

March 2, 2026

**Glen Elder City Council Minutes
March 2, 2026**

The Glen Elder City Council met in regular session on Monday night at 7:00 p.m., March 2, 2026, at City Hall with Mayor Sheila Paxson presiding and council members: Lori Augustine, Lindsey Clark, Kevin Noller, and Angie Behymer present. Also in attendance: Thomas Depew, Emily Benedick, Kaetlin Hyman, Brandon Tritsch, Devon Housh, and Jerri Senger. Code Officer Lucas Wiseman arrived later.

Minutes & Claims

The minutes of February 2 & 9, 2026, meetings were reviewed. Lindsey made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2nd and 9th meetings. Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

The claims on hand for the month of February amounted to \$124,210.02, plus the outstanding Sunflower Electric Power, Rolling Hills Electric, Kansas One-call, Kansas Gas Service, City Attorney, and WorldPay bills were reviewed. Angie made a motion to approve the claims. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Discover Mitchell County

Emily Benedick, Mitchell County Economic Development Director, explained as of January 1st, 2026, the Discover Mitchell County Organization was formed. She said the old chamber model was outdated and restrictive with its support. So, the Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce and Solomon Valley Economic Development went together to form the Discover Mitchell County Organization. She said Discover Mitchell County has an executive board with active committees beneath: Economic Development, Local Business Support, and the very popular Young Professionals Committee. Emily mentioned the Mitchell County Tourism Board works with the new organization. She said the organizations' main goal is to provide countywide support for businesses and organizations in Mitchell County. Emily said membership dollars go to overall business support, as her salary is paid from the City of Beloit and Mitchell County. She added they will be hosting a meeting at SMC Concrete in Cawker City on Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 pm where Cawker City and Glen Elder business owners are invited. Lindsey made a motion to invest at the community level giving \$200.00. Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Swimming Pool

Pool Manager Kaetlin Hyman informed the council she will have a total of four guards this summer, three returning and one new guard. She said Tyea Schlaefli will again be the assistant manager. Kaetlin mentioned she has several area town lifeguards that she will be training on May 9th, if the pool is full of water. Kaetlin and Olivia will be giving private Red Cross swimming lessons the first week in June from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. She said the classes filled up fast, with most of the kids from Glen Elder. Kaetlin informed the council she has an LLC with insurance that will cover these lessons. There was some discussion about insurance for the pool. The clerk was asked to contact Mahin and get clarification on how insurance coverage works together.

Kaetlin suggested evaluating the water walker/aerobics fees for the summer. It is \$2.00 per session (5:30 – 7:00 pm three days a week) and last increased in 2024. She mentioned that most of the water aerobics ladies have season passes and average 8 ladies per session. She also recommended the usual .25 cent per hour raise for her guards and asked the council to re-evaluate the assistant manager's wage. These topics will be discussed in April.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Lucas Wiseman went over his February code report.

The council moved to file charges against Tracy Smith, for the vehicles in his yard and property cleanup, and Rick & Laura Evaristo for having too many dogs at their residence. Lucas will contact the attorney.

Multi-Sport Court Renovation Report

Devon informed the council he is still waiting for Schwab-Eaton to survey the court property. He mentioned his crew is waiting to tear out the concrete until closer to the time SMC will start the project, which he said should be the first of April.

Winter Clothing Allowance

The council read about what other cities do for winter clothing allowances. There was quite a bit of discussion on warm winter clothing for the three maintenance employees. Lindsey made a motion to allow each of the three employees to spend \$150.00 per year on boots, bibs, or coats. This amount will not accumulate from year to year. Angie seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Employee Manual

There was a lengthy discussion on sick leave and allowing employees to give another employee sick leave hours. The clerk was asked to visit with the auditor about leave time and the topic was tabled until April.

EMC Insurance Renewal

The council was concerned that the EMC Insurance premium was in the claims to be paid when the list of city equipment and facilities had not been reviewed first. Lindsey made a motion to amend the claims on hand by removing the EMC Insurance premium payment, making the claims on hand totaling \$79,307.02. Angie seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

KMEA Board of Directors

Lindsey made a motion to re-appoint Devon Housh as the city's KMEA Board of Directors position #2, effective April 30, 2026. Lori seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

WAPA RECs

The council reviewed the email from KMEA concerning the request to retire or sell the city's WAPA hydro renewable energy certificates (RECs). Without more understanding of what they are requesting, this matter was tabled.

Bureau of Reclamation Easement

The city received a letter from the Bureau of Reclamation about the expiration of the city's 50-year power line easement across their land to the Rural Water Plant. Devon informed the council he visited with Stuart Porter about the easement and adding that the city will also supply the City of Beloit electricity for their new water line. Devon mentioned he has a call into Aric Riggins at the Bureau but hasn't heard back from him yet. He and the clerk will fill out the required form and draft a new line easement. The council asked to have the attorney review the draft of the easement agreement and put the matter on the April agenda.

Verizon Tower Lease

The council reviewed the draft of the lease amendment for tower rent with Verizon. There was a question about the wording of the monthly rent. Lindsey made a motion to approve the Verizon tower lease amendment with clarification of the monthly rent. Angie seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Building Permits

Lindsey made a motion to approve building permit #26-2 – for Verizon to modify equipment on the water tower and within the leased shelter. Mount modifications and a 30kW generator are proposed at 108 N. Center Street. Subject to the lease amendment being signed. Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Employee Report

Devon reported that the Glen Elder City Fire Department received \$7,000.00 from Solomon Valley Community Foundation Grant for new bunker gear.

Devon said they have taken down the fence, removed the buildings, and cut down the trees near the basketball court. There was a discussion about the tree in front of the courts and the small grass area.

Clerk's Report

The council reviewed the February connect & delinquent reports.

The clerk informed the council she submitted a new Build America Buy America (BABA) waiver for the KCC grant on February 17, 2026, and is waiting to hear back if the waiver is approved.

The clerk presented the council with new rates for Allpaid credit card collections and FrontDesk fees for customers' autopayments and credit card payments. Angie asked for more details about the FrontDesk fees, she feels they are too high.

Council

Lori informed the council that Portis had a K-State Veterinary trailer come to town to spay and neuter stray cats. Since we have a stray cat problem in town as well, the council asked her to check into them coming to Glen Elder.

Mayor Paxson mentioned Jerry Clark retired from the City Fire Department after 42 years of service. Jerry received a nice plaque for his years of distinguished service.

With no other business, Lori made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lindsey seconded the motion and with four council members voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

(These are unofficial minutes until approved at the next council meeting.)

Jerri Senger, City Clerk