

South Barber

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partment of Education. The district expects to receive the formal Grant Award Notification later this month.

AVID Training

Turning to staffing and professional development, Dr. Miller noted that the district's supplemental duty assignments for the 2025-2026 year have been finalized, covering coaching roles, committee positions, and club sponsorships. He also shared that nine South Barber educators recently attended a national AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) summer training event. Teachers collaborated with peers from across the country and returned with strategies to enhance student engagement and classroom instruction.

Recognizing Student and Alumni Achievements

In celebrating student and alumni accomplishments, Dr. Miller congratulated South Barber graduate Emily Rugg, who was crowned Miss Kansas 2025 earlier this summer. He also recognized the South Barber High School cheerleading squad for their outstanding performance at a recent cheer camp. The team took first place for their spirit routine and third place for their camp routine. Cheerleader Danielle MacKinney was named an All-American, while Lily Dunham received the "Pin It Forward" award for her display of sportsmanship.

Elementary Principal Report

Elementary Principal Kaynette Scheck submitted a written report detailing updates, instructional goals, and recent accolades at South Barber Elementary School. She reported that the 2025-2026 student handbook has been updated to reflect the new school year calendar, Parent-Teacher Conference dates, and daily schedules for Pre-K students. The handbook cover now features "The Big 3" values from the Core Essential Values social-emotional learning program. Scheck emphasized that no policy changes were made to the handbook this year. One new addition highlights the importance of the fifth and sixth-grade Morning Helpers program, which fosters leadership and responsibility in upper elementary students.

Handbook Updates and Inclusive Seating Initiatives

In her report, Principal Scheck provided a more detailed explanation of the impact of the recent Scott and Ruby Circle Foundation grant, describing how alternative seating and desk options can support student success. She explained that movement-based seating, such as wobble stools and standing desks with foot bars, helps students maintain attention and reduce fidgeting. Other seating styles benefit children with sensory sensitivities or physical challenges. The new furnishings are intended to create a more inclusive and engaging classroom experience for all learners.

The principal praised the South Barber Elementary PTO for its role in securing and supporting the grant, writing that words of gratitude are not enough to express what this opportunity means for students and staff. She also thanked Kiowa's General Store for its support of the \$15,000 shade project and reiterated the importance of playground safety and accessibility during hot weather.

Focus on Leadership and AVID Goals in the Elementary School

As the new year approaches, she said South Barber Elementary will continue its commitment to AVID strategies focused on organization and collaboration. The master schedule includes one to two days each week dedicated to AVID lessons, which are designed to help students develop academic skills, build leadership, and strengthen their ability to work collaboratively. Sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Jacobs attended the AVID Summer Institute in June and will be teaching the AVID 6 class this year.

Principal Scheck concluded her report by thanking the superintendent and the board for their consistent encouragement and support. She wrote that the school is looking forward to another outstanding year, guided by a shared mission to do whatever it takes to help students succeed.

High School Principal's Report

High School Principal Steven Neal was not present to deliver a report, and none was submitted for the month. An update from the high school is expected to be provided at a future session.

Fee Approvals and Facility Projects

In other business, the board approved the 2025-2026 textbook and workbook fees, set at \$25 for students in Pre-K through sixth grade and \$30 for students in grades seven through

12. Activity ticket prices were also approved, with student tickets priced at \$30, adult tickets at \$40, and immediate family tickets at \$100. School meal prices were adjusted slightly. The elementary breakfast will cost \$2.50, and lunch will be \$3.35. Students in grades seven through 12 will pay \$2.70 for breakfast and \$3.45 for lunch. Adult meals will cost \$3.70 for breakfast and \$4.30 for lunch.

The board authorized the resurfacing of the high school parking lot for \$70,800 and approved the hiring of Jeffrey Rockett as

the new K-12 vocal and band director.

Several routine financial and procedural resolutions were passed unanimously, including district fund designations, petty cash limits, and the authorization to pay bills early when necessary. The board also voted to initiate the process of withdrawing from the SCKSEC cooperative agreement, although further details were not disclosed publicly.

Executive Sessions and Cooperative Withdrawal

Two executive sessions were held during the meeting. The first,

at 6:19 p.m., lasted five minutes and covered employer-employee negotiations, with Dr. Miller remaining. The second began at 6:25 p.m. and lasted ten minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. They took no action following either session.

The board also voted to initiate the formal process of withdrawing from the SCKSEC cooperative agreement.

The next regular meeting of the South Barber Board of Education will be held on Monday, Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Central Office in Kiowa.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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ORDINANCE NO. 25-486

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VACANT BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES AND PROVIDING PROCEDURES RELATED TO INCENTIVES, MAINTENANCE, MARKETING, AND ANNUAL INSPECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body finds that vacant residential, commercial, and industrial real estate adversely affects quality of life, creates blight, and impacts local property values; and

WHEREAS, vacant buildings are known to attract vandalism, become havens for drug use and other crime, and require expenditure of public funds for police protection, fire protection, and housing inspection; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body finds that public health, safety, and welfare are adversely affected by prolonged vacancies in residential and commercial real estate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF KIOWA, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. The Governing Body of Kiowa, Kansas, hereby adopts a vacant building ordinance to be included in Chapter 4, Buildings and Construction, of the City Code as follows:

ARTICLE 9 VACANT BUILDINGS

4-901 Purpose and Definitions.

(a) Purpose

Recognizing that vacant buildings and properties contribute to blight in both residential and non-residential areas, discourage economic development and hinders appreciation of property values, endanger public health and safety, attract criminal activity, and create fire hazards, it is the responsibility of property owners to prevent buildings from becoming a burden to the neighborhood and community and a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. Maintenance of the public health, safety, and welfare thus requires the City to maintain an accurate registration of all vacant buildings and properties.

(b) Definitions

(1) **Building** means a building, accessory structure, mobile or modular structure, or other structure adapted to permanent occupancy for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes.

(2) **City** means the City of Kiowa, Kansas.

(3) **Chronic Vacancy** means any building or property vacant for 1 year after initial registration.

(4) **Commercial** means any nonresidential structure or property in an area that is zoned commercial.

(5) **Industrial** means any nonresidential structure or property in an area that is zoned industrial.

(6) **Owner** means the person, persons, or entity identified as the owner of the parcel with the Barber County Appraiser's Office, and any agent identified by a nonresident owner.

(7) **Residential** means any residential structure or property in an area that is zoned residential.

(8) **Unsecured** means that access to the building may be obtained through open, unlocked, broken, or missing doors or windows of such a building.

(9) **Vacant Building** means a building or property that is unattended or unoccupied and is not actively used as a place of residence or business, or the building is frequently open or unsecured so that unauthorized admittance may be gained without damaging any portion of the property. A residential, commercial, or industrial building or property will be considered vacant when found to be in the above condition for more than twelve (12) months, and subject to the registration requirements found in Section

4-902.

4-902 Registration and Maintenance Requirements; Fees

(a) The owner of a vacant building or property must register the building with the City-designated officer within twenty (20) days of written notice provided to the owner or the owner's resident agent of the existence of the vacant building. Such notice shall be served on the owner or resident agent by personal service or by return receipt requested, which may be affected by certified mail, priority mail, commercial courier service, overnight delivery service, or other reliable personal delivery service. If the owner is a non-resident of the City, such notice shall be sent by return receipt delivery to the last known address of the owner.

(b) The City shall also accept notifications by mail or electronic transmissions of a building or property that meets the definition of a vacant building or property as defined in Section 4-901(b)(9) and shall pursue registration of said building or property in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

(c) The required registration shall be submitted on the form provided by the City or available on the City's website, which form shall include the name, current mailing address, phone number, email address and any other contact information of the owner; the names and addresses of all known lien holders and all other parties with a legal or equitable interest in the building; the common address of the building, as well as the tax map, map block, parcel tax identification and sale or rental price. The form shall also include the period of time the vacant building is expected to remain vacant, and a detailed plan and timetable for either:

(i) Returning the vacant building or property to appropriate occupancy or use; or

(ii) Marketing the property pursuant to the requirements of subsection (d) of this Section.

(ci) Pursuant to the registration requirements of this subsection, for every subsequent year a building remains vacant beyond the initial registration, the owner of the vacant building must:

(i) Re-register the building or property, including appropriate fees, and

(ii) Submit an updated plan for either returning the vacant building or property to appropriate occupancy or use, or marketing thereof.

(cii) If the owner of the vacant building does not reside in Barber County for at

least six (6) months a year, then they must provide the information for a resident agent with authority to act with respect to the property, including name, current mailing address, phone number, email address, and any other contact information of the owner's agent.

(ciii) Any subsequent owner of a vacant building or property must register or re-register the building with the City-designated officer within thirty (30) days of any transfer of any ownership

interest in the vacant building.

(civ) The owner of a vacant building or property must keep the building and any adjoining property secure, safe, and maintained in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.

(cv) A registration fee in accordance with the City's master fee schedule shall be collected by the City-designated officer at the time of registration or re-registration. At the time of adoption of this ordinance, the fee shall start at \$20.

4-903 Marketing Requirements; Exemption

The following vacant buildings or properties shall be exempt from the registration fees required by Section 4-902(i), but must still comply with all other registration requirements under Section 4-902:

(a) All buildings and properties which are actively marketed as "for rent" in a newspaper or in a recognized online website listing at a fair market value rental rate based upon market rental rates for comparable properties. It is the obligation of the vacant building owner to produce evidence of active marketing to claim this exemption. In the event that active rental marketing ceases, the vacant building in question shall be subject to the registration fees provided for in Section 4-902(i), which shall immediately become due and owing to the City.

(b) All buildings or properties that are being actively marketed as "for sale" by a licensed real estate broker or by the owner and advertised as such in a newspaper or listed on a recognized online website. The vacant building owner has the obligation to produce evidence of active marketing in order to obtain this exemption. In the event that the active "for sale" marketing ceases, the vacant building in question shall be subject to the registration fees provided for above and shall immediately become due and owing to the City.

(c) Any vacant residential building for which the owner executes a valid affidavit on a form provided by the City attesting that the owner intends to resume occupancy of the vacant building as a dwelling within 180 days. Failure to actually resume use of the vacant building as a dwelling within 180 days will result in the imposition of the registration fee that was exempted under this section.

(d) An owner who acquires a vacant building or property for which the registration fee has already been paid for the calendar year period shall register the change of ownership with the City but is not liable for an additional registration fee for that calendar year.

4-904 Penalties; Procedures

(a) Any owner who fails to register a vacant building under this ordinance, as required by Section 4-902, may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(b) If the building continues to meet the definition of a vacant building for a period of ninety (90) calendar days beyond the required registration or re-registration date, and the owner fails to register or re-register such building, the City designated officer may assess a penalty of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each ninety (90) calendar day period the building continues to be unregistered. At no time may the amount of the assessment exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per building in a calendar year.

(c) If a building or property is vacant more than 1 year after initial registration, it may be classified as a chronic vacancy, as defined in Section 4-901, and shall be subject to a fee of \$250.00 per year for residential and \$500.00 per year for commercial or industrial with a 10% annual increase for each category. Funds derived from said fee shall be used to offset the City's cost of annual inspections and incentives as found in Section 4-902 of this Code.

(d) All penalties assessed shall be payable directly to the City.

(e) Any and all civil penalties assessed under this section shall be billed to the owner or other responsible party. Failure or refusal to pay any and all such penalties shall permit the City to pursue any and all available legal remedies for the enforcement and collection of such penalties, including, but not limited to, filing a lawsuit to seek recovery of such penalties and/or injunctive relief, abatement of nuisances in accordance with the Code, or any other appropriate action or proceeding. The City shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of collection from the property owner in the event that it prevails in a lawsuit hereunder.

(f) Upon failure to register a vacant building, as required by Section 4-902, a Notice of Registration Penalty may be issued to the owner.

(i) A separate Notice shall be issued for each subsequent penalty that may be assessed pursuant to Section 4-904.

(ii) The Notice shall be served upon the owner by return receipt delivery or personal service.

(iii) This section in no way limits the penalties, actions, or abatement procedures which may be undertaken by the City for a violation of any other ordinance or provision of the City Code or any other statute or law.

4-905 Annual Inspection Requirement for Structures or Properties Classified as Chronic.

(a) The City's designated officer or their appointee may inspect or cause to be inspected any premises in the City for the purposes of enforcing and assuring compliance with the provisions of this Article and safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. Upon the request of the City-designated officer, an owner shall provide access to all interior portions of any vacant building or suspected vacant building in order to permit a complete inspection.

(b) The City's designated officer is authorized to enter and inspect, or cause to be inspected, all vacant buildings and premises for the purpose of conducting an annual code compliance inspection.

4-906 Severability

Should any provision of this Article be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions in this Article.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this ordinance shall be included and incorporated into the City Code for the City of Kiowa, Kansas, as an addition or amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately numbered to conform with the numbering system of the Code.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect upon its publication in the official City newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Governing Body of the City of Kiowa, Kansas this 14th day of July, 2025.

/S/

Bill Watson, Mayor

/S/

Sameta Thayer, City Clerk