

Americus Newsletter

January 2026

*Wishing you a month filled with happiness,
prosperity, and new beginnings.*

Reminders

- Office will be closed on New Year's Day & Jan 19th
- Trash will be picked up on Saturday, January 3rd
- Americus City Hall's
New Phone & Fax
Number :
Phone: 620-366-5464
Fax: 620- 366- 5376

Contact Info

ATTENTION:

The Americus City Hall has updated their phone number, effective immediately.

Hours: Monday- Friday, 9 AM- 3PM

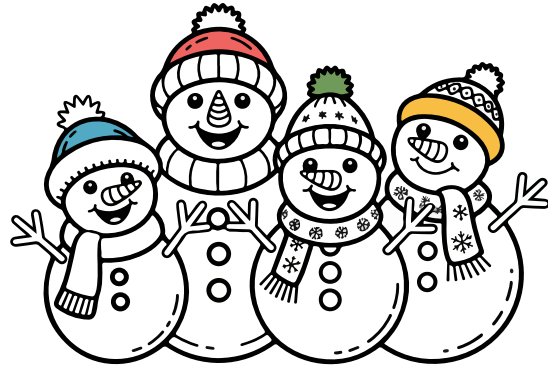
Email: cityclerk@americusks.com

Phone: 620-366-5464

Fax: 620-366-5376

PO Box 526

January. / 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day. Office Closed	2	3 
4	5	6	7 	8	9 	10
11	12	13 Food Pantry Council Meeting	14	15	16 	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Day. Office Closed	20	21 	22	23 	24 Food Pantry
25	26	27	28	29	30 	31

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**

- **Note**

**Trash will be picked up January 3rd
due to the holiday**

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

January
2nd -
Allie Houston
Kathleen Centlivre
Jody Meyers
3rd - Nathaniel Ciero
Jack Hadley
4th - Lacie Succi
7th - Jordan Dains
8th - Stan Stewart II
Tami Romeis
13th - Hunter Smart
14th - Aaron Ross
Creek Gerleman
16th - Jason Westcott
Kent Dains
Cathy Birk
21st - Margene Crane
24th - Wilma Jeanne Dawes
25th - Travis Richard
Rowan Hamlin
26th - Molly & Maci Posey
27th - Castin Tarver
29th - Faith Hamlin
Carrie McElfresh

Happy Anniversary

Jan 1st- Jeff & Cindy Shirley
Jan 5th- Roy & Nicky Nuessen
Jan 14th- Jeff & Becky Wells

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

FROM CITY HALL

MINUTES

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. by President Lea Hamlin. Council members present were NUESSEN, HARMON, HINRICHs, and HAMLIN. Mayor WRIGHT and BURTON were absent. Also present was City Clerk Dodie Doudna. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by HARMON to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 4-O vote. 1. RV PARK and ORDINANCE REVIEW: Discussion around allowing RV or camper usage in Americus. Motioned to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. by NUESSEN. Motion seconded by HINRICHs. 4-O Vote

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL

BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 2025- 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor WRIGHT. Council members present were HAMLIN, NUESSEN, BURTON, and HINRICHs. Council member HARMON was absent. Also, present City Clerk Dodie Doudna and City Treasurer Dakota Hamlin.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Tami Romeis, Eric Grayson, Glenn Grayson, Bobby Thompson, Joe Carl, Tyler Hinrichs, Tim Burton, Dan Gerleman, Cindy Jackson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by HAMLIN to approve the November 13th Business Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 4-O VOTE. Moved by HAMLIN to approve December 2nd, Work Session minutes. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 3-O-1 VOTE. BILLS TO PAY: Moved by HINRICHs to approve the December bills to pay for \$30,716.37. Motion seconded by BURTON. 4-O VOTE. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

PROJECT PLAYSCAPE: Match Day was successful, funds received in the amount of \$12,167.50. Parade went well, many people had positive comments amount the length of the parade. Cookies with Santa saw record numbers, 125 bags were prepared and we were not able to hand out to Jr. High and Highschool kids as in the past to have enough. We estimate that 160 kids were present.

MAINTENANCE: Tack truck repaired, repaired some streets. Grader has been repaired as well. North lift station has been fixed. Likely a sensor is going out however. Sewer lines have been an issue. Some issues reported with recycle trailer. Nick and Cody both attended Waste Water Treatment training. Cody can not test for 1 year. CLERK: Doudna has requested approval to attend the City Clerk Conference and Court Clerk Conference both in March. Council approved both. Report that police cell phone is not used, council agreed to move it over to maintenance. POLICE: ADOPT THE AGENDA: MOVED BY HINRICHs to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Burton. 4-O VOTE tle bit of body text

1. CINDY JENSEN: Jensen presented the 2024 Audit. No substantial findings. Moved by NUESSEN to accept the 2024 Audit. Seconded by HINRICHs. 4-O VOTE

2. FLINT HILLS GRAVEL RIDE: Bobby Thompson presented the council with Flint Hills Gravel Ride proposal with a few changes from last year. He will add more port a pots at the park to try to keep from the back up issues we had in the park bathrooms in the past. He would like the community center from April 9-13th. Doudna will contact county to have Locust from Main St to Fifth St blocked on Saturday. 3 RV's to be used from April 8-12th. Basketball court used on April 11th. Use of park April 10-12 and allowing tent camping on those days. Moved by HINRICHs to approve requests. Seconded by NUESSEN 3-O-1 VOTE. HAMLIN abstained.

3. BUILDING CODE UPDATE: Joe Carl would like the council to look into adopting a more current code book than what we currently use. Council will compare the differences between them.

4. 360 DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS: 360 Document Solutions provided a second proposal that included a voice phone system with the copier lease. Doudna reported that Consolidated has had issues with static on the phone line since September with no resolution. The proposal would reduce the monthly cost we currently spend on the phone lines and copier agreement by approximately \$50 per month. Moved by NUESSEN to accept the lease agreement with 360 Document Solutions. Seconded by HAMLIN. 4-O VOTE.

FROM CITY HALL

5. TRASH SERVICE UPDATES: City of Americus will accept bid for trash service from January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026. Council is asking that the bids include cost for the structure we currently use and a bid that would show costs if trash service became a requirement.
6. SEWER TAP or CAPPING PROCESS: Clarification of processes used. Doudna will refer to legal for further clarification of when each process is needed.
7. RV PARK: HINRICHS drafted potential changes to ordinances pertaining to RV/Camper use within city limits. These proposed changes were discussed in the Dec. 2nd work session. WRIGHT is not in agreement with proposed changes and was asked what he would like to add or change. Nothing was stated. Doudna will send proposed ordinance to legal as next step and it will be brought back to the January 2026 council meeting. No further action was taken.
8. COMMUNITY BUILDING RENTAL: Questions were brought by BURTON whether or not council members are required to place the deposit listed on the Community Center Rental Application. Consensus was that everyone, including council, will need to place a deposit to rent the center.
9. LATE FEE FOR SEWER BILLS: Discussion about moving from the current \$100 yearly late fee to a \$10 monthly late fee. It was agreed that the \$100 is a lot for someone that might only be late 1 time in the entire year. Doudna will make necessary resolution for the change. Moved by NUESSEN to move to monthly \$10 late fee on sewer bills pending legal approval effective 3.1.26. Seconded by BURTON. 4-0 VOTE.
10. 2025 BUDGET: No encumbered purchases will be made.
11. CHIPPER: Doudna will check in with accountant on the funds that will be available for use in 2026 to purchase a chipper. Discussion on the high cost of this purchase, repair of current chipper may be the better option.
12. ACCOUNT MODIFICATION FORM: Moved by HAMLIN to approve the 2025 Account Modification Form. Seconded by BURTON. 4-0 VOTE
13. CONDEMNATION LIST UPDATE: 507 Elm- Doudna will reach out to the city of Emporia to find out process used to clean up a property. Will report back at Jan. council meeting. 401 Main- Tyler Hinrichs wants council to tell him what code he is violating. He stated that he has made tremendous progress on cleaning up this property since purchasing it. WRIGHT commented that his property is an eye sore for Main St and would like to see the siding on the building repaired/replaced or painted. Tyler would like to know exact steps and actions that will allow him to be removed from the list and stated that multiple properties are not on the list that should be for the same types of complaints. 7 Fourth St.- Eric Grayson reported that he is slowly cleaning up the property. Also wanted to know what ordinance we had that he was violating. The ordinance was shared with him and he was told to keep the council apprised of the progress.
14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by HAMLIN to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 8:41 with council, mayor and Clerk present. Seconded by NUESSEN. 4-0 VOTE. Moved by HAMLIN to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 8:52 with council, mayor and Cody Zeigler present. Seconded by NUESSEN. 4-0 VOTE. Extended 5 minutes. Moved by NUESSEN to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 9:10 with council and mayor present. Seconded by HAMLIN. 4-0 VOTE. Motion to adjourn at 9:27 by HAMLIN. Seconded by NUESSEN. 4-0 VOTE.

MINUTES

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025 – 6:00 PM

CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Dustin Wright. Council members present were NUESSEN, HARMON, HINRICHS, HAMLIN and BURTON. Also present was City Clerk Dodie Doudna. City Maintenance Nick Gadino was present at 6:04 pm.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Tim Burton, Cindy Kearns, Jerry Voorhees, Angie Brotz, Tami Romeis, Shawn Swanson, Shawna Swanson, Tyler Hinrichs, Jarom Smith, and Danny Gerleman.

ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by NUESSEN to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by HAMLIN. 5-0 vote.

I. Temporary Use Permit: Harper Homes; Mobile Home Park: Tim Burton speaking on behalf of Harper Homes stated that the temporary use permit should have been part of the agenda from the meeting prior and would like for it to be extended until this issue is resolved. Burton stated that he was upset over the working draft revisions of the ordinance in question. Burton states he was made to go Planning and Zoning to get the ordinance changed, stated no one voted on that change at all and ignored it. Burton stated that bylaws of the city state that council should only vote on the ordinance not to write one themselves. He would like this permit extended so everyone can have the time to educate themselves and vote on the ordinance that those who are supposed to write the ordinances wrote. HAMLIN responded that an ordinance was not newly written just changes that were discussed in the December 2nd work session. She also stated that we were not here to talk about the ordinance only the permit issue.

HAMLIN motioned to extend the permit 25 more days until January 16, 2026. NUESSEN seconded the motion. HINRICHS asked for clarification on a point that WRIGHT made in the last meeting before she voted to extend. HINRICHS wanted to know why she should extend the permit when WRIGHT wouldn't want someone staying in a camper next to his home for more than 30 days. WRIGHT stated that different rules apply to mobile home park was his reasoning for that statement. HARMON asked if anyone else in the audience had anything else to say. BURTON spoke more on the mobile home park having different rules. HAMLIN redirected back to the motion of extending the permit and call for a vote. HAMLIN motioned to extend the temp use permit for 25 days. NUESSEN seconded. 2-0-3 BURTON, HINRICHS, and HARMON abstained. Motion failed. HINRICHS motioned to extend the permit until January 5, 2026. HAMLIN seconded. 3-0-2 vote. BURTON and HARMON abstained.

Motioned to adjourn at 6:15 pm. by HAMLIN. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 5-0 Vote

AGENDA

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13th- 7:00 PM

1. ELECT PRESIDENT: Council to elect new president
2. SPLASHPAD SIGNAGE:
 - a. Proofread/Review
 - b. Quote
3. UNCLAIMED CATS UPDATE:
4. WEBSITE UPDATE:
5. CONDEMNATION LIST PROPOSAL: New process to add, review, and remove
6. CONDEMNATION LIST
7. TRAININGS FOR COUNCIL: January 22nd Webinar- April 17th In Person
8. COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATES: Finish baseboard installation
9. EMPORIA VET HOSPITAL: Contract Update
10. Kevin Crist: Placement of large rocks on property
10. RV/CAMPER USAGE: Review of Ordinances
 - a. RESIDENTIAL ZONED
 - b. MOBILE HOME PARK ZONED
11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Non-elected personnel matters.



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(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.

Project Playscape 2nd Sunday
Biscuits & Gravy of the
PANCAKE FEED Month!

Suggested Min

\$5/Person
included
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 Biscuits & Gravy,
 sausage, with juice
\$7 for Pancake &
Biscuit & Gravy, sausage,
with juice



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620-208-7433

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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
 Jan 13th
 6:00pm- 7:30
 pm

Saturday
 Jan 24th
 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

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tillers, and small engines. Chainsaw sharpening,
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Call Cindy Edmiston 443-5993 Leave a Message

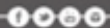


Within city limits, owners of motor vehicles must ensure all vehicles on private property are currently registered. Unregistered vehicles are a violation of city code unless they are fully covered at all times to prevent public view.

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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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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

Say “Yes” to the Year Ready to Sweep You Off Your Feet

January has always felt a little full of promise, hasn't it? It shows up shimmering with possibility, wearing a brand-new calendar and whispering, “So... you up for an adventure?” And there we are—half caffeinated, slightly overconfident, still wearing our coziest sweatpants—trying to play it cool.

But let's be honest: we're a little smitten with the idea of a fresh start. There's something thrilling about stepping into a year we haven't met yet. It's the same energy as meeting someone new or starting a new job: part excitement, part mystery, part “am I actually doing this?” January invites us to flirt with possibility, to lean in, to say “yes” before we talk ourselves out of it.

Because this might be the year the unexpected winks back.

Maybe we say yes to the random invitation that shows up in our inbox. Yes to the idea that scares us just enough to feel alive. Yes to the tiny, spontaneous choices that make our hearts race—not because they're risky, but because they remind us that we're still capable of choosing magic over monotony.

Let this be the year we stop waiting for perfect timing or perfect confidence or perfect... anything. Perfection is overrated. Mystery is so much more fun.

Let's treat our lives the way we treat an irresistible plot twist: lean into it, laugh with it, let it lead us somewhere we didn't expect. Open the door for surprises. Make eye contact with opportunity. Flirt shamelessly with joy.

This year, may we thrill ourselves a little. May we show up for our own lives with the same energy we give to a crush: bold enough to care, brave enough to try, and just curious enough to see what happens next.

Here's to the unplanned, the heart-opening, the unexpected yes.

Here's to the year ready to sweep us off our feet—if we're willing to let it.

-Dakota Hamlin



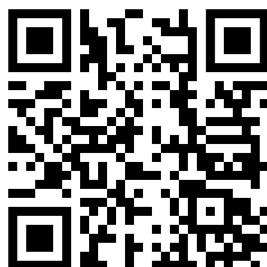
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PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

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

