

MINUTES  
AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor WRIGHT. Council members present were HARMON, HAMLIN, NUESSEN, and HINRICHES. BURTON was absent. Also, present City Attorney Steve Atherton, City Maintenance Nick Gadino, and City Clerk Dodie Doudna.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Duane Billinger, Tatum Wright, Deb Ghere, Kelli Ghere

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Sept 9th, 2025, business meeting* Moved by NUESSEN to approve the Sept. 9th, 2025, business meeting minutes. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote.

**BILLS TO PAY:** Moved by HARMON to approve the Oct bills to pay for \$18406.27. Motion seconded by HINRICHES. 4-0 vote.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**PROJECT PLAYSCAPE:** HINRICHES reported that training will be conducted with maintenance on how to close the splash pad for the winter. Maintenance will work on a how to guide to be able to have for next year. Hinrichs discussed other Project Playscape activities: Throw Back Prom- Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, Match Day donations start Oct. 17 going through Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Permission granted to put Match Day signs around town as in the past. Christmas Parade will be on the agenda for next month.

**MAINTENANCE:** Nick brought several repair items to council. Nick reminded council that our equipment is getting older, and these things will continue to pop up. Mayor Wright approved Nick to have Shuman Electric to do work on gas pump for \$966.54. It was moved by HINRICHES to purchase 6 loads of road rock from Eagle Creek in the amount of \$1400. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote.

**CLERK:** Dodie stated that the old police car had been listed with Purple Wave. Council requested that she list the old maintenance truck as well. Quotes for new window blinds were given, Mayor Wright approved purchase of new blinds up to \$500. City Cleanup was well received by residents and both dumpsters were at capacity. Discussion was had if we want to continue to accept bill payments at the bank. This will be added as an agenda item in November. City Hall will be part of the Halloween Parade route with the school. Council Member NUESSEN is donating a water cooler to the city office. Caseys will begin adding a per card charge to our account each month. Council approved purchasing shirts for the new staff members.

**POLICE:**

**PARKS AND RECREATION:**

**AMEND AND ADOPT THE AGENDA:** Moved by HINRICHES to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 4-0 vote.

- 1. ESU EMERSION PROJECT:** Tatum Wright presented information about ESU Sociology program wanting to complete a project in Americus. Council approved the use of the community building on Nov. 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> by the group.
- 2. UNCLAIMED CATS:** Deb and Kelli Ghere talked about one of the cat colonies in Americus that they have been caring for. They have vaccinated and spayed and neutered almost all the cats in this colony. More discussion was had on what the city can do to help combat the unclaimed cats. HINRICHES is going to set up a meeting with Street Cats Club and Ghere's cat rescue to find some solutions.

3. **CHIPPER:** Reviewed options to replace with a used chipper. Nick will continue to look for others in areas close to Americus. Will continue to monitor an auction that bidding closes on Nov. 18, more discussion will be had at the November council meeting.
4. **LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL:** Moved by HINRICHES to approve Wade's Beer and Liquor 2026 license. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote. Council did not receive licensing paperwork from Rolling Hills at the time of the meeting, tabled until November council meeting.
5. **CONDEMNATION LIST UPDATE:** 216 Main- keep watch. 507 Elm-give notice to condemn. 1021 Main- follow up letter on cleaning up debris. 1010 Main- removed. 503 and 511 Main- work being completed, keep watch. 501 Maple- keep watch. 7 Fourth- follow-up letter addressing cleaning of property. 409 Broadway- work being completed, keep watch. 561 Maple- inspection, if building still up, move forward with hearing. 209 Maple- 60-day letter. 410 Cherry- No action. 1207 Fifth- no action. 1105 Fifth- inspection requested. 310 Locust- keep watch. 406 Second, 306 Cherry, 1203 Main, 210 Main, 401 Main- requested inspection. 311 Elm- reach out about citations.
6. **MATCH DAY:** HINRICHES had nothing else to add from her Project Playscape report.
7. **MILE MARKER RENTAL POND REQUEST:** No response was received at the time of the meeting regarding the community questions that were raised.
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Non-elected personnel matters.* Motioned by HINRICHES to go into executive session for 15 minutes with council, mayor, and legal present. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 4-0 vote. Out of executive session at 8:59 p.m. HINRICHES moved to increase health premium coverage for employees from up to \$500 to \$700 per month starting January 1, 2026. Update to the handbook will be made as well. Motion seconded by HAMLIN. 4-0 vote. Motion to adjourn by HINRICHES at 9:01 p.m. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 4 -0 vote

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Dustin R. Wright, Mayor

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Lea Hamlin, Council President

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Nicky Nuessen

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Britney Hinrichs

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ABSENT  
Kayla Burton

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Bill Harmon

