

Court restores ability to change gender markers

By Sherman Smith
Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA — A three-judge appeals court panel on June 13 cleared the way for Kansans to resume changing their gender markers on driver's licenses, rejecting arguments made by Attorney General Kris Kobach and overturning a lower court ruling.

The Kansas Court of Appeals panel ordered the case return to the district court level to be heard by someone other than Shawnee County District Judge Teresa Watson, who abused her discretion and committed legal

and factual errors, according to the ruling.

Judges Karen Arnold-Burger, Stephen Hill, and Sarah Warner determined the state would suffer no harm by allowing transgender residents to be identified by their “gender,” which is a personal identity or expression, rather than their “sex,” which relates to reproductive systems. Kobach's office had argued that the two terms are interchangeable.

The Legislature passed a law in 2023 that requires vital statistics to recognize a person's biological

sex at birth. Kobach sued the Kansas Department of Revenue for continuing to allow transgender residents to change the gender markers on their driver's license, as the office had done since at least 2007.

From 2011 to 2022, KDOR issued 9,316,937 driver's licenses. During that period, 380 drivers changed their gender marker.

Watson in 2023 issued a temporary injunction to block changes in gender markers on driver's licenses. The appeals court, which heard arguments in January, removed that injunction

and replaced it with an order to allow changes.

Watson, the higher court said, had committed a legal error by concluding, without any support, that Kobach's mere allegation that KDOR was violating state law had established irreparable harm. Additionally, the higher court faulted Watson's conclusion that changing a gender marker could hinder law enforcement officers.

“The problem with the district court's finding is that the AG presented no evidence to support this claimed injury beyond unsubstantiated speculation,”

Arnold-Burger wrote.

At the district court level, Shawnee County Sheriff Brian Hill testified that one time, he didn't say when, he arrested a transgender woman who told him that she was a man. One of the problems with that example, Arnold-Burger wrote, is that he relied on the individual's “outward appearance,” not their driver's license. And, she wrote, the same mistake could be made for any cisgender woman who appears less feminine and more masculine than the average woman.

Assaria City Council minutes, May 12

The Assaria City Council meeting for May 12 2025 was held at the City Building at 7:00.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Maggie Reeves.

Members present: Rick Tanner, Troy Long, Kelli Witte and Ben Ashmore arrived at 7:02.

Visitors present: Paul Zeller, Mike Smith and Terry Patry.

A motion was made by

Rick Tanner and seconded by Troy Long to approve the April minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Troy Long and seconded by Rick Tanner to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

Communications

Election Info, Consumer Confidence Report for water, Scrap metal theft reduction information, Friend and Neighbors Thank You, EMC dividend check \$2558.90, KHP vehicle turned down, and NCRP newsletter.

New business

Mayor Maggie read

resolution #239

A motion was made by Rick Tanner and seconded by Troy Long to adopt resolution #239 adopting the Kansas Region F Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Rick Tanner and seconded by Ben Ashmore purchase a 14 x 28 portable storage shed from Sturdi-Built in the amount of \$16,795.00 for the park. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussed was placement of the story walk for the park that SES has constructed.

A motion was made by Ben Ashmore and seconded by Kelli Witte to accept

a bid from Jab It LLC for replacing the current computer, setting up the new computer and printer for the office not to exceed \$2500 total. Motion carried 4-0.

Reports, old business

Police Chief Mike Smith was present and discussed was a child riding a go cart and scooter around town on streets. A driver's license is required for any motorized unit to be drove on city streets. Discussion will be had with the parents advising them of this. Pictures have been taken of addresses with violation and notices will be sent to these

addresses advising of these violations and requesting 10day corrections.

Fire Chief Terry Patry reported on an electrical fire that the Assaria Fire Department tended to and 4 or so EMS calls this last month. Also Fire Chief Patry discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the work the fire chief and clerk did to make it happen and what it means for the city in case we should need FEMA assistance.

Public Works Superintendent Paul Zeller was absent and Bruce Spare reported on mowing the city sewer cells and a meter that was replaced

on Anderson in the last month. A needed chlorine pump has been ordered \$1350. Discussed was getting other companies to bid roof repairs at the community center and shop skylights repairs. No update available for the generators.

A motion was made by Rick Tanner and seconded by Troy Long to pay bills as presented and anything due before the next regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Troy Long and seconded by Rick Tanner to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

City Clerk, Kristie Trimble

Gypsum City Council minutes, May 12

Mayor Kruse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers: David Jackson, Vernon Cathey, Scott Bickel, Deborah Murphy

Guests: Tracy Dahl, Stephanie Moyer, JR Parks, Gary Olson, Officer Heinrich, Delores Harris, Greg Hanneman

Minutes that were mailed out have been approved as read

Old business

Councilman Jackson presented the data he has gathered, showing totals from 2024 to present. Currently, there is no immediate need to raise water rates. However, rates will need to be increased in order for the city to qualify for grants. Tracy mentioned that the Kansas Rural Water Association offers a rate study, and he will contact them about coming out. This topic will be tabled for further discussion.

Maintenance report

K4 Project is going along nicely. There has been a set back with parts and state has extended 31 days.

Department reports

Jackson - The fire truck he was looking at has sold.

Sorenson - **Cathey** - Concerns were raised about the people parking south of the Catholic Church, noting that vehicles make it hard to pass while Sunday service is happening. He believes the road has narrowed due to construction on city property. Mayor Kruse mentioned that a retaining wall was to be put in by the Augustine's when the pool was built but has not been installed. Stephanie Moyer indicated that there is often water or mud at the corner of Maple and 9th Street when she picks

up her grandkids from daycare. The council needs to find a solution for getting the water off the road and figure out who is responsible since one councilmember believes it is built on city property. Additionally, a tree at the former Faleber property needs trimming, as it is being hit by sprayers. Tracy will handle its removal.

Bickel - Questioned the update of the concession stand. Tracy stated concrete is still needing to be poured, with weather and other city issues Tracy has not had time to get it completed. Travis Smith will help with placing of the pipes for water and sewer. The city will need volunteer help once the exterior walls and bathrooms are completed. At 8th and Spring the culvert is filled in and does not drain. Tracy told him this was looked at last summer and there is a gas line that runs under 8th Street, and was noted all culverts need to be cleaned out.

Murphy -

Mayors report

Portable Restrooms will need to be ordered for the Car Show, Jackson made a motion to order portable restrooms, seconded by Bickel, all in favor.

Mayor Kruse has received some calls about yards that are overgrown. She brought up the idea of a free courtesy mowing from the city. Council thinks that this could be an issue for the city.

There will be two council and a mayor position open and those need to be signed up by June 2nd at the County Clerk Office in Salina.

The dumpster is full again, the free dumps are over and another will not be ordered.

Mayor Kruse will contact Senator Moran to get an update on the Levee certification.

Councilmen Jackson made a motion to adopt the Homeland Security Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, seconded by

Councilmen by murphy, all in favor motion passed.

Clerk report

The Trailer Court was purchased and the new owner would like the tenants to pay their own trash bill. Our billing system does not allow the trailer court to be separated. Council agreed by consensus to keep the trash rate the same.

The city phone we pay for right now is \$25.55 through Nextech, the phone itself does not work properly and people have complained to not get through. HCI price is about the same and they can do call forwarding. Council agreed by consensus to switch back to HCI if there is no contract with Nextech.

The website should be ready to go within the next week.

Public comments

Delores was present to get information on what it would take for her to get a new sidewalk in front of her businesses. Council told her to bring back two or more quotes for review then can go further.

Gary was present to inform the council about his car that was damaged due to what he claims was the pothole in the road. Councilmen Cathey told him a timeline can be made of when the incident first happened and when he informed the city.

Mr. Olson attended to inquire about his water meter, which was included in his rural water agreement. Mayor Kruse explained that the agreement was signed 18 to 20 years ago, stating that the meter was to be installed within a reasonable timeframe. Mr. Olson requested to have the meter relocated closer to Niles and K4, but he states he was informed by the previous city clerk that this move was not possible. He will need to provide proof of payment before the issue can proceed further. Councilmen Cathey and Jackson advised Mr. Olson that they are not

opposed to the street he would like to pursue, but he must demonstrate progress for the city to move forward.

Mr. Hanneman stated he has checked with his insurance and has \$1000 deductible. He was given multiple numbers from Long Macarthur and online to contact the makers of Shelby to try and find parts and was unsuccessful. Councilmen Cathey told him he could find the parts for him and would get in contact with him.

New business

Councilmen Jackson made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes regarding city concerns, all in favor.

Councilmen Jackson made a motion to return, all in favor.

The dog ordinance 1303 was discussed, which includes provisions regarding dogs. Officer Heinrich informed the council that the Salina Animal Shelter

SOUTHEAST OF SALINE MENU

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

CH-2902179

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, KANSAS In the Matter of the Estate of: MICHAEL J. GREENE, SR., Deceased Case No. 25 PR 81

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: YOU ARE hereby notified that on this 29th day of May, 2025, pursuant to a Petition for Appointment of Administratrix Under Kansas Simplified Estates Act and Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in this Court by Michelle Brockelman. Michelle Brockelman was appointed Administratrix, duly qualified as Administratrix and Letters of Administration pursuant to the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, were issued to her on the 30th day of May, 2025, by the District Court of Saline County, Kansas. All creditors of the above-named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

/s/Michelle Brockelman
Michelle Brockelman, Administratrix

ROBERT G. GERMAN, S.C. 10420 219 No. Santa Fe Ave. Salina, Kansas 67401 (785) 825-9175
Attorney for Petitioner
Publish: Lindsborg News-Record
Date: June 12, 19 and 26, 2025 3548550

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of: KENNETH RAY CROWDER, Deceased Case No. 25 PR 89

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: YOU ARE hereby notified that a petition dated June 6, 2025, has been filed in the Saline County District Court by Teresa Bates, as sister and heir at law of the decedent, Kenneth Ray Crowder, praying for the appointment of Teresa Bates as Administratrix without bond. You are further advised that the Petitioner in this matter has requested administration pursuant to the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, and if such request is granted the Court may not supervise administration of the estate and no further notice of any action of the Administratrix other proceedings in the administration will be given except for the notice of final settlement of the decedent's estate. Should written objections to simplified administration be filed with the Court, the Court may order supervised administration to ensue. You are hereby required to file your written defenses to the admission of the decedent's Will to probate on or before the 7th day of July, 2025 at 8:30 o'clock A.M. in this court in the City of Salina, Saline County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demand against the estate with four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited they shall be forever barred.

/s/Teresa Bates
Teresa Bates, Petitioner
SUBMITTED BY:
ROBERT G. GERMAN, S.C. 10420 219 No. Santa Fe Ave. Salina, Kansas 67401 (785) 825-9175
Publish: Lindsborg News-Record
Date: June 12, 19 and 26, 2025 3565210