

**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2026, 6:03 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, March 2, 2026, at 6:03 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 announced that the casino is officially open today and it was a beautiful facility. She also encouraged everyone to be weather aware that it was starting to get warmer and there would be more children out playing.

**V. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

**1. NEW HIRES**

The City Manager welcomed new hires, Dustin Grimm, Streets Maintenance Worker, Erika Lainson, Animal Control Officer, Calissa French, Utility Billing Clerk, William Elliott, Police Officer Trainee, and Christopher McHenry, Communications Manager.

**2. PROJECT UPDATES**

- **Police Station:** The building pad is complete, and footings for the building are ready to be poured.
- **Fire Station No. 1:** Trees and foundation from the original building are being removed from the site, and equipment is being moved from the Police Station site to begin dirt work.
- **121<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge:** Voluntary agreements have been secured with the property owners for the right-of-way acquisitions needed to advance the widening project.

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Work is already underway to demolish the old structure; the next phase involves relocating utilities that are in the newly acquired right-of-way. Once the relocation schedule has been finalized, the project will then proceed to bidding and construction.

- **257<sup>th</sup> Est Avenue (Midway Road):** Multiple water leaks from the Rural Water District 4 system have temporarily stopped construction. Work will continue after the repairs are complete and the contractor can re-mobilize.
- **Water Treatment Plant Dredging Project:** This project to dredge the pre-treatment reservoir and remove trees and heavy vegetation from the perimeter is well ahead of schedule. Work is expected to be completed in May or June.
- **Skyview Water Tower Project:** Sandblasting is complete. The piping work is underway, and the tower is being prepped for painting to begin soon.
- **Wastewater Plant Improvement:** Work is behind schedule; the contractor is working on a plan for a revised completion date for us to submit to ODEQ. Any ODEQ fines resulting from the delay will be offset by daily penalties to the contractor.

**3. Quarterly Financial Report FY26 Q2:** The City Manager gave a brief outline of the quarterly financial report for Quarter 2 for FY2026.

No action taken by Council.

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

**1. LETTER FROM THE OKLAHOMA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY (OHFA)-  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT  
DEVELOPMENT**

Julie Casteen read aloud a letter that was received by the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) about the Notice of Application for Affordable Housing Tax Credit Development.

No action taken by Council.

**VII. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. REQUEST FROM ALLEN PRATHER TO ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR  
ACCOUNTABILITY REGARDING MISMANAGEMENT OF PERSONAL  
INFORMATION BY THE CITY OF COWETA, THE TRANSFER OF PERSONAL  
INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES, MALICIOUS INTENT BY THE CITY  
MANAGER WITH REGARD TO HANDLING PERSONAL INFORMATION,**

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**IMPROPRIETIES OF THE CITY MANAGER REGARDING THE DATA CENTER AND THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE CITY OF COWETA.**

Allen Prather spoke of command climate and the City Manager and Councilmembers lying about the purpose of annexation as well as unethical bias.

Prather stated that when he submitted an open records request on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, he did not consent to giving his personal information to any third parties. Furthermore, he pointed out that in one of his open records requests submitted to the city, he asked how many generators were going to be used in the proposed data center and has yet to receive an answer. He stated that with his own research he concluded that the number was somewhere between 130 and 200 industrial sized generators.

Mr. Prather also asked why information was being withheld from citizens and why Casteen was keeping Councilmembers in the dark regarding the proposed data center. He asked what else Beale and the City Manager was hiding and concluded that Julie Cateen, Naomi Hogue, and Jeremy Barnett were no longer wanted and were simply taking up space where trustworthy members could be.

Jimmy Rothrock added that Mrs. Casteen should be immediately terminated and that she misused the public's personal information. He warned the Councilmembers of open meeting violations and stated that said violations have been turned into the District Attorney.

Doug Longnecker spoke about command climate and corporate culture. He discussed Enron, AT&T, and Blue Owl, pointing out that Beale is a small piece of Blue Owl.

Mr. Longnecker offered that with a TID, TIF, or others alike, the city would not get any money, and it would be a waste of time.

Jackie Prather introduced herself as a moderator for the Coweta Chit Chat Facebook page and stated that she would never intentionally "out" someone who posted anonymously. She further commented that she has always tried to protect someone's right to be anonymous and that "outing" someone only puts them in danger.

She stated that within the Say No to Coweta Data Center group, members have never once said people cannot have differing opinions.

Mrs. Prather pointed to how Vice Mayor Barnett had commented on social media about bullying and added that he cannot or at least should not try to silence one side or the other.

She commented that she will not be advised to speak only when spoken to.

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Jeremy Barnett stated that he wanted mutual respect and that he does not want to “out” anyone. He added that social media is challenging and that he apologized if he ever came across as wanting to silence anyone, it was not his intention.

He thanked Jackie for her comments and stated he did have respect for her.

**2. REQUEST FROM DARREN BLANCHARD TO ADDRESS COUNCIL AND GIVE A REVIEW OF INTERNAL RECORDS FOR PROJECT ATLAS VIA VISUAL SLIDES**

Darren Blanchard asked the City Council why the City of Coweta does not have a fully executed NDA for Julie Casteen, citing it was willful neglect. He pointed to the confidentiality agreements on file for Naomi Hogue and Jeremy Barnett.

Mr. Blanchard stated that the City of Coweta has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public.

He suggested that Beale has misguided the public and wants to know what else the company may be lying about.

Blanchard also spoke of Darla Heler with Wagoner County Economic Development. He offered that findings from one of his open records requests shows an email from Ms. Heller commenting about the Beale Infrastructure Open House and hoping the rain would keep attendance low.

Mr. Rothrock commented that Naomi Hogue should recuse herself from the Data Center vote. He expressed that in light of Jeremy Barnett’s comments on social media and acting in a self-righteous manner, he should also recuse himself.

No action taken by Council on ether presentation.

**VIII. CONSENT**

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the Coweta City Council regular meeting held on February 2, 2026.
2. Approval of the Declaration of Surplus on the following items and authorizing the City Manager to dispose of them accordingly:
  1. Audio Equipment for City Council Chambers

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3. Approval of an Authorized Representatives Certificate listing Naomi Hogue, Mayor, and Marcy Kilgore, City Clerk as authorized to execute requisitions for ARPA grant funds from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board

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

**IX. CONSIDER ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

No items removed.

**X. ADMINISTRATION**

**1. FY2026-2027 BUDGET CALENDAR AND BUDGET PROCESS**

Julie Casteen led discussion about the FY2026-2027 Budget Process and requested possible action related to the approval of the FY2026-2027 Budget Calendar for the City of Coweta.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve the FY2026-2027 Budget Calendar for the City of Coweta

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

**2. WSB STORMWATER SERVICES CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,000 TO BE PAID FROM THE STREETS DEPARTMENT, ACCOUNT 01-5325.015**

Public Works Director Edgar Barroso led discussion and requested possible action related to the approval to enter into a professional services agreement with WSB, LLC for \$49,000 related to Stormwater Management services to be paid from account 01-5325.015.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve entering into a professional services agreement with WSB, LLC for \$49,000 related to Stormwater Management services to be paid from account 01-5325.015.

Aye: Naomi Hogue  
Jeremy Barnett

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**3. RESOLUTION 2026-05 REGARDING BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Julie Casteen led discussion and requested possible action related to the adoption of Resolution 2026-05, 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 stormwater consulting services and other miscellaneous stormwater expenditures.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve the adoption of Resolution 2026-05- 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 stormwater consulting services and other miscellaneous stormwater expenditures.

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

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Consider a motion and vote to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment of the City Manager, Julie Casteen, and specifically to permit the City Council to conduct the annual evaluation as provided for in the City Manager’s Employment Agreement and take appropriate action in open session regarding her employment and contract as allowed under 25 O.S. Section 307(B)(1).

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to enter into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss the employment of the City Manager, Julie Casteen, and specifically to permit the City Council to conduct the annual evaluation as provided for in the City Manager’s Employment Agreement and take appropriate action in open session regarding her employment and contract as allowed under 25 O.S. Section 307(B)(1).

Aye: Naomi Hogue

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Jeremy Barnett  
Daniel Beatie  
Joshua Wilburn  
Donald Vieth

**2. END EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Exit the Executive Session to discuss and possibly take action to approve the amended and restated City Manager Employment Agreement.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to end Executive session at 8:49 p.m. and take appropriate action in open session regarding the amendment and restated City Manager's employment agreement.

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

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve a 3.5% COLA and an increase of vacation accrual to 280 hours maximum.

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

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Hogue adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

  
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Naomi Hogue, Mayor

  
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Marcy Kilgore, City Clerk

