

Americus Newsletter

March 2026

With the arrival of March, we welcome longer days and the promise of warmer weather ahead.

Reminders

- Any sewer account with an outstanding balance at the end of day on Friday, February 27th will be charged a \$10 late fee. Any payment received after this time will be applied in March and the fee will still apply. As a reminder, we offer ACH withdraw to ensure payments are made on time.

Contact Info

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

MARCH 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 	5	6 	7
8	9	10 Food Pantry Council Meeting	11	12	13 	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 	21 Food Pantry
22	23	24	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**

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 - Alyssa Redelfs
7th - Jamee Posey
9th - Aiden Vorhees
Boston Vorhees
Aubrey Hinrichs
Terri Zumbrum
10th - Desiree Swanson
Tyler Ross
12th - Shelby McElfresh
Barbara Johnson
13th - James King
17th - Camden Way
19th - Courtny Smart
Aimee Hart
20th - Dillion Horton
Tim Burton
Jessica Clements
23rd - Stephen Nuessen
Becky Wells
Josh Hamlin
25th - Katherine Morgan
Roland Webb
26th - Chanoc Domenech
Adrianna Brecheisen
28th - Denise King
29th - Mallory Burton
Shawn Wilson
30th - Jacob Posey
31st - Melanie Perrill

Happy Anniversary

March 10th - Shawn & Brooke Wilson
March 15th - John & Laverne Soetebier

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
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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

The following minutes are from the February 3rd public meeting. As of print time, the minutes have been approved by council. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dustin Wright. Council members present were NUESSEN, HARMON, HINRICHS, and GERLEMAN. BURTON was absent. Also present was City Clerk Dodie Doudna and City Attorney Steve Atherton

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Duane Billinger, Deb Ghere, Kelly Ghere, Levi Young, Austin Hoagland, Tim Burton.

ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by NUESSEN to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote

1. POLICE DEPARTMENT CLOSURE: Open meeting to questions/comments from the public

1. Who will cover? NUESSEN: Problem we have run into in the past is having coverage. We don't want to continue allotting your tax dollars for something you are not getting service for. Coverage will come from Lyon Co. Sheriffs Department, which tax dollars already go to that so no additional dollars will be taken.

2. We bought a car and wrap it 6 months ago and you tell us it is about tax dollars; we couldn't have foreseen it 6 months ago that we were going to close the department? NUESSEN: The old car was not running. We had to do something at the time, thought it was the right thing to do. We also had officers.

3. Why don't we have officers now? ATHERTON: That's a personnel question.

4. Did we do exit interviews when they left? HINRICHS: We had a survey go out to past employees, all the officers said they don't have the time to work for us. ATHERTON: Make more with overtime in Emporia than they can make with us, we can't match it. NUESSEN: Also, a feeling of Lyon Co is their number 1 job and we are number 2. We were unsuccessful in trying to hire a full-time officer, we believe because we cannot be competitive with pay.

5. So, you already pay the Sheriff's Department? NUESSEN: Tax dollars pay for the Sheriff's Department.

6. Our tax dollars pay here as well? NUESSEN: Yes, that is correct.

7. Now what happens with that money and how are you going to cover ordinances and those kinds of things because the county can't? NUESSEN: that is correct, yes.

8. Is there a plan? We are going to end this Tuesday at the meeting, and won't have any kind of code services? ATHERTON: that is something that will be discussed Tuesday, code enforcement will be maintained. NUESSEN: Correct, we will look to hire code enforcement officer.

9. Do you have a plan in place for code enforcement? ATHERTON: We will have to hire code enforcement officer, which will be a part-time position, similar to every other small community in this area. They don't have law enforcement.

10. But we haven't looked into getting code enforcement before we demolish the police department? ATHERTON: we don't have officers working to do code enforcement.

11. We don't have any at all? NUESSEN: No HINRICHS: There is reporting to the state and KBI that is required to be done by officers and those are not getting done.

12. Are there qualifications required to be an officer? ATHERTON: Yes, PLTC and have to have hours.

13. What is the difference between a code enforcement officer doing the work and Police officer? NUESSEN: Code enforcement officer isn't required to have all the qualifications of a police officer, no arrest authority.

14. What is the response time from Sheriffs department? WRIGHT: it's kind of irrelevant because we have only be getting an hour or two a month from our officers. The odds of them being here when you call is zero.

ATHERTON: They keep it staffed, spread around the county. HARMON: we haven't had an officer during day hours for quite some time; you won't see a change. NUESSEN: most of the hours are overnight hours.

15. What happens to the funds already allocated for that? NUESSEN: Those can be reallocated to other areas. Could potentially make mill levy go down if all money is not utilized.

16. How long was the deliberation process, when did this start to pick up in conversation? NUESSEN: More than a year ago. WRIGHT: Coverage continued to be sporadic. NUESSEN: As far back as COVID, we started noticing officers retiring from Lyon Co., that left us out.

17. Are you going to repurpose the car that you have as code enforcement instead? WRIGHT: Not sure, we will talk about that. ATHERTON: Likewise with equipment.

18. Do you have an estimated amount of money that equipment is worth? WRIGHT: has to auctioned as public property. ATHERTON: We will need to check on firearms and radios for restrictions of sale. HARMON: could repurpose radios for maintenance. NUESSEN: Some can't be sold to public.

19. With conversations with the Sheriff's office, did they seem comfortable without putting in any additional resources to have the right coverage to come out here? Are they going to stick with the same resources or invest to make sure covered? NUESSEN: stick with what they have, like we said for at least a year we haven't had daytime coverage anyway. Just like all the other small towns around.

WRIGHT: We hope everyone understands we didn't come to this conclusion easily, we procrastinated hoping it got better, it just didn't. NUESSEN: it got worse.

20. Any talk with other communities to hire full time and split between the towns? NUESSEN: The smaller communities can't afford it. ATHERTON: Most don't have courts either, or just code violations.

Motioned to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. by NUESSEN. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 4-0 vote

FROM CITY HALL

The following minutes are from the February 10th business meeting. As of print time, the minutes have not been approved by council. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: Moved by HARMON for BURTON to be acting council president for the February 10, 2026, business meeting. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 4-0 Vote. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by BURTON. Council members present were BURTON, HARMON, HINRICHS, and GERLEMAN. Mayor WRIGHT and NUESSEN were absent. Also, present City Attorney Steve Atherton, City Clerk Dodie Doudna.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Victoria Partridge, Kayeloni Davidson, Stephen Davidson, Steve Bechtel, Tim Burton, Preston Bechtel, Chuck Samples, Melissa Lowery

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by HARMON to approve the January 13, 2026, Business Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 4-0 vote. Moved by HARMON to approve February 3, 2026, Special Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 3-0-1 vote.

BILLS TO PAY: Moved by HINRICHS to approve the February bills to pay for \$70,661.30. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

PROJECT PLAYSCAPE: Planning fundraisers, grant writing and prepping for Easter Egg hunt. Will be requesting funds next meeting for that.

MAINTENANCE: Chip seal pump got repaired, cost was much lower than the original estimate. North lift station will be around \$2500 for the concrete build up, estimate from Seimers Construction. Bill and Nick are going to work on lift stations without calling for service with an approximate cost of \$1500. Will order rock, cost \$850.00

CLERK: Community center has new coded door handle installed.

ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by HINRICHS to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote.

1. ORDINANCE 632: Police Department Closure: Moved by HARMON to approve Ordinance 632 to close the police department. Motion seconded by GERLEMAN. 4-0 vote

a. Next Steps: Add to March agenda process for records transfer and disposition of assets.

2. TRASH CONTRACT BID REVIEW: Review closed bid. Council reviewed 3 bids. One bid from existing trash provider, Steve's Trash Service and 2 bids from Dumpster Pros. HARMON moved to accept the one-year contract with Dumpster Pro's. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 4-0 Vote.

3. ORDINANCE 631: Vacate Alley: BURTON explained no public utilities are in that alley, all private owned. ATHERTON explained that the city reserves the right to ingress and egress upon the premises. Also stated that by Kansas State Law it can reopened as an alley way if the city deems necessary. Moved by HARMON to approve Ordinance 631. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 4-0 vote

4. SEWER RATE REVIEW: Annual review. Consensus was to keep rates the same.

5. IT FINDINGS: DOUDNA presented the quote from Nerds & Numbers to replace both office computers. HARMON suggested that one of the current office computers be repurposed for maintenance. HINRICHS motioned to accept bid to replace both office computers to not exceed \$4,600. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote.

6. PAYROLL: Automatic deposit: Council discussed the benefit to move payroll to automatic deposit. Tabled to March to allow HARMON to discuss with all employees what changes would have to be made to move to it.

7. TNR UPDATE: Guest Street Cats Club: So far 22 cats have been TNR. Using a calculator used by many organizations it is estimated that Americus has a stray cat population of 189, 111 are unclaimed/free roaming and 78 are indoor/outdoor cats. February 24 is the next trap date and they hope to trap the remaining 4-5 cats we have funds for. Discussed ways to get residents to submit where the cat colonies are located. Will post on social media, website, newsletters, etc.

8. SPLASHPAD SIGNAGE: HINRICHS showed proofs of the signs for the splashpad. Asked for input of the rules listed and shape and size of sign. She will bring quotes to next meeting from input.

9. CONDEMNATION LIST: DOUDNA handed out new binders that hold the information on the properties on the list. She mentioned that she would like council to review the binder and let her know of any changes they would like to see. It was also mentioned that council should let her know when a property needs to be added to the binder.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm by HINRICHS. Seconded by HARMON. 4-0 Vote

AGENDA

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL

BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10th- 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 10, 2026 Business Meeting

BILLS TO PAY:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

PROJECT PLAYSCAPE

MAINTENANCE:

CLERK:

POLICE:

ADOPT THE AGENDA

1. POLICE DEPARTMENT: Next steps
2. PAYROLL: Automatic Deposit and payday date change
3. OVERTIME: Review language in handbook
4. PROJECT PLAYSCAPE: Easter Egg Hunt
5. CONDEMNATION LIST:
 - a. Cleanup bid review
 - b. Review binder



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*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.

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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
March 10th
6:00pm- 7:30
pm

Saturday
March 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.



I'm collecting old jeans, sweatpants, and similar clothing items to repurpose into children's clothing for the Baby Closet in Emporia.

Your donated items will be cut down and lovingly transformed into clothes for children in need. ❤️

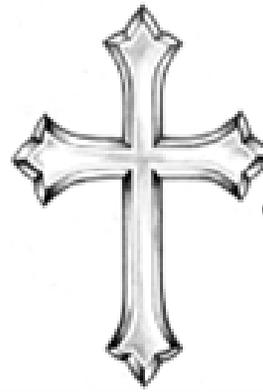
If you have items to donate or any questions, please contact:

Donna Martin

📞 620-366-1778

Donation Drop-Off Location:

603 Walnut St, Apt 7
Americus, KS 66835



**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.

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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

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Merry Christmas



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CLIENTS! HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE LACIE BIRK-
HAMLIN TEAM!**

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

March: Mud, Luck, and the Great Spring Clean-Out

February may have whispered, but March bursts in like it owns the place — tracking in a little mud and announcing, “Good news! We’re starting over.”

There’s something about this month that feels mischievously optimistic. The sun lingers a little longer. The birds sound suspiciously cheerful. Even the trees look like they’re plotting a comeback.

And then there’s spring cleaning.

Ah yes. That annual tradition where we open a closet “just to organize” and emerge three hours later questioning every purchase we’ve ever made since 2014.

But maybe spring cleaning isn’t just about dusting baseboards and finding that missing sock. Maybe it’s about clearing out more than just shelves. March invites us to shake out the rugs of routine. To toss the habits that don’t fit anymore. To donate the worries we’ve been holding onto like expired coupons.

We talk a lot about luck this time of year — four-leaf clovers, pots of gold, all that glittering promise. But maybe luck is simply creating space. Space for better mornings. Space for new ideas. Space for the version of you that’s been waiting patiently under three layers of winter and a comforter.

Spring doesn’t arrive perfectly polished. It’s messy. It rains when you didn’t bring a jacket. It’s sunshine one minute and confusion the next. But it keeps going. It keeps blooming anyway.

There’s something comforting in that.

So here’s your gentle nudge from March:

Open a window.

Clear a drawer.

Start the thing.

Let the light in — literally and metaphorically.

You don’t need a dramatic reinvention. Just a small shift. A little fresh air. Maybe a trash bag and some courage.

Because spring isn’t about having it all together.

It’s about making room for what’s next.

And if we happen to find a little luck along the way? Even better.

-Dakota Hamlin

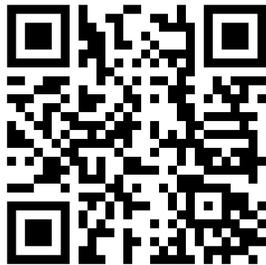
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PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

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