

April 29, 2026

Town Board: Mayor Kerry Barney, Kurt Sawyer, Gary Goble, Russell Riggs, and Grace Howard

Staff: Carly Burrows, Janell Barney

Public: Trudy Fagg, Verna Steed, Nikki Dinges, Jacie Torgerson, Kerri Justus, Sheriff Chad Justus, Jolene Riggs, Rachael Thompson, Duane Barnhurst, Debra Barnhurst, Merlin Barnhurst, Dallas Barnhurst, Sarah Barnhurst, Velta Scott, Brett Burrows, and Tyler Mackaben

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Kerry Barney called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Councilor Kurt Sawyer offered the opening prayer and then led those present in the pledge.

2. Approval of April 15, 2026 minutes

Councilor Sawyer motioned to accept the previous minutes Councilor Goble 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

3. Public Hearings

3.1 Water Contamination Discussion

The council reported that recent distribution-system samples tested positive for E. coli, while both wells remain clean. In coordination with state officials, the town has heavily chlorinated the tank and is flushing hydrants between approximately 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to reduce chlorine to testable levels while maintaining minimum service, is investigating possible cross-connections and valve/pressure issues in the system (with assistance from outside operators and a VAC truck), has issued a boil/bottled water advisory and arranged county-supplied emergency drinking water, and expects at least 1-1.5 more weeks before two consecutive clean tests can clear the system.

4. Petitions, Remonstrations and Communications

4.1 Emergency Response Plan

Council noted that the existing Emergency Response Plan was activated for the water incident, identified a gap regarding sheriff notification (now added), requested that the Sheriff, Chad review the plan for additional improvements after the incident, confirmed the plan is available in town records, and directed that council members review and sign the updated plan.

4.2 State of Emergency Resolution

The mayor explained that the town has declared a local state of emergency related to the water contamination incident, working through the Sheriff and county/state channels. The purpose is to formally document the emergency and enable reimbursement for costs such as bottled/hauling water, supplies, and other response expenses associated with the multi-week incident. The council noted

the state of emergency resolution had been written and submitted already, and Chad (Sheriffs Dept) is assisting with the required documentation and process.

4.3 Park Fence Repair

The council discussed damage to the park fence, noting that about five fence posts are bent and that the bottom tension wire was never attached to the posts, which allowed the fence to lift in the wind and bend the poles. The original contractor who installed the fence submitted an estimate of \$1,200 to repair the entire fence. Council members agreed that the town should follow the bid process and seek additional bids before proceeding, and one suggestion was to straighten the existing posts and add additional posts in the section that failed to better resist wind.

5. Report of Officers - boards - committees

5.1 Water Department - Water Usage

5.1.a. Water Master Position

The council briefly discussed the water master position and confirmed that they had already chosen (in a prior work meeting) to hire David Barnhurst as the town's water master. It was noted that David was selected because he is the most experienced person in town with the water system and has served as water master before.

5.1.b. Solution for water contamination

The town's solution is to disinfect and flush the system (via heavy chlorination and controlled hydrant flushing), locate and correct valve/flow issues with help from outside operators and a VAC truck, eliminate any illegal cross-connections with the irrigation system if found, and continue lab testing until two consecutive clean results allow the boil/bottled water advisory to be lifted, while providing emergency drinking water and regular public updates.

5.1.c. Well 5 Service

The council noted that Well 5's generator is showing issues, including a coolant leak and an overheat/block-heater alarm, and that some coolant is being lost from the radiator. In addition, the council discussed that Well 5 needs routine servicing (e.g., oil and general maintenance), and they approved proceeding with that service so Well 5 remains reliable as part of the town's water supply. Councilor Sawyer motion to approve servicing Well 5, Councilor Goble 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

5.1.d. Backhoe Service

The council discussed that the town backhoe has accumulated a lot of hours since the last service and determined that it now needs routine maintenance. Councilor Riggs mentioned a qualified former John Deere mechanic (Gary) who is experienced and reasonably priced. The council agreed this was appropriate and voted to hire Gary to service the backhoe, with the motion made by Councilor Riggs, seconded by Councilor Howard, and approved by all in favor.

6 Public Input

9. Unfinished or New Business

10. Adjournment

Councilor Sawyer motion to adjourn, Councilor Goble 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm