

Insight

Greg Doering,
Kansas Farm Bureau

Corn, sweat and August

According to recent reports the summer heat is causing corn to sweat in the field. Is it the corn's profuse perspiration causing the issue or maybe the county fair is the party responsible?

More likely it's just summer in early August. There are two options, hot and humid or hot and dry. Either way, the corn is still sweating, with each acre pumping up to 4,000 gallons of water into the air every day. Kansas' 6.4 million acres of corn pumps out enough sweat each day to cover a football field in more than 15 miles of water.

Corn sweat doesn't actually make the temperature rise, rather it makes hot summer days feel hotter by adding to the humidity in the air. In addition to evaporation, all plants release water through tiny pores in their leaves during a process called transpiration, or plant sweat.

August is the peak growing season for corn and other fall crops, and correspondingly the peak for humidity, especially with the rains portions of the state have received this summer. The extra moisture can turn a normal August afternoon into a "three-shirt day"

Rental

Schaefer made a motion to approve the July 21, 2025 minutes as amended, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve checks & vouchers in the amount of \$50,028.89, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed appraiser contract, NCKLEPG Report, KCCA legislation newsletter, and fencing dispute update.

Schaefer made a motion to approve appraiser contract for Anna Porter retroactive to July 1, 2025, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve resolution 2025-006 appointing appraiser, Johnston second. Motion

Voting open for Flint Hills State Park Nomination

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is proud to announce the Flint Hills Trail State Park's nomination to the Rails to Trails Conservancy's (RTC) Hall of Fame.

Since 2007, RTC's Hall of Fame has honored America's outstanding trails, recognized for their scenic value, use, amenities, historical significance, and community benefit.

"This nomination speaks volumes about the communities, volunteers, and staff who have made the Flint Hills Trail State Park a place where nature, recreation, and heritage come together," said KDWP Secretary Christopher Kennedy. "We hope every Kansan and trail lovers beyond will cast a vote to celebrate this achievement."

Stretching 118 miles from Osawatomie to Herington through the heart of the Flint Hills, Flint Hills Trail State Park is the longest rail-trail in Kansas. Popular among walkers, runners, cyclists, and equestrians, the trail was designated a state park in 2018 and recognized as a

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where even light work outdoors requires changing shirts more than once.

I do have a small quibble with the National Weather Service over its recent change in the adjectives used to describe our hot, humid summers. In March, the agency substituted "extreme" for "excessive" for heat-related watches and warnings.

Unsurprisingly, I wasn't consulted on the change, and I have no problem alerting folks about the dangers posed by intense summer weather. But I'm not convinced that classifying normal, expected bouts of summer heat as excessive or extreme are of any help. Everyone should be mindful of the toll working outdoors can take. Plenty of breaks in the shade and cold water are crucial to staying safe in the heat.

As the change from excessive to extreme indicates, adjectives are arbitrary, and neither one is as effective as the description used in explaining the meaning of an extreme heat watch or warning: dangerous heat is possible or happening.

Dangerous means the situation is serious, as the

Continued from Page 1

carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$180,229.89, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve the following transfer vouchers 2025-037 for \$454.65; 2025-038 for \$34,033.77; 2025-039 for \$1,533.17; 2025-040 for \$58.70 and 2025-041 for \$541.00, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Discussion was held by commissioners on county roads vs. township roads and the Innovation Center Wage Survey.

Pottberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m., Schaefer second. Motion carried,

weather in Kansas often is (there's a 161-degree swing between the hottest and coldest record temps in the state). It also works across a range of conditions from hot and cold to flash floods and severe thunderstorms. It's an adjective that conveys the stakes of the weather, especially in summer for individuals most at risk of high temperatures like older adults, young children and those without access to cooling resources. It's easy to poke fun at labeling typical summer weather as excessive or extreme. Call it dangerous and people are likely to actually pay attention.

While July is the hottest month, August is still the heart of summer where triple-digit readings on the thermometer are commonplace. Our electricity bills may be extreme, but that's just summer.

The days are getting shorter and soon harvest will put an end to sweating corn. For now, it's still summer. Do your best to stay cool and maybe pack an extra shirt or two if you're doing anything outside. After all, it's just another August in Kansas.

Barton Community College announces spring graduates

Three area students were part of the Barton Community College spring 2025 graduating class.

Tonna Hampton, Downs, has with a Medical Coding Certificate.

Stasha Conway, Osborne, earned an Associate of Arts degree.

Elizabeth Ducote, Portis,

Grant

Clerk Miranda Robinson to apply for a grant to replace the banners with the City paying up to half the costs with memorial funds. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

City Clerk asked about moving \$150,000 from general checking to the Money Market account then reassess in 6 months and possibly move to a CD. Collin moved, Heather seconded, to move \$150,000 from General checking to the money market account with two signatures. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Heather reported that the pool slide should be delivered July 31. Discussion was held on whether to install it yet this summer or wait until next season.

Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to approve contractor's licenses 2025-42. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to approve a special use permit 25-59. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Downs Community Connection members Kelly Meyer and Linda Miller were present to discuss a veteran's memorial. They are working together with Parks and Recreation on improving the playground area at Roadside Park (play equipment). Applying for grants. Downs Community Connection is asking for support from council and community members on

their projects.

Council held a water rate discussion on raising the rates and when it should become effective. City Attorney will draw up an ordinance with a \$1.00 increase being effective January 1, 2026.

City Clerk reminded council that the hearing for exceeding the RNR and 2026 budget had to be changed to August 21 at 6 p.m. as a special meeting. Council discussed funds and how they can be used.

City Clerk will speak with CPA's to find out and report back.

At 6:45 p.m. council member John B. left the meeting.

Collin moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

With no further business, John C. moved, Joyce seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. Salt

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. They precede C

17. A way to compare

19. State lawyer

20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran

22. Eighth month (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. __ ex machina

26. Satisfies

28. Mountain in New Zealand

29. A doctrine

30. Popular Dodge truck model

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid

34. Company officer

36. Villains

38. Cricket frogs

40. One of the founders of modern psychology

41. Endured

43. A female domestic

44. You can get stuck in one

45. Partner to feather

47. Passive optical network

48. French ballet dynasty

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Bottom layer

55. Sound

56. Yankee great Judge

58. Dickens character

59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster

60. South Dakota

61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule

64. Gold

65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio

67. Humor

69. Shawl

70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Necklace materials

4. Containers

5. Investment account

6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner

7. Dipped down

8. Head injury category (abbr.)

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. Not yes

12. Caused to be loved

13. Muslim spiritual leader

15. Showing sincere conviction

18. Not in

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Lawn pest

26. Pouch

27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)

30. Start over

32. Wild white flower

35. Fourteen

37. Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)

38. Side by side and facing the same way

39. Religious conflicts

42. Touch lightly

43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen

46. Violent seizure of property

47. One who supports the pope

49. Malaise

50. Body fluid

52. Inauthentic person

54. Title of respect

55. Chilean city

57. Japanese city

59. Silk garment

62. Draw from

63. Automobile

66. The man

68. Top government lawyer

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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ANSWER:

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
City of Downs, Kansas

will meet on August 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM at 715 Railroad Street, Downs, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, the amount of ad valorem tax, and the Revenue Neutral Rate.
Detailed budget information is available at City Hall, Downs, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget.
Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget for 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	603,890	50.720	644,016	50.676	1,376,052	506,887	72.230
Debt Service	186,902	22.256	141,200	22.237	176,042	4,792	0.683
Library	29,004	4.485	29,500	4.481	37,083	31,449	4.481
Industrial Promotion	5,826	0.992	6,311	0.991	16,840	6,957	0.991
Special Highway	8,283		10,383		162,159		
Cemetery Care			2,500		10,960		
Special Parks and Recreation			3,967		12,676		
ARPA Grant	71,123						
Water and Sewer Utility	363,062		425,791		750,054		
Capital Improvement			30,000		30,000		
Housing Initiative			10,000		10,000		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	3,200						
Non-Budgeted Funds-B							
Totals	1,271,290	78.453	1,303,668	78.385	2,581,866	550,085	78.385
						Revenue Neutral Rate**	70.566
Less: Transfers	113,572		144,000		144,000		
Net Expenditure	1,157,718		1,159,668		2,437,866		
Total Tax Levied	457,615		495,092		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed							
Valuation	5,832,952		6,316,170		7,017,639		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	2,055,504		1,879,952		1,389,795		
Lease Purchase Principal	147,855		106,948		64,688		
Total	2,203,359		1,986,900		1,454,483		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Miranda Robinson
Official Title: City Clerk

No assurance is provided.

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