

## City hall tackles weeds and big money

BY ALEX BARTA  
HIGH PLAINS NEWS

The May 4 Goodland City Commission meeting included few items requiring formal legislative action, but commissioners addressed several issues related to housing, infrastructure and economic development.

Mayor Jason Showalter read a pair of proclamations honoring those who protect and serve the community. The city of Goodland proclaimed the week of May 10-16 as National Police Week, as well as May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The city also proclaimed May 2026 as Building Safety Month.

Commissioners approved issuing a bid to clean up a property at 517 Sherman Ave., where environmental code violations had continued following prior notices and a public hearing. Goodland Building Inspector Zack Hildebrand reported the property included overgrown vegetation, debris and unsafe structures, and requested authorization to proceed



Commissioners proclaimed the week of May 10-16 as National Police Week. Photo Courtesy City of Goodland

with abatement through the bid process.

“The city will pay for the cleanup process up front, then the property owner will have 30 days to pay that back,” Hildebrand said. “If that’s not paid, it gets assigned to the special assessment through property taxes.”

Commissioners approved issuing bids to return 517 Sherman Ave. to compliance.

Commissioners also approved the proposed purchase of exhaust bellows for the city’s power plant. Electric Department Superintendent Dustin Bedore recommended a bid from Bellows Systems totaling \$22,278 for 12 units.

Commissioners also approved a \$5,500 bid from Goodies to remove two trees at 808 Kansas Ave.

During discussion items, commissioners considered next steps for a proposed grain mill project involving Golden Waves Grain. The commission discussed setting a public hearing related to industrial revenue bonds tied to the project.

Industrial revenue bonds are a type of municipal bond that allows a local government to issue tax-exempt

debt for a private project, making financing cheaper for developers or companies building new facilities, expanding or creating jobs.

“There is a cost-benefit analysis that has to be done for the industrial revenue bonds, and that’s at the developer’s expense,” City Manager Kent Brown said. “That’s not at the city’s expense.”

The cost-benefit analysis must be completed before the bonds can be issued.

Commissioners also discussed scheduling a joint meeting with Sherman County officials in late June regarding a Reinvestment Housing Incentive District project.

Water conservation was also discussed, with commissioners reviewing city code and drought conditions.

Staff reports included updates from the city manager, the monthly police activity report, information on the May 7-8 spring cleanup and a grant award for fuel system improvements at Renner Field.

## Students headed to nationals get boost from car show

BY MARILYN HEFNER  
HIGH PLAINS NEWS

Fort Hays Tech Northwest’s SkillsUSA chapter hosted the Tiger Car Show on May 2, raising \$2,300 to help students advance to national competition.

The event, held in the Max Jones parking lot, featured 34 entries and

marked the first car show organized by the college.

Proceeds from the show will help Fort Hays Tech Northwest gold medalists travel to the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, scheduled for June 1-5 in Atlanta. The national event features top competitors from every state as well as Puerto Rico,

American Samoa and Guam.

Gold medal winners from Fort Hays Tech Northwest include Molly Norman and Kayden Davis, both of Colby, in web design; Amanda Armknecht of Goodland in pin design; Cecilia Clark in T-shirt design; David Thompson of Junction City in Internet of Things;

and Aden Reilly in electrical construction wiring.

The college also had several students serving as state SkillsUSA officers, including Harlan Tasci of Goodland, Mark Jensen of Nebraska, Karson Mellott of Limon, Colorado, David Thompson of Junction City and Blake Luna of Scott City.

Heather Johnson of

Goodland currently serves as a national SkillsUSA officer, becoming the first student from Fort Hays Tech Northwest to hold the position. She is one of only five college national officers in the country.

The Tiger Car Show drew a wide variety of vehicles and community support during its first year. Organizers said the event was designed not only to raise money for student travel expenses, but also to create greater awareness of the SkillsUSA program and the opportunities available through technical education.

First-place honors in the show went to Nash

and Rhett Henry for their 1967 Ford Mustang.

Second place was awarded to Diane Krayca for a 1980 Chevrolet Corvette.

Jeremy Skrdlant, an instructor at Fort Hays Tech Northwest, said he was pleased with the turnout for the inaugural event and hopes the show continues to grow in future years.

The event combined classic cars, community support and student achievement into a successful fundraiser that will help send northwest Kansas students to one of the nation’s top technical and leadership competitions.

### School Calendar May 13-19, 2026

• Goodland Junior-Senior High School • West Elementary School • North Elementary School • Fort Hays Tech Northwest athletics

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Wednesday:  
Regional Baseball Quarterfinals at higher seed  
Final day for seniors  
9:15 a.m.: Senior awards ceremony in auditorium

Thursday:  
8 a.m.: SCECC graduation in Auditorium  
2 p.m.: HS Track at Cimarron (GWAC meet)  
6 p.m.: Band concert in auditorium

Friday & Saturday:  
State Tennis at Kansas City

Friday:  
7:30 a.m.: End of 4th 9 weeks  
Final day of school  
8 a.m.: JH awards ceremony in auditorium

Saturday:  
2 p.m.: Graduation at Max Jones Field House

Monday:  
Regional Golf at Colby

Tuesday:  
Regional Baseball at higher seed  
Regional Softball quarterfinals at higher seed

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May 8-21, 2026  
**The Sheep Detectives**  
Showing Nightly 7PM  
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(PG) Thematic material; some violent content; and brief language  
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