



**MINUTES OF MISSION WOODS CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

The City Council of Mission Woods, Kansas met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, in person at Westwood City Hall.

Call to Order

Erica Hartley called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Councilmember Roll Call

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| Present: | Keith Mays | Absent: None |
| | Leslie Carto | |
| | Paul Hartley | |
| | Dan Sweeney | |
| | Leslie Carto | |
| | Ramsey Mohsen (6:46 to 7:05 p.m.) | |
| | Erica Hartley, Mayor | |

Quorum was established.

Others present: Jeff Deane (City Attorney), Chief Curt Mansel, Blaine Stroble (Kansas Forestry), and residents Mike and Kathy Henley, Carroll Thomas, Blake Griffith

Review and Approval of Minutes

Mayor Hartley asked for any questions regarding the March 3, 2026, minutes. There were no questions regarding the minutes, and Mayor Hartley asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 3, 2026 regular meeting. Motion to approve minutes was made by Councilmember Carto and seconded by Councilmember Sweeney. A voice vote was had, and the motion was approved, 4-0, Councilmember Mohsen was absent.

Review and Approval of Warrants

Mayor Hartley asked if there were any questions on the warrants. After a brief discussion regarding Every, a Motion to approve the warrants was made by Councilmember Sweeney and seconded by Councilmember Carto. A voice vote was had, and the motion was approved, 4-0, Councilmember Mohsen was absent.

Review of Police Report

Counsel reviewed and discussed the report distributed.

There was discussion on the Shawnee Mission Parkway traffic study and KDOT. They are waiting on report from the KDOT's consultants.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Hartley introduced Blaine Stroble, Northeast District Community Forester, to the Council. Councilmember Hartley recapped last month's discussions regarding the City's trees.

- **Review of proposed Tree Ordinance Language (Jeff Deane)**

Mr. Deane summarized the draft of the proposed tree ordinance. Mayor Hartley shared that a tree ordinance needed to be in place and when a tree board was established, it could be amended. Mayor Hartley also stated with the age of the trees, a major windstorm, etc. this will give more clear-cut rules and guidelines on the City's responsibility.

- **Update on Proposed Tree Board-Kansas Forestry Service**

Blaine Stroble, Northeast District Community Forester, provided information on what the Kansas Forestry Service provides. He stated their role is to provide resource and guidance. He stated that adopting an ordinance is very important. He shared what the most common regulations most City's ordinances contained and stated that is where a tree board comes in.

He stated that the Kansas Forestry Services helps administer Tree City USA, which includes over 88 communities. Mr. Stroble discussed the requirements for membership for Tree City USA, which are:

- Tree Board must be established
- Arbor Day Celebration and Proclamation
- \$2 per capita needs to be spent on a community forestry program
- A tree ordinance

He stated his role was to make sure the City achieves the above. He also shared that other services they provide, which are completely free.

Mr. Stroble stated that the service includes an inventory, which consists of:

- All trees in the right of ways trees that impact the roadway – will walk each street, GPS locate and mark each tree
- Identify the species of the trees and do an overall assessment
- Recording size, height, condition, light use
- Rate the condition of the trees – Good, Fair, Poor and Dead
- Make recommendations on the species and diversity of the trees that work well in the area
- Develop a pruning cycle
- Provide a report

Mr. Stroble stated that inventory does not take a lot of time. Usually takes two or three hours.

New Business

- **Fence Variance request – 2100 51st St. - Staff report prepared by Michael McCoy, Codes Administrator. Presented by Mayor; Council to vote on the variance request**

Mayor Hartley telephoned Councilmember Mohsen so he could be in attendance to hear this variance request. Councilmember Mohsen answered and identified himself. Mayor Hartley stated a variance was requested from residents at 2100 and 2109 W. 51st Street to

install an 8-foot privacy fence at the rear of their property, which backs up to the Pembroke school and Karbank. Councilmember. Mayor Hartley pulled up a map of what is being requested on the screen for the Council to see for visualization. Mayor Hartley shared current fencing heights code – four feet in front of house and six feet in back of house. Any request for a fence higher than six feet needs a variance. Residents are requesting an eight-foot fence on the property lines at the back of the houses, which is a wooded area. Mayor Hartley asked the residents to share the reason for asking for the variance. It was stated a 60-foot tower was going to go up and a building being remodeled, which could take approximately 2 years. Mayor Hartley read the staff report that was prepared by Michael McCoy, wherein he would approve the variance with the exception of the portion where a six-foot fence would be built. Resident explained that the fence would start at eight foot, then go down to six and then 4 feet so it would flow better. Mayor Hartley stated that she sent the request to ARB for them to look at it. There was additional discussion on the variance.

Mayor Hartley asked for a Motion to approve the fence variance. Motion to approve the variance as per staff report with resident’s revision was made by Councilmember Carto and seconded by Councilmember Mohsen. A roll call vote was had; Councilmembers Mays, Carto, Sweeney, Mohsen and P. Hartley voted in the affirmative and the motion was approved, 5-0.

After vote Councilmember Mohsen left the meeting.

Open to discussion from mayor, council members, and guests

Mayor Hartley stated she scheduled large item pickup for June 13.

Councilmember Hartley asked what they believe the tree board should look like – who and how many. Mayor Hartly responded they should look at Westwood’s tree board and see what they do. After discussion it was decided to look at what Westwood does. Mr. Deane stated it would be best to have an odd number on the board.

Motion to Adjourn

Having no further business, motion was made by Councilmember Carto and seconded by Councilmember Sweeney. A voice vote was had, and the motion was approved, 4-0, Councilmember Mohsen was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.