



**CITY OF LEAVENWORTH**  
100 N. 5th Street  
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

**City Commission Regular Meeting**  
**Commission Chambers**  
**Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:00 p.m.**

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**CALL TO ORDER** - The Governing Body met for a regular meeting and the following commission members were present in the commission chambers: Mayor Holly Pittman, Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Bauder, Commissioners Edd Hingula, Griff Martin and Jermaine Wilson.

**Staff members present:** City Manager Scott Peterson, Assistant City Manager Penny Holler, Finance Director Roberta Beier, Police Chief Patrick Kitchens, Public Works Director Brian Faust, Deputy Public Works Director Michael Stephan, Streets Foreman Becky Beaver, Solid Waste Equipment Operator 2 Robert Gilbert, City Attorney David E. Waters and City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner.

Mayor Pittman asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance followed by silent meditation.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month** - Mayor Pittman read the proclamation proclaiming the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation was accepted by Allison Burton with CASA.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month** - Mayor Pittman read the proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The proclamation was accepted by Christie Reed and Elaina Crenshaw with Alliance Against Family Violence.

**National Library Week** - Mayor Pittman read the proclamation proclaiming the week of April 6-12, 2025 as National Library Week. The proclamation was accepted by Leavenworth Library Director Matthew Nojonen.

**National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week** - Mayor Pittman read the proclamation proclaiming the week of April 13-19, 2025 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week. The proclamation was accepted by Police Chief Patrick Kitchens.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Commissioner Hingula moved to accept the minutes from the March 25, 2025 regular meeting. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Public Comment:** *(Public comment on non-agenda items or receipt of petitions- limited to 2-3 minutes)*

Richard Pfifer, No Address Provided:

- Is an Assistant Warden for CoreCivic Midwest
- Started back at CoreCivic in Leavenworth, loves Leavenworth

Rick Hamilton, 202 Fawn Valley Street:

- Proud of the actions of the City Commission
- Looking forward to the status hearing coming up

Sister Vickie Perkins, 517 Nipper Lane:

- Thanked the Commission for the stand they took with Corecivic

Tammy Reid, No Address Provided:

- Supports Corecivic
- Worked in corrections and has family still working in corrections
- Worked for CoreCivic for 24 years

Carla Wieggers, 530 Bittersweet, Lansing, KS:

- Excited when the city got a Big Brother Big Sisters in the community
- Dedicated to youth development and youth leadership
- Loves the concept and wants to be a mentor and contribute

William Rogers, 7362 Yecker Ave, KCKS:

- Thanked the Commission for listening to comments made by other patrons at the previous meeting

Rev. Tim Gray, 803 Blueberry Ct., Lansing, KS:

- Thanked the Commission for their efforts in continuing the conversation with CoreCivic
- Appreciate the time and energy spent
- Mentioned community's values
- Encourage everyone to think about what is CoreCivic providing to the community, but also making sure the employees and detainees are kept safe

## **General Items:**

### **Mayor's Appointments**

Mayor Pittman moved to appoint to the Convention & Tourism Committee John P. Hutchinson to an unexpired term ending January 31, 2027, appoint to the Leavenworth Planning Commission Dennis Hund to an unexpired term ending May 1, 2027, reappoint to the Leavenworth Preservation Commission Kenneth Bateman and Sherry Hines-Whitson to terms ending May 1, 2028, appoint to the Library Board Rebecca Kellogg to an unexpired term ending April 30, 2028, and appoint Melissa Davis and Erin Sack to terms ending April 30, 2029. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

**Consider Cereal Malt Beverage License for Bill's on 4<sup>th</sup> at 2205 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, #2** – City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner presented for consideration approving the issuance of a 2025 Cereal Malt Beverage (CMB) License to Bill's on 4th, located at 2205 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, #2. Bill's on 4<sup>th</sup>, a new restaurant, has submitted the application for an on premise consumption Cereal Malt Beverage License for their location in town. The Police Department has reviewed and approved the application.

Commissioner Martin moved to approve the issuance of a 2025 on premise consumption Cereal Malt Beverage License for Bill's on 4<sup>th</sup>, located at 2205 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, #2. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

#### **Staff Report:**

**Public Comment/Interaction During Meetings Discussion** – City Manager Scott Peterson lead a discussion with the City Commission regarding public comment and input at City Commission Meetings. Staff has recently received requests from commissioners to look into how the City handles public comment during regular City Commission meetings. We have also had a couple of moments in recent months where members of the public addressed the City Commission or staff during public comment and expected a response. These members of the public became frustrated when they did not receive any interaction from the Commission or Staff in the moment. Additional items discussed:

- Time limit – is three minutes sufficient for a member of the public to provide comment
- Group time limit – we currently ask that groups only have one representative come up to speak to allow for time. Should representatives for groups be given additional time to speak beyond that allowed for an individual?
- Public Comment during items on the current agenda – the officially designated public comment portion of the agenda only addresses members of the public wishing to speak on items not on the current agenda. The City does not specifically provide opportunities for members of the public to provide comment on items that are on the current agenda, although traditionally the Mayor has allowed members to comment when those agenda items are up for consideration. The Commission could consider providing clarity to the City's policy regarding when public comment will be allowed for items actually on the present agenda.
- Official City Policy – The City does not have an actual written policy for public comment. The Commission could also consider whether they want staff to put together a proposal for a written policy, or if the language the Mayor reads at the beginning of the meeting is sufficient.

Commissioners discussed the topic and heard from the City Attorney, David Waters from a legal standpoint. Multiple Commissioners were in favor of removing the caveat that public comment is only for items not on the agenda; if people come down they should be heard whether the item is on the agenda or not. All public comment will occur during public comment, no written policy, and time of 3 minutes is sufficient.

**Solid Waste Update and Discussion** – Public Works Director Brian Faust provided an update on refuse collection and lead a discussion on the future of refuse service. The City began enforcing new regulations regarding trash collection on July 31, 2023. These changes occurred after the delivery of the poly-carts and per recommendation from the Solid Waste Citizen's Task Force that were approved by the City Commission. The major changes were:

- Residents received a poly-cart (either 65- or 95-gallon) for their use. Residents had the option to opt out if they chose to.
- City would no longer provide trash bags.
- Residents could use the poly-cart and/or bags.
- The City would no longer pick up loose items (boxes/etc.).
- Large-item pickup would occur on Fridays with a limit of 2 items once/month per property.

Despite the changes, on-time residential collection has struggled. There are weeks when daily pickups are on time; however, there have been numerous occasions when pickup does not occur on the scheduled day. Usually the trash is collected the next day, but sometimes pickup may be delayed even longer. There are a number of factors for these delays:

- Weather – during significant winter events there were days that trash was not collected.
- Snow piled along the curb and narrow streets where plowed-in vehicles slowed collection.
- Holidays
- Equipment failures. While we have 6 trucks in the fleet, there are days when multiple trucks are out of service. Trash routes are hard on equipment – running 10 hours/day, constant start and stops, then highway miles to Shawnee and back.
- Staffing issues. At times we do not have enough drivers, but we have plenty of collectors and laborers. At other times we have enough drivers, but no one on the back of the truck.
- The majority of time we are not allowed to use the County's transfer station so trucks have to make the 2-hour round trip to the Shawnee landfill.
- While we are doing everything we can to make sure everyone knows the rules and that residents have options such as free first Saturdays and our recycling center, some properties haven't got the message. Some truly appear unaware of the changes while others appear to be 'working' the system to have any and everything collected. Staff is working through these challenges, but change can be difficult.

The two options for trash service moving forward are:

**1. Keep this a City service.**

- a. Keep funding and staffing at the current level. Continue to educate residents on what is and is not permitted with residential collection. At this point, staff feels that there will be only limited, if any, improvement in service. A local transfer station would help.
- b. Keep funding and staffing at the current level, but go to either biweekly collection or limit to polycart only or a hard limit on the number of bags.
- c. Provide additional staffing and equipment.
  - Maintaining full crews each day is challenging. Between injuries, sick days, no-calls, etc., it's rare that a week goes by with adequate staff.
  - We need 5 trucks running at all times – 4 on routes and 1 empty so drivers can stay on the route while empties are shuttled to the landfill. There will need to be a minimum of 2 additional trucks and 3 additional staff positions to make this work effectively.
  - The cost impact of this option is an increase in the 2026 rates by 11.3%. Current cost per household of \$19.89 in 2025 would increase to \$22.14 in 2026.

**2. Privatize part or all of this city service.**

- a. The City contracts with a service provider to provide all residential collection. The City of Lansing currently contracts with Waste Management for their service. Their rates, starting this June, will increase to approximately \$24 per household.
- b. The City requires each homeowner to contract with a private provider.
- c. Does the City keep recycling and the brush site? What about large-item pickup and free first Saturdays?

Commissioners discussed the topic and heard from the City Manager and Refuse Staff. Staff was requesting guidance in order to begin working on putting numbers and options together to bring back for further discussion with the Commission. The Commission requested numbers to give an idea of what the cost could be to build run/operate a transfer station and if we contracted out/leased to build and have contractor run the transfer station. Commissioners wanted to look at all options, to keep recycling and brush site and large pickup.

**Consent Agenda:**

Commissioner Martin moved to approve claims for March 21, 2025 through April 3, 2025, in the amount of \$1,712,487.75; Net amount for Payroll # 6 effective March 21, 2025 in the amount of \$436,381.39 (Includes Police & Fire Pension in the amount of \$7,753.58.) Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

**Other:**

City Manager Scott Peterson:

- Mentioned the joint City-County meeting, working on dates and an agenda

Commissioner Hingula:

- Wished Commissioner Bauder well on her upcoming surgery
- Thanked those who came to the meeting tonight and invited more people to come

Commissioner Wilson:

- God bless and have a great week
- Love your neighbors

Mayor Pittman:

- Invited everyone to the State of the City on April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Egg hunt on Saturday at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Bauder moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Time Meeting Adjourned 7:13 p.m.

Minutes taken by City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner, CMC