC Crist, Monty Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by BURTON to approve the December 9, 2026, Business Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 3-0-1 vote. Moved by NUESSEN to approve the December 22, 2026, Special Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 4-0-1 vote.

BILLS TO PAY: Moved by HINRICHS to approve the January bills to pay for \$16276.95 Motion seconded by HARMON. 5-0 vote

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

PROJECT PLAYScape: Celebration year. Funding received for a shaded feature for the splash pad. More to report in February.

MAINTENANCE: North lift station needs service, electrical issue. Next steps on the chipper, take to KC to have repaired, estimate to be \$5000-6000 for repairs. Receiving three bids for rock. Maintenance staff just working to complete repairs on equipment.

CLERK: DOUDNA presented information from the Gazette regarding sponsored ads.

POLICE:

ADOPT THE AGENDA

1. OATH OF OFFICE: Oaths given to WRIGHT, HINRICHS and GERLEMAN

2. KEVIN CRIST: Consensus to allow property owner to put large rocks on the east side of his building in the easement to keep people from parking on his property.

3. ELECT PRESIDENT: Moved by BURTON to appoint NUESSEN as Council President. Motion seconded by HARMON. 5-0 vote

a. DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS: BURTON resigned as department head of maintenance. WRIGHT appointed HARMON to Maintenance Department Head and BURTON to Parks and Rec Department Head.

4. 2025 AUDIT: Moved by NUESSEN to approve GAAP Waiver Resolution 309. Motion seconded by HARMON. 5-0 Vote.

5. RESOLUTION 310: Moved by HINRICHS to approve Resolution 310. Motion seconded by BURTON. 5-0 Vote

6. ORDINANCE 630: Moved by NUESSEN to approve Ordinance 630 changing sewer late fees from yearly to monthly. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 5-0 Vote. This will take effect on March 1, 2026.

7. IT SUPPORT: Immediate IT support for office computers not to exceed \$500. Doudna will bring back quotes for annual maintenance in February.

8. OFFICE FURNITURE: Moved by NUESSEN to purchase file cabinets, bookcase, and storage cabinet for additional storage space for city hall in the amount of \$2739.94. Motion seconded by BURTON 5-0 Vote.

9. SPLASHPAD SIGNAGE: Tabled to February

10. UNCLAIMED CATS UPDATE (TNR): HINRICHS reported that 14 cats were caught in the first TNR. Next date is scheduled for January 20th. A handout will be shared on Facebook along with posted to our website directing residents where to reach out and information about TNR.

11. WEBSITE UPDATE: HINRICHS reported that she helped the office staff update the website. Updated pages to reflect services and activities that Americus has.

12. CONDEMNATION LIST PROPOSAL: HINRICHS proposed a new system to track addresses on the condemnation list. It will give council members information on the properties under review well ahead of council meetings. This process will keep council better informed on progress but also save time in the meetings.

13. CONDEMNATION LIST: Doudna will post for open bid a contract to clean up properties. Will present in February. 507 Elm- hold off until clean up bid is selected. 7 Fourth- building permit for accessory building was retracted. 1105 Fifth- stop work order was given until building permit is renewed.

14. TRAININGS FOR COUNCIL: HINRICHS presented two training opportunities for council members. Council will let clerk know which training/s they are interested in. Doudna will give notice of in person meeting to adhere to KOMA rules.

15. COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATES: Doudna will reach out to Roald Diaz to finish laying laminate and baseboard. Approved not to exceed \$1000. A coded door handle will be purchased and installed to eliminate the need to hand out keys for rentals. Purchase not to exceed \$200.

16. EMPORIA VET HOSPITAL: Moved by NUESSEN to approve the Emporia Vet Hospital contract for 2026 for boarding, euthanasia/disposal. Motion seconded by BURTON. 5-0 Vote

17. POLICE DEPARTMENT: Due to lack of applicants and hours worked by officers' further discussion was had on dissolving the police department. Public hearing will be held on February 3, 2026, to answer questions regarding the dissolution.

18. RV/CAMPER USAGE: Sent back to Planning and Zoning. HINRICHS requested that they look at all districts in regard to Camper/RV usage.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by NUESSEN to go into executive session for 30 minutes starting at 8:04 pm with council, mayor and legal. Motion seconded by BURTON. 5-0 Vote. Moved by HINRICHS to go into executive session for 10 minutes starting at 8:34 pm. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 5-0 Vote.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm NUESSEN. Seconded by HARMON. 5-0 Vote

AGENDA

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10th- 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:
VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 13th Business Meeting and February 3rd Public Meeting
BILLS TO PAY:
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:
PROJECT PLAYSCAPE
MAINTENANCE:
CLERK:
POLICE:
ADOPT THE AGENDA
1. ORDINANCE 631: Police Department Closure
2. TRASH CONTRACT BID REVIEW: Review sealed bids
3. SEWER RATE REVIEW: Annual review of sewer rates
4. CLEANUP BID REVIEW:
5. SPLASHPAD SIGNAGE
a. Proofread/Review
b. Quote
6. CONDEMNATION LIST
7. TNR UPDATE: Guest- Street Cats Club

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026
CITY HALL 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:
VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
ADOPT THE AGENDA:
1. POLICE DEPARTMENT CLOSURE: Questions from the public

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Bobcat

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accounts and use code
GOLD in person or
online* to earn **\$400**.

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Americus
702 Main St.
(620) 366-5086

*Gold Bonus Offers are available for a limited time and may be canceled without notice. Promotion is available from January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026. One Gold offer permitted per household, available for new Equity Bank households only, and subject to review and approval. A new Equity Bank household for the Gold Bonus Offer is defined as applicant(s) not linked as an owner to an open Equity Bank consumer checking, savings or Money Market account within the past 180 days. The incentive may be paid for opening both a new checking and savings account during the promotion period. Incentive amount will be directly deposited into the customer's qualifying checking account after approximately 45 days of account opening, assuming all qualifications are met. To qualify for offer, customer must (1) open and fund both a new checking and savings account no later than March 31, 2026, (2) maintain Equity Bank accounts in active and good standing at time of incentive payment, (3) receive a minimum of \$1000 in combined qualifying direct deposits into the new checking account within 45 days of account opening; (4) activate and use Equity Bank debit card within 45 days of account opening; and (5) When opening accounts online, enter "Gold" under "Enter Promotional Code." If customer opens the accounts at an Equity Bank location, mention "Gold" offer at time of opening. Promotion not available to current employees and employee household members of Equity Bancshares, Inc. or its subsidiaries. Customer will be issued a 1099-INT form for tax value of the incentive amount. Minimum \$100 deposits may be required to open Equity Bank checking account. Member FDIC.



Upcoming Change to Sewer Bill Late Fees

Beginning March 1, 2026, the City will transition from annual sewer late fees to a monthly late fee system. Under the new policy, any sewer account with an outstanding balance at the end of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee. Please remember that sewer bills are due on the last working day of each month.

To avoid late fees, payments must be received by that date.

If you have questions about your account or need assistance, please contact City Hall—we're happy to help!

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Livestock
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1521 Road 175 Emporia, KS
620-208-7433

www.amishwoodwork.com

Americus United Methodist Church

413 Walnut, Americus, KS
620-366-5074

Email: pastor.americus@gmail.com

Worship Service
Sunday at 8:00 am

During services a nursery is available.
We invite all to join us.



Facebook: Americus UMC

Americus Community Food Pantry

Pre-Boxed
Pick Up Only



Tuesday
Feb 10th
6:00pm- 7:30
pm

Saturday
Feb 21st
9:30 am-
11:00am

We welcome any nonperishable donations.
drop off on the parsonage porch or contact
the church at 620.366.5074
Thank You to the community for all
donations.

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Countryside Baptist Church

6 First Street, P.O. Box 524
Americus, KS 66835

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship (nursery available)

Pastor Rich Arnold

Call 620-343-1546

For more information.

For a Bus Ride to Church: (620)443-5177

Small Engine Repair

2348 Rd F4 Across the road from the Baptist Church

We service lawn mowers, chainsaws, weed eaters,
tillers, and small engines. Chainsaw sharpening,
mower blades and parts available.

PICK-UP AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE.

WE ARE REASONABLY PRICED.

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443-5993 or 794-4501



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2348 Rd F4 across the road from the Baptist Church

All types of leather repairing:

Now rebuilding Birkenstocks from the bottom up

- *Belts * Purses
- *Saddles * Boots/Shoes
- *Zipper Repair
- *Replace Shoe Heel
- *Prescription Shoe Lifts



Call Cindy Edmiston 443-5993 Leave a Message



Community Reminder

For everyone's safety, please remember that discharging any weapon within city limits is not permitted. This includes firearms as well as air guns and similar devices.

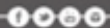
- Code 10.5 – Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm
- Code 10.6 – Air Gun, Air Rifle, Bow and Arrow, Slingshot, BB Gun, or Paintball Gun

These regulations help keep our community safe and enjoyable for all residents. Thank you for doing your part and being mindful of those around you

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In an effort to improve the appearance of our cemeteries especially with mowing and weed-eating the Americus Township Board has adopted a policy banning the planting of trees, shrubs, plants or

flowers in the cemetery. Signs have been ordered and will be put in place in the near future. We also ask that when placing other items that they be placed in such a manner as to not interfere with maintenance. We appreciate your cooperation.



\$3.00 / Dozen

Robert and Linda Clark 620-794-6145 or 785-709-0101. Please leave a message if no answer.



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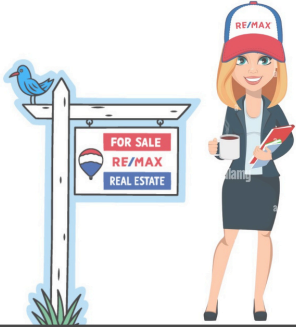


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EK Real Estate

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Lacie Birk-Hamlin Team

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laciebirkhamlinteam@gmail.com



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Lacie Hamlin (620) 481-0213
Abbie Sull (620) 803-2424
laciebirkhamlinteam@gmail.com



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Merry Christmas



**WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND
CLIENTS! HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE LACIE BIRK-
HAMLIN TEAM!**

Contact us!
Lacie Hamlin (620) 481-0213
Abbie Sull (620) 803-2424
or email laciebirkhamlinteam@gmail.com

The Quieter Side Of February

January arrives like it's had three cups of coffee. Big plans, fresh starts, bold intentions — everything feels possible, and suddenly we're convinced this is the year we become a whole new person.

February is... a little more realistic.

It shows up calmly, takes a look around, and reminds us that life didn't instantly turn into a highlight reel just because we bought a new planner. And honestly, that's kind of refreshing.

This is the month where things settle in. The excitement softens, routines return, and we figure out what actually fits into our days — and what maybe sounded better in theory. Fewer grand gestures, more small moments. Less hustle, more presence.

For some, February means slowing down — earlier nights, quieter evenings, maybe finally finishing that book on the coffee table. For others, it's about leaning in — making plans that don't look impressive on paper but feel good when you say yes to them. And sometimes it's simply about choosing yourself in small, unremarkable ways: a walk around the block, a deep breath, or saying “no thanks” without a five-minute explanation.

Not flashy. Still important.

We tend to think meaningful change has to be loud to count, but February has a way of reminding us that a lot of life happens in the ordinary. In the in-between days. In the choices we make when no one's clapping.

And since February is known for being the month of love, it's worth mentioning that love isn't just flowers and candy. It's patience. It's laughter. It's showing up — for friends, for family, for yourself — even when nothing exciting is on the calendar.

So if this month feels calmer, cozier, or slightly less dramatic than January, you're doing it right. You're not behind. You're just settling into real life.

February doesn't need fireworks to be good. Sometimes it's at its best when it's comfortable, familiar, and quietly full of good things.



-Dakota Hamlin

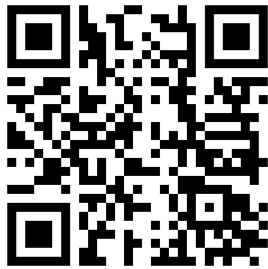
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Open the Camera app on your phone. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
City Hall

1st Monday @ 6.00 pm

AMERICUS REC. ORGANIZATION
NLC Elementary

3rd Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
City Hall

2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

FIRE BOARD MEETING
Library

2nd Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD
Library

4th Monday @ 5:30 p.m.

MUNICIPAL COURT
City Hall

2nd Wednesday @ 3:00 p. m.

AMERICUS TOWNSHIP
Library

Last Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

RWD #1 BOARD
3rd Tuesday @ 7:30
Water Board Office
2501 W. 18th, Emporia