

Westmoreland City Council
September 11, 2025 Minutes

Governing Body members present: Councilmembers, Jim Smith, Bruce Meininger, Michelle Campbell, and Jessi Kincaid; Mayor Ashley Rice.

City Staff present: Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn; City Treasurer, Amy Reed; and City Clerk, Julie Wren

City Staff Absent: Councilmember John Coleman; City Attorney; Summer Dierks.

Others present: The Times; Lily Hansen, Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Inc; David Arteberry, Residents; Pat and Natha Manges-Burns, PTSO; Dale Rice, County Commissioners; Gary Yenzler and Terry Force.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Ashley Rice called the RNR Public Hearing meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Rice called for public comment once, twice, three times with no comments.

Motion: Smith moved to pass Resolution 03-25 to exceed Revenue Neutral Rate. Kincaid seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Rice took the Roll Call Vote as required by State HB 2239. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Jim Smith- Yes
Bruce Meininger- Yes
Michelle Campbell- Yes
Jessica Kincaid- Yes

The Roll Call Vote Form was attested by the City Clerk.

Hearing was closed at 6:31 p.m.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Ashley Rice called the 2026 Budget meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Rice called for public comment once, twice, three times with no comments.

Motion: Smith moved to approve the 2026 Budget. Kincaid seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Hearing was closed at 6:33 p.m.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Ashley Rice called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Agenda: Mayor Rice said that D.2) Adopting resolution, the number needed to change to 05-25.

Motion: Kincaid moved to approve the amended agenda. Smith seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Consent Items: Motion: Meininger moved to approve the consent items. Smith seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Public comments on non-agenda items: Terry Force introduced himself and let the Council know to reach out if needing anything.

NEW BUSINESS-

Review of Bids for Temporary Notes:

Proposals		
Bank	Interest Rate (%)	Total Interest Cost (\$)
1. Bennington State Bank	3.570%	\$209,886.25
2. Farmers State Bank	4.250%	\$249,864.58
3. GNBank	4.670%	\$274,557.08

Awarding bid goes to Bennington State Bank with interest rate of 3.570%

Review the debt limit and adopting Resolution 05-25- Sales of Bonds:

David Arteberry explained the reason the name is being changed from "temporary notes" to "bonds" has to do with the City's debt limit pursuant to Kansas law.

With a few exemptions, cities in Kansas are limited to issuing general obligation debt (bonds and notes) in an amount not exceeding 30% of their assessed valuation. If the City of Westmoreland issues temporary notes right now and in a few years retires the notes with a long-term bond issue then both the notes and, when issued, the bonds will count against the City's statutory debt limit. Given the \$1,500,000 pool project and the size of the City's tax base, this means that the City will have limited ability to issue general obligation bonds or notes for future projects until the pool debt is gradually repaid over time.

One of the exemptions from the 30% debt limit is for bonds that are issued to refinance outstanding bonds. This means, according to Kutak Rock, that if the City issues short-term bonds now for the pool project and in a few years, retires the bonds with a long-term bond issue, then the first bond issue will count against the City's debt limit, but the second bond issue will not. This would allow the City to recoup its entire 30% debt capacity when the second series of bonds are issued. This would leave the City in a much better position to address future borrowing needs that might arise.

A special meeting will be held September 24 at City Hall to pass a Bond Ordinance with authorizing the issuance of \$1,500,000 of GO Sales Tax Bonds and pass a Bond Resolution that provides the form and details for the bonds.

Motion: Meininger moved to approve Resolution 05-25- sales of bonds. Smith seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Old Business:

Natha Manges-Burns regarding cemetery- Last meeting Natha asked Council if she could replace a foot monument with a raised monument. After brief discussion, Council was against it due to it being against the rules in the Resolution.

Fee Schedule: Council decided to discuss further next meeting. Summer suggested passing a Resolution and changing verbiage in all ordinances dealing with fees all at once.

Future agenda items: Fee Schedule,

Reports:

Treasurer: Shared with the Council the current payouts from FEMA.

Maintenance Report: Robert mentioned a Furnace/AC for the shop and mini split heat/ac for the shop office and bathroom. The cost is around \$15,800.

Motion: Meininger moved to approve Robert to purchase a Furnace/AC for the shop and mini split heat/ac for the shop office and bathroom. Smith seconded; motion carried 4-0

Clerk's Report: Trash needs to be out to bid. It was suggested to be opened before the regular meeting then award at regular meeting. Also suggested putting on the bid sheet 1, 2 and 3 year contract prices. Council decided to have the Bids due October 6th, Special meeting the 6th at 4:45 pm at City Hall, then award at the regular meeting on the 9th.

Streets- Meininger had nothing to report.

Utilities- Coleman was absent.

Animal Control- Smith had nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning- Smith had nothing to report.

Pool- Campbell had nothing to report.

Cemetery- Kincaid had nothing to report.

Parks- Kincaid had nothing to report.

Fire Department- Smith had nothing to report.

Flint Hills Regional Council- Campbell had nothing to report.

Mayor- Rice had nothing to report.

Attorney Dierks- Dierks was absent.

There being no further business.

Motion: Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Meninger seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Rice declared the meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Approved by the Governing Body on October 9, 2025.

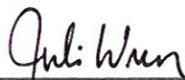
Signed: _____



Bruce Meininger, Council President

ATTEST:

Signed: _____



Julie Wren, City Clerk

