

**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

The agenda for this meeting was posted at least 24 hours prior to the start of this meeting at the entrance of City Hall, 310 S Broadway, Coweta, OK.

The members of the Coweta City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Coweta City Hall, 310 S Broadway, Coweta, Oklahoma.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Naomi Hogue, Jeremy Barnett, Daniel Beatie, Joshua Wilburn, Donald Vieth

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hogue.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE GIVEN**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken. Councilmembers were present as shown above.

**IV. GENERAL CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Hogue wished everyone a Happy New Year, and stated she hoped it was a good one for all. She commented to stay active and involved in the community. Vice Mayor Barnett told everyone to enjoy the warmer weather while it was around.

**V. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

**1. NEW HIRES**

Jose Sanchez Garcia, 12/17/2025- Parks Maintenance Worker

Jacquelyn Hedge, 12/17/2025- Communications Officer

The City Manager welcomed new hires, Jose Sanchez Garcia, Parks Maintenance Worker and Jacquelyn Hedge, Communications Officer.

**2. PROJECT UPDATES**

- **Project Atlas (Data Center):** The Planning Commission Public Hearing will take place on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and the City Council Public Hearing is scheduled for February 2, 2026 at 6:00pm. Both meetings will be at ICTC.
- **Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit:** McKay Hale, Assistant City Manager, is diligently working on the FY2025 Financial Report. Due to the retirement of our

**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

previous auditors, the City has a new auditing firm this year, and this has caused a slight delay in the release of the audit. We hope to have a final report completed in the next 4-6 weeks.

- **Economic Development:** City staff recently met with several local business owners to discuss opportunities to strengthen our economic development efforts. The Mayor and Vice Mayor also held a follow-up meeting to hear additional concerns and suggestions. While the City continues to support business recruitment efforts through the firm contracted by Wagoner County, I feel a more focused approach is needed to assist small businesses and improve business retention. Staff is planning additional meeting to bring together stakeholders interested in contributing ideas and participating in a coordinated effort to build a stronger local business base. If you are interested in joining the committee, please reach out to me.
- **Public Safety Building Groundbreaking Ceremonies:** With the bids for the Police and Fire Stations scheduled for award, we are making plans for two separate groundbreaking events to be held in the next few weeks.
- **Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2026-2027:** Planning for next year's budget will begin in the next couple of weeks. Please let me know if you have items or capital projects that you would like to see considered in the upcoming budget. Donald Vieth has proposed a dog park and a disc golf course, which was designed a few years ago by a graduate student from OU to be completed at Cottonwood Park. I'm excited to move this project forward and hope to secure sufficient funding to begin building new facilities on the vacant flood properties that were purchased through FEMA grants several years ago.
- **City Manager Association of Oklahoma Conference:** I will be out of the office January 21-23 attending the CMAO conference in Enid (corrected to Edmond).

No action taken by Council.

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

**1. LETTER FROM FORMER CITY ATTORNEY DAVID WEATHERFORD REGARDING NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS**

Julie Casteen read aloud a letter that was received by City Attorney Patrick Boulden from former City Attorney David Weatherford discussing questions raised about the "legality" and/or history of the City of Coweta entering into non-disclosure or confidentiality agreements.

**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

**VII. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. REQUEST BY RUSSELL FAITH TO ADDRESS CITY COUNCIL ABOUT A NOISE AND NUISANCE COMPLAINT AGAINST THE CONCRETE PLANT ON S 257<sup>TH</sup> E AVE- REQUESTING ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO LIMIT THE TIME THE PLANT CAN RUN**

Russell Faith expressed frustrations of disturbances caused by noise from the concrete plant located on S 257<sup>th</sup> E Ave. He stated the traffic and beeping of trucks when backing up is a nuisance and would like an action to be put into motion outlining when the plant can run. He requested a time frame of when such action would be taken. He also presented a list of names and signatures of other citizens in the area concerned with the noise and traffic in the area.

An attorney representing the concrete plant was in attendance and listened to Mr. Faith's grievances.

Mayor Hogue and City Manager Julie Casteen stated staff would reach out to the owner of the plant to see if something could be achieved to alleviate the noise complaints coming from the plant during evening and overnight hours.

**2. REQUEST BY DOUGLAS KIRKLEY TO DISCUSS THE 121<sup>ST</sup> STREET BRIDGE PROJECT**

Judge Douglas Kirkley requested an update on the 121<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge Project. He specifically wanted the latest report on acquiring rights of way; whether bids have been reviewed; who is overseeing the project; and whether condemnation proceedings are being finalized. Furthermore, Judge Kirkley wanted to know how long the City plans to negotiate with property owners in obtaining the rights of way and how long before the City takes the route of condemnation. He asked if the majority of the Council were in favor of condemnation.

Mayor Hogue and Julie Castten stated that if nothing has happened in obtaining the rights of way by the next Council meeting then something will be placed on that agenda.

While Mayor Hogue expressed that she would be willing for condemnation if a resolution with the property owners could not be reached, the City Attorney advised that the Council could not vote on that until an item is on the agenda to do so.

**VIII. CONSENT**

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve the consent calendar items:

**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

1. Approval of the minutes of the Coweta City Council regular meeting held on December 1, 2025.
2. Approval of Resolution 2026-01 supporting the 2026 OneVoice regional legislative agenda; urging state and federal legislators to consider issues identified in the OneVoice agenda.
3. Confirmation of the Appointment of Tim Ahlstrom to the Coweta Planning Commission and the Board of adjustment by the Mayor of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma for an unexpired term that ends June 1, 2027.
4. Confirmation of the Appointment of Jennifer Curtis to the Coweta Planning Commission and the Board of adjustment by the Mayor of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma for an unexpired term that ends June 1, 2026.
5. Confirmation of the Appointment of Kathy Foster to serve as Alternate #1 on the Coweta Planning Commission and the Board of adjustment by the Mayor of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma, for an unexpired term that ends June 1, 2028.
6. Acknowledgement of receipt of the following construction permits issued by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental; Quality:
  - a) Permit No. SL000073250823 issued on December 12, 2025, for construction of 4,7163 linear feet of eight-inch (8”) PVC gravity sanitary sewer line and all appurtenances to serve The Woods Phase VI Blocks 32-35, Facility No. S-20410.
  - b) Permit No. SL000073250840 issued on December 12, 2025, for construction of 3,487 linear feet of eight-inch (8”) PVC gravity sanitary sewer line and all appurtenances to serve Lancaster Park- Phase II, Facility No. S-20410.
  - c) General Permit No. OKLAA250022/OPDES Permit No. OK0045845 issued on December 16, 2025 for the one-time land application of residuals removed from the Water Treatment Plant reservoir, Facility No. W-21506.
  - d) Permit No. SL000073250754 issued on December 23, 2025 for the construction of one (1) 100 GPM lift station rehabilitation and all appurtenances to serve the List Station Rehabilitation at East 141<sup>st</sup> Street South and South 267<sup>th</sup> East Avenue, Facility No. S-20410.
7. Approval of the adoption of Resolution 2025-03, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coweta, adopting amendments to the annual appropriations for the budget of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma, for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026; appropriating \$14,940 in the Library Fund from State Aid received from the Oklahoma DEPARTMENT OF Libraries for books and program supplies.

Aye: Naomi Hogue  
Jeremy Barnett

**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

Daniel Beatie  
Joshua Wilburn  
Donald Vieth

**IX. CONSIDER ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

No items removed.

**X. ADMINISTRATION**

**1. REQUEST BY S. ALLEN PRATHER TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ABOUT THE NUMEROUS REASONS THE EMPLOYMENT OF JULIE CASTEEN WITH THE CITY OF COWETA SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY TERMINATED**

S. Allen Prather presented to the Coweta City Council reasons he felt that the City Manager Julie Casteen should be immediately terminated.

Comments from other citizens in the audience were also received.

No action taken by Council.

**2. AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LAW**

Discuss and consider approval of a Letter of Engagement with the Center of Economic Development Law for legal assistance in drafting a Development Agreement related to the Tax Increment District (TID) for Project Atlas.

**3. RESOLUTION 2025-45 REGARDING BUDGET AMENDMENTS (TABLED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING)**

Discuss and consider the approval of Resolution 2025-45, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Coweta, adopting amendments to the annual appropriations for the budget of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma, for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026; appropriating \$50,000 in the General Fund from unencumbered fund balance for legal services to be provided by the Center for Economic Development Law.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to table both Item #2 and #3 to the next City Council meeting scheduled for February 2, 2026.

Aye: Naomi Hogue  
Jeremy Barnett  
Daniel Beatie  
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**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

**4. ORDINANCE 912- CONCEALED CARRY AUTHORIZATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND MUNICIPAL JUDGES**

Julie Casteen led discussion and requested possible action related to the adoption of an ordinance of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma amending Coweta City Code Title 7, “Offenses and Crimes”, Chapter 7-9, “Weapons Control”, by adding a new Section 7-2-5, titled “Concealed Carry Authorizations”; authorizing City elected officials and municipal judges to carry a concealed firearm in certain circumstances and locations; providing for severability, and declaring an emergency.

Vice Mayor Barnett requested feedback from the audience.

Motion by Jeremy Barnett, second by Naomi Hogue to table this item to the next City Council meeting scheduled for February 2, 2026, pending further discussion.

Aye: Jeremy Barnett  
Naomi Hogue  
Daniel Beatie  
Joshua Wilburn  
Donald Vieth

**5. RESOLUTION 2026-02 ACCEPTING 273<sup>RD</sup> EAST AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

Julie Casteen led discussion and requested possible action related to adoption of Resolution 2026-02, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Coweta, accepting roadway improvements to South 273<sup>rd</sup> East Avenue as public property, located within the Roland Coweta Tract, Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 15 East, of the Indian Base and Meridian, Wagoner County, State of Oklahoma.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve the adoption of Resolution 2026-02, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Coweta, accepting roadway improvements to South 273<sup>rd</sup> East Avenue as public property, located within the Roland Coweta Tract, Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 15 East, of the Indian Base and Meridian, Wagoner County, State of Oklahoma.

Aye: Naomi Hogue  
Jeremy Barnett  
Daniel Beatie  
Joshua Wilburn  
Donald Vieth

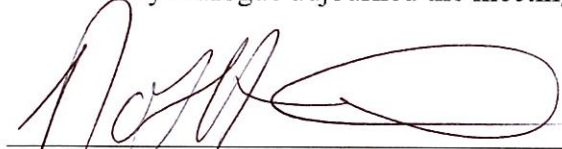
MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hogue adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

  
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Naomi Hogue, Mayor

  
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Marcy Kilgore, City Clerk

