

COUNCIL — from page 1

of 2022, the city only had 15 days of cash on hand in the gas system. It’s recommended city operated utilities have at least 90 to 120 days of cash on hand. At the end of 2024, the cash on hand amounted to 62 days of operating expenses.

At the end of 2020 the city had 125 days of cash on hand. That reversed as a result of Winter Storm Uri in February, 2021, which caused many cities including Lyons to borrow funds to cover the extreme spikes in gas prices during that period.

Projecting operating projections out to 2029 under the current rate structure project the system will operate at a loss for each year, with 36 days of cash on hand projected in at the end of 2029. Prince said this projection assumes sales will remain flat, with increases projected to increase by three percent per year.

Prince estimated an increase of four percent would be needed to eliminated the forecast deficits. He recommended a rate study be initiated to determine the proposed level of increase and how rates are structured. Currently, the city has three rate schedules, one for city residential customers, one for commercial customers in the city, and one for all rural customers.

He added rate increases would not have to happen all at once, but could be increased over a couple of years.

In discussing this report, Council member Sheila Spielman asked if some sort of “mercy” provision be included in any rate structure, citing financial difficulties many people face in paying utility bills in general, especially during the winter months. City Administrator Troy Houtman said he would take a look at this.

The issue of fireworks, long a point of contention, was brought back to the Council last night. Specifically, whether the allowable dates for discharge of fireworks should be increased from the present July 4 only with an exception when it falls on a Sunday and the following day is designated as a holiday. Lyons allows sale of fireworks July 1-4.

Some divergent views were raised. Council member Debra Metzger recently asked constituents in her district their views, and most people had no objections.. On the other hand, Council member Angela Evans expressed concerns about how the noise impacts pets and those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

She cited the case of one veteran she knows who has to go to his basement and stay there on July 4, and also having to sedate his dog. That veteran also noted if fireworks discharged would be extended he would have to leave town for those days.

Spielman also brought up issues about enforcement of current restrictions. In the end, it was

the Council consensus to leave the current regulations as they are.

This discussion came as the Kansas Legislature during the 2025 session approved extending the dates when consumer fireworks at seasonal stands can be sold by nine days, extending that from June 20 to July 7. Locally, McPherson County Commissioners Monday approved that extension in their regulations. It also opens the door for year-round fireworks sales under certain circumstances.

The Council discussed issues involving “dumpster divers” who have been getting to local business trash dumpsters. Police Chief Justin Holliday said he’s heard a number of complaints about trash being strewn about after bags are taken out of them and opened, often times searching for thrown out food. Three businesses in particular have been hard hit with this.

Among options discussed were requiring businesses to lock those dumpsters or otherwise secure them so they could not be accessed. Holliday noted one store did try locking theirs, but locks were being broken

The Council approved a \$11,970 contract with Governmental Assistance Services in Lawrence to conduct a low and moderate income survey, which is a necessity to be in a position to qualify for Community Development Block Grant funds for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Those grants require a community to have at least 51 percent of it’s residents falling in the low to moderate income classification. According to the 2020 Census, Lyons had an LMI percentage of 41.5 percent. Assistant City Administrator Tanner Faust said having a consultant doing this rather than it being done by city staff tends to be looked upon more favorably by state officials in that it would be considered to be more statistically accurate.

The Council adopted the Kansas Homeland Security Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan involves a number of counties in south central Kansas, and looks at what hazards are present in the region and in individual communities. Being part of this plan is a requirement to be eligible for any number of disaster related assistance.

The Council approved the first two portions of a revised personnel policy and guidelines. The sections approved deal with introductory statements and position classification, which Human Resources Director Jennifer Wood presented at the April 7 Council meeting. Wood reviewed the next section of the policy, dealing with recruitment and promotion which saw extensive revisions.

There was a lengthy discussion on residency requirements and response times, which led to a council consensus to ex-

tend the response time for all but three city employees from 15 to 30 minutes. Under existing policy, the City Administrator, City Clerk and Chief of Police are the only city employees required to live within the city limits, and that is included in a separate ordinance.

Among options that were brought up was the potential of a policy where residency requirements could be waived on a case by case basis, which the Council was willing to take a look at, given current factors related to available housing and situations where one spouse works in one city, the other in another city, and they live at a midway point. Action on that portion will be taken at the May 5 Council meeting.

It accepted the sole bid from Justin Holliday for abatement mowing in 2025. The bid calls for a \$190 per hour charge, with a two hour minimum with a \$170 an hour return fee. These abatement charges, if not paid, can be added to property tax bills as a special assessment.

The Council approved an amended lease agreement with Maxwell Aviation for space it used for aerial spraying operations at Lyons-Rice County Airport. This agreement increases the annual rent charged from the current \$2,000 to \$2,500 for the remainder of 2025, and makes it consistent with what other sprayers using the Lyons airport pay.

During the public comment portion of the meeting two women addressed the Council on the possibility of having a trap, spay, release policy for feral animals in the city.

It also approved a proclamation designating May as Motorcycle and Safety Awareness Month. At the conclusion of the meeting a 20 minute executive session was held to discuss matters of non-elected personnel.

NOTICE

Storage Unit 118, Mary Fistler, located at 423 N. Grand, Lyons KS will be seized on April 30, 2025 and sold unless paid in full before. DJ's Storage 620-257-8430

LEGAL

(Published in the Lyons News on April 24, 2025)

City of Lyons Resolution : 923 Adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan

Whereas, City of Lyons, Kansas recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and

Whereas, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

Whereas, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 ("Disaster Mitigation Act") emphasizing the need for pre-disaster mitigation of potential hazards;

Whereas, the Disaster Mitigation Act made available hazard mitigation grants to state and local governments; and

Whereas, an adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

Whereas, the City of Lyons, Kansas, fully participated in the FEMA-prescribed mitigation planning process to prepare this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and FEMA Region VII officials have reviewed the Kansas Homeland Security Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan, and approved it contingent upon this official adoption of the participating governing body; and

Whereas, the City of Lyons, Kansas, desires to comply with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act and to augment its emergency planning efforts by formally adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

Whereas, adoption by the governing body of the City of Lyons, Kansas, demonstrates the jurisdictions' commitment to fulfilling the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in this plan, and

Whereas, adoption of this legitimizes the plan and authorizes responsible agencies to carry out their responsibilities under the plan.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City of Lyons, Kansas, adopts the Kansas Homeland Security Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan as an official plan; and

Be it further resolved, City of Lyons, Kansas, will submit this Adoption Resolution to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and FEMA Region VII officials to enable the plan's final approval.

Date: 4/21/2025
ATTEST:
/s/Jennifer Wood,
Deputy City Clerk
/s/Alicia Hommon, Mayor

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SALE

ESTATE SALE — LuAnn van de Oudeweetering, 229 South First, Sterling. Thurs., May 1, noon-6; Friday, May 2, noon-6; Sat. May 3, 9 a.m.-1. Everything must go. The Estate Sale Shoppe.

LEGAL

(Published in the Lyons News on April 24, 2025)

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
WATER/SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION

The City of Chase will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Meeting area located at 507 Main Street, Chase, Kansas for the purpose of considering an application to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds under the Water/ Sewer Infrastructure category. A specific application to be discussed is the construction of sewer system improvements.

The proposed project will consist of the following items: General: Mobilization, Clearing & grubbing, Traffic control, Seeding, Erosion control and Pre- and Post-Construction photo documentation. Manhole Rehabilitation: 20 EA Raise manhole ring & cover, 20 EA Reset manhole ring & cover, 20 EA Replace manhole ring & cover, 384 VF Manhole cementitious lining, 50 EA Manhole bench repair and 20 EA remove & replace manhole. Sewer Main Rehabilitation: 221 EA Service tap repair, 1,770 LF 4" Sanitary sewer service pipe, 33 EA 8" Sanitary sewer point repair (10'), 10 EA 10" Sanitary sewer point repair (10'), 310 LF 8" sanitary sewer main, 90 LF 10" sanitary sewer main, 1,500 LF 8" Sewer main CIPP/fold & form liner, 14,900 LF 8" sewer main CIPP/ fold & form, liner, 4,500 LF 10" Sewer main CIPP/fold & form liner, 420 SY Remove & replace surfacing (gravel), 770 SY Remove & replace surfacing (concrete), 710 CY Flowable fill and 20,100 LF CCTV sewer main inspection (post construction). Lift Station Rehabilitation: 5 EA Structure replacement, 400 LF Lagoon piping, 1 EA Lift station rehabilitation and 1 LS Remove & replace sprinkler system. Lift Station Rehabilitation: 1 LS Remove & replace existing lift station.

The estimated project cost is \$3,658,840 with a CDBG grant request for \$650,000 of the project cost. Local funding will be provided by a loan from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment State Revolving Loan Fund program. Other project proposals introduced at the hearing will be considered. Oral and written comments will be recorded and become a part of the City of Chase's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan.

Reasonable accommodation will be made available to persons with disabilities. Request should be submitted to Kimberly Goodrich, City Clerk, by Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

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