

**MINUTES OF THE COWETA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

The agenda for this meeting was posted at least 48 hours prior to the start of this meeting at the entrance of City Hall, 310 S Broadway, Coweta, OK and 31850 SH-51, Building B, Coweta, OK

The members of the Coweta City Council met in special session on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Indian Capital Technology Center (ICTC), 31850 SH-51, Building B, 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

No comments were made by City Council.

V. CITY MANAGER REPORT

1. NEW HIRES

City Manager Julie Casteen welcomed new hires Hannah Crosswhite, Library Assistant; Elijah Dodson, Hydro truck Driver; Kellsie Davis, Police Officer; and Luis Flores, Civil Infrastructure Inspector.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Police Station:** The project is moving along on schedule. The communications tower bids will be opened on April 22, 2026.
- **Fire Station No. 1:** Testing is still underway on the soils at the project site. Remediation is anticipated, with any costs to come from allowances and contingencies.
- **121st Street Bridge:** Utility relocations are in progress. Once the relocation schedule has been finalized, the project will then proceed to bidding and construction. Construction time is anticipated to be four to five months.

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- **257th Est Avenue (Midway Road):** The contractor has remobilized after multiple water leaks were repaired. This project is expected to be completed in May or June of 2026.
- **Water Treatment Plant Dredging Project:** This project is substantially completed and will be accepted at a future meeting.
- **Skyview Water Tower Project:** DEQ has been notified that the April 1 deadline was missed due to freezing temperatures in March, but the project should be completed in about two weeks.
- **Wastewater Plant Improvement:** The City Manager is working with DEQ to update the construction schedule, which is anticipated to be August or September of 2026. Any ODEQ fines resulting from the delay will be offset by daily penalties to the contractor.
- **Turnpike Interchange:** The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is advancing plans for a new interchange on the Muskogee Turnpike near 101st Street South and Oak Grove Road. Access between SH-51 and the Muskogee Turnpike will be provided by a connector road to be constructed by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). ODOT anticipates letting the connector road project in August. The proposed connector will be located along SH-51 between 111th Street South and 257th East Avenue, just north of Our Finest Hour Church.
- **Traffic Signals at SH-51 and 116th Street South:** Following a meeting with ODOT last week, we learned that the traffic signals at SH-51 and 116th Street South near RCB Bank are currently scheduled to be activated in conjunction with completion of the new connector road to the turnpike interchange. Encouragingly, the upcoming opening of the new Police Station may provide an opportunity to accelerate that timeline, allowing for potential earlier signal activation.

3. TRASH OFF SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH AT THE COWETA SPORTS COMPLEX

Julie Casteen announced the plan to delay the trash off event to another date due to athletic league games and tournaments already being scheduled during that time.

Joshua Wilburn thanked the City Manager for consideration in moving the event to another date and stated that it meant a lot to him and the community.

No action taken by Council.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK.

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Police Chief Mike Bell led discussion and requested possible action on approving and authorizing the mayor to sign a proclamation dedicating the week beginning April 12, 2026 as “National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.”

Mayor Naomi Hogue declared and signed proclamation making the week beginning April 12, 2026 to be “National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.”

2. PRESENTATION TO OFFICERS FOR THE LIFE SAVING AWARD

Mike Bell presented the Life Saving award to Officer Matthew Rice and Wagoner County Deputy Lawrence.

3. LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Mike Bell presented a letter of commendation to Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Lawmaster.

VII. 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 March 2, 2026.
2. Approval of the Declaration of Surplus on the following items and authorizing the City Manager to dispose of them accordingly:
 1. Hurst Jaws of Life Rescue System
 2. CAT RP 3600 generator
 3. Phoenix Mosquito Fogger
3. Adoption of Resolution 2026-08, 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 \$396,697 in the Grants Fund from Fund Balance previously reserved for purchase orders and projects that remained open from the prior fiscal year to be paid in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

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

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VIII. CONSIDER ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

No items removed.

IX. ADMINISTRATION

1. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CZ 26-01 REZONE- REZONING PROPERTY FROM AG TO RS-3 LOCATED ON 301ST STREET EAST AT 141ST STREET

A public hearing to receive public comment on CZ 26-01, a request by property owner, Jessica Morris, to change the zoning on described property from Agriculture (AG) to Residential Single Family (RS-3) consisting of approximately 1.07 acres, located in the S/2 SE/4 of Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 16 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Wagoner County, State of Oklahoma according to the United States Government Survey thereof, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point 1241.25 feet East and 208.75 feet North of the Southwest corner of SE/4 of Section; thence North 223.25 feet; thence East 208.75 feet; thence South 223.25 feet; thence West 208.75 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to open the public hearing to receive public comment at 6:17 p.m.

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

Jessica Zwirtz, Community Director led discussion and requested possible action related to the approval of CZ 26-01, a request by property owner, Jessica Morris, to change the zoning on described property from Agriculture (AG) to Residential Single Family (RS-3) consisting of approximately 1.07 acres, located in the S/2 SE/4 of Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 16 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Wagoner County, State of Oklahoma according to the United States Government Survey thereof, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point 1241.25 feet East and 208.75 feet North of the Southwest corner of SE/4 of Section; thence North 223.25 feet; thence East 208.75 feet; thence South 223.25 feet; thence West 208.75 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Councilmember Donald Vieth asked if the property owner, Jessica Morris, was in attendance acting on behalf of the Planning Commission at the meeting held on March 16, 2026 when the Commission approved CZ-26-01.

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Jessica Zwirtz stated Jessica Morris was not in attendance of the March 16, 2026, Planning Commission meeting.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to close the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

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

2. ORDINANCE 914- CZ 26-01 REZONE - REZONING PROPERTY FROM AG TO RS-3 LOCATED ON 301ST STREET EAST AT 141ST STREET

Jessica Zwirtz, Community Director led discussion and requested possible action related to the approval with conditions or denial of CZ 26-01, a request by property owner, Jessica Morris, to change the zoning on described property from Agriculture (AG) to Residential Single Family (RS-3) consisting of approximately 1.07 acres, located in the S/2 SE/4 of Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 16 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Wagoner County, State of Oklahoma according to the United States Government Survey thereof, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point 1241.25 feet East and 208.75 feet North of the Southwest corner of SE/4 of Section; thence North 223.25 feet; thence East 208.75 feet; thence South 223.25 feet; thence West 208.75 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve adopt Ordinance 914- CZ 26-01, a request from the property owner, Jessica Morris, to change the zoning on described property from Agriculture (AG) to Residential Single Family (RS-3) consisting of approximately 1.07 acres, located in the S/2 SE/4 of Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 16 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Wagoner County, State of Oklahoma according to the United States Government Survey thereof, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point 1241.25 feet East and 208.75 feet North of the Southwest corner of SE/4 of Section; thence North 223.25 feet; thence East 208.75 feet; thence South 223.25 feet; thence West 208.75 feet to the Point of Beginning.

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

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3. EMERGENCY STREET REPAIRS TO THE 111TH STREET BRIDGE BETWEEN 278TH EAST AVENUE AND 280TH EAST AVENUE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$74,900

Edgar Barros, Public Works Director led discussion and requested possible action related to the approval of the reconstruction of the 111th Street bridge between 278th East Avenue and 280th East Avenue for a cost not to exceed \$74,900, to be paid for the Capital Improvements fund, account 12-5411.015.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve the reconstruction of the 111th Street bridge between 278th East Avenue and 280th East Avenue for a cost not to exceed \$74,900, to be paid for the Capital Improvements fund, account 12-5411.015.

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

4. RESOLUTION 2026-09 REGARDING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Julie Casteen led discussion and requested possible action related to the approval of Resolution 2026-09, 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 \$74,900 in the Capital Improvement Fund from unencumbered Fund Balance for the reconstruction of the 111th Street bridge between 278th East Avenue and 280th East Avenue in Coweta, Oklahoma.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve the adoption of Resolution 2026-09, 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 \$74,900 in the Capital Improvement Fund from unencumbered Fund Balance for the reconstruction of the 111th Street bridge between 278th East Avenue and 280th East Avenue in Coweta, Oklahoma.

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

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5. GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE INCOG ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Julie Casteen led discussion and requested possible action related to the adoption of Resolution 2026-07, Resolution 2026-07, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma, authorizing application for the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant program and authorize the mayor to execute all necessary documents related to the grant application.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve the adoption of Resolution 2026-07, Resolution 2026-07, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coweta, Oklahoma, authorizing application for the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant program and authorize the mayor to execute all necessary documents related to the grant application.

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

6. BEER IN THE PARK PERMIT REQUEST BY COWETA YOUTH SPORTS

Julie Casteen led discussion and requested possible action related to the approval of a permit for Beer in the Park for an adult softball league at the Coweta Sports Complex.

Motion by Naomi Hogue, second by Jeremy Barnett to approve a permit for Beer in the Park for an adult softball league at the Coweta Sports Complex.

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

7. REQUEST BY CATHIE HOGATE TO DISCUSS A REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OR TERMINATION OF THE CITY MANAGER JULIE CASTEEN

Cathy Hogate addressed the City Council requesting for the resignation or termination of the City Manager Julie Casteen.

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Ms. Hogate stated that she wanted what was best for the City and expressed concerns about safety and growth within the community. She also mentioned that she felt that trust, faith, and communication have been broken. She said that citizens are rising up and are ready for a change. It was urged that the City Manager resign or the City Council terminates the employment of Julie Casteen.

Naomi Hogue asked Cathy Hogate if she was a resident within the City of Coweta and Ms. Hogate stated she was.

No action taken by Council.

8. REQUEST BY ALLEN PRATHER TO DISCUSS NEFARIOUS ACTIONS, QUOTES, AND COINCIDENCES REGARDING THE FAILED PROJECT ATLAS DEBACLE, AND APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF OKLAHOMA LAW, THE OPEN RECORDS ACT, CITY CODE OF CONDUCT, AND PUBLIC TRUST.

Mr. Prather addressed the City Council pointing out accusations of code of conduct violations, concerns with the loss of trust in the City Council, and why the audit has not been completed.

He asked the Council to redeem themselves by picking a reason and terminate the employment of Julie Casteen.

Naomi Hogue asked Mr. Prather if he lived inside City limits.

Allen Prather responded that he did not.

City Attorney Partick Boulden asked Mr. Prather to provide a copy of all things he considers to be violations.

Other comments were received from the public relating to the lack of compassion from Julie Casteen, questions of alternative reasons why Mrs. Casteen was pushing for the data center, statements telling Council to follow the money and follow the current problems. Citizens called again for the resignation of Julie Casteen and comments the citizens are awake and watching.

Everyone speaking on this item was asked by Naomi Hogue if they lived within the City limits.

No action was taken by Council.

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**9. REQUEST BY JIMMY ROTHROCK TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING
TEXT MESSAGE COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

Naomi Hogue asked Mr. Rothrock if he lived within the city limits.

Jimmy Rothrock replied that he did not, but that his family has lived in the community for many years and that this is where he does a big part of his shopping. He reads aloud the job description of the City Council and the City Manager. Concerns were expressed about complacency, respect, honesty and integrity.

Mr. Rothrock points out a lack of empathy coming from the Mayor and City Manager. He expresses that there is a direct conflict of interest involving the data center, and he asks that they both resign or that the Council terminates Casteen's employment with the City.

No action was taken by the Council.

**10. REQUEST BY DARREN BLANCHARD TO ADDRESS COUNCIL
REGARDING TEXT MESSAGE COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

Darren Blanchard was asked by Naomi Hogue if he lived within the city limits and he responded that he did not but that he was a resident of the State of Oklahoma.

Mr. Blanchard thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak tonight and the past opportunities as well. He said he was not here to cause a scene but rather to be a voice in the community.

Darren Blanchard stated that the City Manager called him a liar and expressed concern with open records requests not being fully filled. Instead has only received a sample of what he has requested. He has been asked to narrow the scope. Texts messages have been produced where it is shown that the City Manager has called residents of Coweta stupid or not very smart.

Other comments received by the public regarding this item include that the Council have been aware of this type of behavior but have done nothing, statements that the Council is just as guilty as the City Manager.

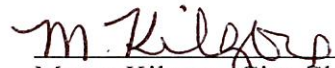
No action was taken by the City Council.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hogue adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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Naomi Hogue, Mayor

Marcy Kilgore, City Clerk