

City of Rowan
Special Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2026

Mayor Dale Hollman called the Special Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Council Members Present: Heather Baumgartner, Chad Ketchum, Mark Bruns (via speaker phone), and David Eriksen.

Public Input – none.

Mayor Hollman calls for a motion to open the Public Hearings for FY26 Budget Amendment, Ordinance Amendment 2026-01, Ordinance Amendment 2026-02, and Ordinance Amendment 2026-03. Ketchum makes that motion with Bruns 2nd. Approved.

FY26 Budget Amendment – no public comment

Ordinance Amendment 2026-01 Water Debt Service Surcharge – no public comment

Ordinance Amendment 2026-02 Chickens – no public comment

Ordinance Amendment 2026-03 Fines for Animal At-Large – no public comment

Eriksen moves to close the Public Hearings, 2nd by Baumgartner. Approved.

Mayor Hollman resumes the special meeting and calls for a motion to adopt the FY26 Budget Amendment. Bruns moves to adopt the FY26 Budget Amendment, 2nd by Ketchum. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote.

Ordinance Amendment 2026-01 – Motion by Ketchum to approve, 2nd by Eriksen. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote. Motion by Bruns to waive the 2nd public reading of the ordinance, 2nd by Ketchum. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote. Motion by Ketchum to waive the 3rd public reading of the ordinance and make it effective upon signature of the Mayor, 2nd by Baumgartner. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote.

Ordinance Amendment 2026-02 – Motion by Eriksen to approve, 2nd by Ketchum. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote. Motion by Ketchum to waive the 2nd public reading of the ordinance, 2nd by Bruns. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote. Motion by Bruns to waive the 3rd public reading of the ordinance and make it effective upon signature of the Mayor, 2nd by Ketchum. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote.

Ordinance Amendment 2026-03 – Motion by Eriksen to approve, 2nd by Ketchum. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote. Motion by Bruns to waive the 2nd public reading of the ordinance, 2nd by Baumgartner. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote. Motion by Ketchum to waive the 3rd public reading of the ordinance and make it effective upon signature of the Mayor, 2nd by Eriksen. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote.

Ordinance Amendment 2026-04 Discharging Weapons – Motion by Bruns to approve as written, 2nd by Eriksen. Approved. Motion by Ketchum to set public hearing for April 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Rowan Community Center, 2nd by Bruns. Approved.

Final approval of the FY27 Proposed Budget – discussed changes made for upcoming water improvements and a raise in landfill fees. Motion by Bruns to accept the FY27 Proposed Budget, 2nd by Eriksen. Approved unanimously upon roll call vote.

Motion by Ketchum to set a public hearing for FY27 Proposed Budget for April 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Rowan Community Center, 2nd by Bruns. Approved.

MIDAS Administrative Services Contract – ECWAG Grant Application – discussed whether replacing a few fire hydrants would be eligible, the clerk will inquire. Motion by Ketchum to approve the grant writing contract, 2nd by Bruns. Approved.

28E Agreement – County Maintenance on City Streets – much discussion, there are still concerns from council members. Clerk will arrange a face-to-face meeting with interested parties. Motion by Bruns to table the item, 2nd by Ketchum. Approved.

Proposed Sales Agreement for Abandoned Properties – would like to add something more specific regarding the septic ordinance and have the buyer initial it, discussed different options for the sale of the property, clerk will work with the Economic Development Director on the proper language in publications.

Debt Service CD Renewal – Clerk presented special offers made by First Citizens for the public funds. Motion by Ketchum to renew for 6 months at 3.85% with the original \$25,000 investment and use the interest earned to make a principle payment toward the USDA loan, 2nd by Eriksen. Approved.

Alliant Franchise Fees – Received estimates of revenues for 1-5% franchise fees on customer electric bills, would be in place of Local Option Sales Tax. Discussion on how it might be used. With the current cost of living and increases we are already imposing on customers for utilities, it is not the right time to consider this. Motion by Ketchum to table the item to a later date, 2nd by Eriksen. Approved.

Septic Pumps – Bruns dissected one of the pumps that went bad, the motor is fine, but the pump failed, the turbine chamber is full of debris, some kind of plastic shavings, which melted the impeller, he spoke with some dealers and you can't buy the pump alone, he found the whole unit available for \$354.00, we have about 35 of them. He proposes building a screen to put around the pumps to prevent the debris from getting in, he can make 36 of them for approximately \$1,700.00. This issue has come up multiple times and we would likely have to replace all of the pumps in the near future and it wouldn't solve the problem, the cost of replacing all of the pumps would be over \$12,000. Motion by Ketchum to have Bruns build the screens to extend the life of the pump, 2nd by Baumgartner. Approved with Bruns abstaining.

Building permits – 1020 Bingham, the questions from last month were answered and they are within the set-back. Motion by Eriksen to approve, 2nd by Bruns. Approved. 701 Duffy for a 12x12 deck on the North side of the 3-season room. Motion by Ketchum to approve, 2nd by Bruns. Approved.

Wright County Economic Development Director, Aaron Budweg handed out a press release regarding a roofing program that is being offered in partnership with IEDA, MIDAS, and CDBG. Applications are due May 22, 2026.

Motion by Ketchum to adjourn, 2nd by Eriksen. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee J Frohling - City Clerk of Rowan

(Mayor)