

Wilson approves serving alcohol during Czech Fest

BY ALAN RUSCH
Ellsworth County I-R

WILSON — At Monday's meeting of the Wilson City Council, approval was given to the After Harvest Czech Festival Committee to serve alcohol during the upcoming Czech Fest the last weekend in July. Resolution 6-2025 allows open containers with alcoholic beverages in designated areas during the Czech Fest.

In other business:

- During an inoperable vehicle hearing prior to the meeting, a resolution was approved on the Monte Carlo car that is in violation of city ordinance. The car is on a trailer in the back of that property. The owner failed to answer what he

was going to do with the vehicle on his property to bring it into compliance. Council President Jeff Keith, who was presiding during the meeting in the absence of Mayor Dan Taylor, said the car can be removed by the city in 10 days after the owner is served with the resolution.

- Approval was given to pay bills in the amount of \$16,267.46 and payroll in the amount of \$12,989.59.
- Approval was given to proceed with the next steps in the board of health process regarding the property at 2211 Ave. C. Keith noted three other properties have been identified as well by the board of health.
- Approval was given to a refuse wavier request at 2908 Ave. D. The request will remain in effect

through Aug. 1.

- Approval was given to a \$2,000 expenditure for Chism Trash Service for trash pickup during the recent citywide cleanup.

Council member Jessica Loveland noted the citywide cleanup went well and she thanked the city crew for all their work in making the event a success.

- Wilson Police Chief James Reagan noted there are a lot of people slowing down as they drive through the community. Reduced speed signs were recently installed in parts of Wilson.
- Approval was given to pay \$55.96 to Buckeye for needed parts for the Wilson Fire Department's camo truck.
- Approval was given to the successful completion by Darwin Dlabal of a 90-day probation period

as a Wilson Fire Department volunteer firefighter.

- Approval was given to spend \$12,700 in grant funds to purchase a Koolmore commercial refrigerator from Home Depot for the concession stand at Jellison Park ball field, as well as a scoreboard from Fair-Play, Lenexa. Keith said the city received a \$25,000 grant from the Smoky Hills Community Foundation, which will be used for baseball-related improvements at the ball field.
- Approval was given to spend up to \$1,200 in donations to Gone Logo for new uniform shirts for the coach-pitch and midget baseball programs.

The next meeting of the Wilson City Council will be at 6 p.m. June 16 at city hall.

County commission discusses dance in conjunction with Aug. 16 rodeo

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At Monday's meeting of the Ellsworth County Commission, a request from representatives of the National Drovers Hall of Fame related to the upcoming Cowtown celebration in August was fielded.

Drover's representatives Kayla Errebo and Dennis Katzenmeier asked commissioners to waive the alcohol prohibition at the county 4-H Barn Aug. 16 because they want to have a dance after the rodeo in the barn. Errebo said the Saddle Club has already secured the alcohol license.

Commissioner Shawn Thomas said the county will have to check with its liability insurance carrier, K-CAMP, first, and get their written approval. The commissioners will then let Errebo know.

In other business:

- Officials from the Central Kansas Mental Health Center requested a 2026 budget in the amount of \$36,400 — a \$1,400 (4 percent) increase from the \$35,000 it requested for 2025.
- Joyce Kraus and Cherilee Ward of the Wilson Heritage Museum requested a 2026 budget of \$5,000 — the same they requested for 2025.
- Marissa Woodmansee and Mike Daniel of the 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services gave a brief update on their various activities.
- Commissioners signed a letter of understanding between the Ellsworth County Health Department and Saline County for a shared dietician for the WIC program.
- Approval was given to Abatement 2024-89 in the amount of \$631.78.
- Approval was given to the May payroll in the amount of \$305,279.76.
- Approval was given to May accounts payable and pre-written warrants in the amount of \$857,880.27.

From May 27:

- County EMS Director Nathan Florian submitted a 2026 budget request of \$758,187. That is \$58,187 (7.97 percent) higher than the \$730,000 requested for 2025.
- Approval was given to Florian to proceed with repair of the bay door at the EMS headquarters building, utilizing a \$5,625 bid from Richardson Brothers Contractors. That sum will be covered by insurance reimbursement.
- Approval was given to the proposed changes regarding travel reimbursement to the county employee handbook.
- Ellsworth County sanitarian Shawn Esterl briefed commissioners on a request from a landowner on 29th Road to put in a septic system. He noted a cafe once was located on the property, but that would now be going from commercial to residential use.

Esterl said the tract of land is only .6 acres and it really needs to be five acres to have a septic system placed on it. He told the owners they need more acreage.

Esterl said he will do more research and come back to the June 2 commission meeting with an update. He also requested County Attorney Paul J. Kasper attend the meeting as well.

The next meeting of the Ellsworth County Commission will be at 9 a.m. June 9 at the county courthouse.

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turning towards a change in the way the hiring process is done, from one featuring appointments to one featuring applications.

- Colby Richard, member of the Ellsworth Convention and Tourism Committee, presented the 2025 transient guest tax (bed tax) funding report. He said the committee awarded \$25,105 in funding to the following projects: Rhythm and Reels, Cowtown celebration, \$5,000; National Drover's Hall of Fame, Drover's Dance Hall, \$5,000; El-Kan Saddle Club, annual rodeo support, \$5,000; Ellsworth County Historical Society, Cowtown Day and signage, \$1,500; Ellsworth County Kids Wrestling Club, tournament equipment, \$3,500; Ellsworth Area Arts Council, youth art camp, \$2,605; Cowtown Ellsworth, support event coordination/logistics, \$2,500.

All projects were approved.

"The committee believes these investments will generate meaningful results by strengthening the local economy and enhancing community pride," Richard said. "Each funding decision was made with careful consideration, aiming to distribute impact across the community in a way that maximizes overall benefit."

- Dinkel reminded those at the meeting the deadline to file for election to the city council (officially open are the mayor and two council seats currently held by Renard and council

member Aaron Johnson) was noon Monday, June 2, at the county clerk's office. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 4.

- Kootz said she has submitted all of her paperwork to run for mayor.
- Dinkel noted that Resolution 2024-12, adopting the declaration of a water warning for the city of Ellsworth, was adopted on May 28, 2024. A second resolution, 2024-12 (A), was adopted to further define the guidelines.

"These restrictions remain in place, until there is a resolution lifting them by the city council," he said.

Dinkel recommended keeping the restrictions in place. The splash pad and the golf course are exempt.

Dinkel said he received a request by Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 to make the Ellsworth Jr./Sr. High School football field exempt as well.

After some discussion, Dinkel said he would draft a recommendation exempting the football field for the council's consideration.

"Hopefully, we have turned the corner on the drought," he said.

City water technician Dave Buchholz recommended the splash pad not be exempt because it uses a lot of water. Dinkel asked Buchholz to provide him figures on the amount of water usage.

- Dan Moon, who has been advocating to the council for months to allow a backboard for tennis and pickleball to be built at the city tennis courts, said he has an invoice for paint and

is trying to find a contractor to give him an estimate to do the work. He said the project would not exceed \$1,000.

- Ellsworth Boy Scout Troop 84 Scout Guide Weder updated the council on his Eagle Scout project, installing a ball pit at Preisker Park. He said he will use concrete only to set four posts at the ball pit, and they would be covered.
- Keegan Bailey, housing director with the North Central Regional Planning Commission, Beloit, received approval to make the target area citywide for the 2025 Kansas Department of Commerce CDBG Housing Application program in Ellsworth, and to proceed with citywide applications.
- Approval was given to seek approval to solicit requests for proposals for engineering and technical services for the city's water utility operation.
- Ellsworth Recreation Department Director Ron Tenbrink gave an update on a possible donation and agreement with the Pheasants Forever organization to purchase sound equipment for the Health and Recreation Center.

Tenbrink said Pheasants Forever hosted their banquet recently at the center because it can hold more people than their previous venue.

He said the group mentioned how nice it would be to have a sound system there, and that they would be willing to donate \$5,000 towards that if the city would waive the rental fee for the next five years, with

Tenbrink drawing up a contract for that.

Tenbrink said he received a couple of bids for the sound system and he recommended the one for \$10,250, including installation, from Tom's Music House. Tenbrink will see if a grant can be secured for the remainder of the amount left after the Pheasants Forever \$5,000 donation.

It was noted that, for now, this is a discussion point only until the funds are raised, and then it can be turned into a motion.

"It sounds fair," Renard said.

- Approval was given to a proposal from City Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning Inc. for sewer main improvements on Broadway Street between 9th Street and 11th Street in the amount of \$12,849.44. Payment of that amount will come from the water and sewer fund.
- The council tabled consideration of a request from Ryan and Linda Webber for funding of a septic system project at 1401 W. 12th St. until the next council meeting June 9. The Webbers will be asked to attend that meeting.
- Approval was given to the lease purchase agreement with Citizen's State Bank and Trust Company Inc. of a 2023 Dodge Durango for the Ellsworth Police Department from the Kansas Highway Patrol. Total cost is \$39,152.30.

The next meeting of the Ellsworth City Council will be at 6 p.m. June 9 at city hall.

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Visit a Dentist Regularly

Get regular dental checkups at least once a year – please do not wait until you have pain. Why? As you age, the nerves inside your teeth become smaller and less sensitive. By the time you feel pain from a cavity, it may be too late and you may lose your tooth.

There are also more serious conditions that your dentist will look for, like oral cancer and gum disease, which do not always cause pain until the advanced stages of the disease. By then, it's more difficult and costly to treat.

We hope this information is helpful in keeping your mouth healthy.



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