

June 18, 2026, City Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Fountain Green City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2026, in the Fountain Green City Hall, 375 N. State Street.

Attendance – Kerry Farnsworth, Rich Walker, Vaughn Jacobsen (via zoom), Kim Johnson, and Jacob Littlefield.

Presiding – Mayor Willard Wood

Prayer – Kim Johnson

Pledge

Public Comment – There were no comments.

1. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes included:

- Last month's regular council meeting
- Emergency meeting to approve a building permit
- Work Meeting with Lamb Day committee chairs
- Tentative budget hearing

Motion

- **Kerry Farnsworth motioned to approve all meeting minutes as written.**
- **Jake Littlefield seconded the motion.**

Vote

- **Kerry: Yes**
- **Vaughn: Yes**
- **Rich: Yes**
- **Kim: Yes**
- **Jake: Yes**

Motion carried.

2. Code Enforcement Report (Michelle Walker reported for Amy Morgan).

Amy's report included a two-week period from early June:

- 13 hours spent on code enforcement.
- 11 hours spent addressing citizen nuisance complaints.
- Activities included:
 - Reviewing complaints

- Follow-up communication
 - Coordination with prosecuting attorney
 - Documentation
 - Guidance to residents
- Animal control incident: roaming bull on State Street.
- Research request: old fines/citations.

3. Grants Report.

Mark Coombs reported on the following:

Park Grant-

- Applied for grant to replace park tables and bleachers.
- 50/50 chance; city did not receive the grant.
- Will reapply next year.

Cemetery Grant-

- **Requested \$20,000 for cemetery mapping + headstone repair.**
- **State allocated only \$25,000 statewide.**
- **Fountain Green awarded \$9,000.**
- **City match required: \$2,250, can be covered by volunteer hours at \$17/hr.**
- **Project must be completed by June 2027.**

Youth Activity Center Proposal-

Summary-

- Citizens would like to see a winter activity center built for youth.
- Mark proposed forming a citizen group to:
 - Estimate costs
 - Identify funding
 - Determine annual operating costs
- No city funds required initially.
- Possible location: south of the current building.
- Mention of previous rec center attempt that failed due to width requirements.

5. Bid Opening — City Property on 8th West.

Process-

- Mayor opened sealed bids.
- Minimum acceptable bid: \$20,000.

Bids Received-

1. Evan Jacobsen — \$20,200
2. Steve Holt — \$21,100

Motion

- Vaughn Jacobson motioned to accept both bids.
- Rich Walker seconded.

Vote

- Kerry: Yes
- Vaughn: Yes
- Kim: Yes
- Rich: Yes
- Jacob: Yes

Motion Carried.

5. Community Bingo Proposal (Pam Stephans).

Pam proposed hosting community bingo nights:

- Open to anyone, though originally aimed at elderly residents.
- Small fee charged; funds used only for prizes.
- Pam would provide homemade treats.
- She requested use of the city building (upstairs or basement depending on attendance).
- Events would be held in the evening, scheduled around council meetings.
- Conditions: no drinking or smoking.

6. R6 Update. Tabled.

****Council approved agenda items #7, 9, 14, 21, and 22 to be discussed out of sequence.**

7. Cemetery Ordinance Revision.

The Cemetery Committee (Laura, Jake, Kurt) completed a full review of the cemetery ordinance:

- Went line by line through the entire document.
- Color-coded revisions:
 - Red = new content
 - Blue = imported from later ordinances/resolutions
 - Black = original ordinance
 - Green = committee's line-item changes
- Ordinance consolidates four separate cemetery ordinances into one unified document.
- Fee schedule must be updated to match the ordinance.
- CiviciQ codification update will occur next month.

Motion

- **Jake Littlefield motioned to approve the Cemetery Ordinance as written, including fee schedule changes, and to make it effective immediately (next morning).**
- **Kerry Farnsworth seconded the motion.**

Vote

- **Kerry: Yes**
- **Vaughn: Yes**
- **Rich: Yes**
- **Kim: Yes**
- **Jacob (Jake): Yes**

Motion Carried.

Cemetery Project (Additional Graves & Layout Changes).

This is separate from the ordinance and concerns physical changes to cemetery layout and capacity.

Key components:

Additional Graves-

- Plan adds 792 new graves by:
 - Filling in certain roadways
 - Using flat, ground-level headstones only
- Raised stones (2 inches) were removed from the proposal due to snowplow visibility concerns.

Water Line Removal-

- Remove outdated culinary water lines (east–west branches) in Buckner’s area.
- Keep main irrigation line intact.

Cemetery Layout-

- No new graves added on north or south ends.
- Parking along roads preserved.
- 120-foot road with main irrigation line remains untouched.

Financial Impact-

- Estimated revenue: ~\$500,000 if sold to residents.

Motion

- **Vaughn Jacobson motioned to approve the Cemetery Project.**
- **Kim Johnson seconded the motion.**

Vote

- **Kerry: Yes**
- **Vaughn: Yes**
- **Rich: Yes**
- **Kim: Yes**
- **Jacob: Yes**

Motioned Carried.

(21). Cemetery Bridge Project.

Bridge Demolition & Construction Schedule:

- Demolition begins: Tomorrow at 5:30 AM.
- Contractor arrival: June 22.
- Bridge delivery: July 15.
- Installation timeline:
 - 1–2 days to install bridge
 - 1 week for guardrails
 - Grading afterward
 - Projected completion: August 12

Curt built a temporary dirt bridge-

- Agreement with Peacocks (property owners north of cemetery entrance).
- Installed 18-inch culvert and pushed dirt into wash.
- Wall will be removed during demolition.
- Provides:
 - Construction access
 - Cemetery access
 - Visitor access

Traffic Control-

- Police department will assist only during burials.

Public Complaints-

- Office staff were instructed not to handle complaints about temporary access; they must be directed elsewhere.

Water Line Preparation-

- Two sticks of C-900 pipe will be buried north of the bridge for future upgrades.

Cemetery Reclamation Discussion (Unused Graves)-

- Ordinance allows reclaiming unused graves after 60 years.
- However, written contracts only date back to 1970.
- Reclaiming now would violate contract terms (only 56 years have passed).
- No need to reclaim graves because new project added 792 new plots.

(9). Water Conservation & Aquifer Concerns.

Water Flow Issues.

City water tank pumping cycles are causing:

- Fish hatchery flow drops from 4.5 CFS → 3.2–3.5 CFS
- Irrigation system disruptions
- Cemetery water pressure problems

New Pumping Strategy

City will shift to lower, continuous pumping:

- Example: 1,000 gallons/hour for 24 hours instead of 2,000 gallons/hour for 12 hours

Goal: reduce spikes and stabilize flows for hatchery and irrigation.

Aquifer measurements show dramatic drop:

- January: 112 ft above pump
- Last week: 48 ft
- Tuesday: 37 ft

Aquifer Recharge Permit-

- Irrigation company contested city's recharge permit.
- Hearing scheduled July 1, Richfield, 12:50 PM.

Public Guidance-

Council agrees:

- No mandatory restrictions yet.
- Issue public education encouraging voluntary conservation.

- Follow irrigation company's watering schedule.

(14). Sewer System Report.

Mechanical Headworks Screen-

- State nearly mandated screens for all small lagoon systems last year.
- Expected cost: \$1M–\$1.2M.
- Funding difficult due to sewer rates being too low relative to median income.

Rate Study-

- Rural Water (Spencer Parkinson) conducting a sewer rate study.

Interim Lagoon Strategy-

Phil (Rural Water wastewater expert) recommends:

- Take one primary cell offline
- Dry it out
- Remove sludge using grader
- Refill

Goal: restore full lagoon depth and improve biological function.

Flow Meter-

- City needs a new, accurate flow meter.
- Curt will obtain 3–4 quotes for next council meeting.

(22). City Report.

Water Meters-

- All antennas replaced.
- Only one meter still malfunctioning.

Memorial Day-

- Youth group cleanup of the flowers after Memorial Day was successful; 15+ volunteers.

Burials-

- One burial since last meeting.

Park Concession's Water Heater-

- Water heater failing again; 10 years old.
- Contractor quote: \$1,975 for replacement + upgraded anode.
- Curt can replace heater himself if city prefers cheaper option.
- Purchase a water heater for \$800.00

Pickleball Courts.

Project Completion-

- Courts were painted last week and in use by noon the next day.
- Final walkthrough scheduled for tomorrow.
- Divider nets are still pending delivery.
- Concrete approaches poured by Vaughn and Kurt.
- Sod installed around courts; project fully complete.

Signage Needed-

Council discussed need for:

- Rules signs (no skateboards, scooters, bikes).
- Camera signage (“You are on camera”).
- Bleachers must **never** be placed on pickleball surface.

10. Safe Sidewalk Discussion (East Side of Park).

- Trees on east side of park have been trimmed (“whittled”) by power company.
- Concern: sidewalk installation will require grading that creates 12–14 inches of vertical rise near trees.

Council Consensus-

- **Trees will NOT be removed.**
- City will re-landscape park side of sidewalk to accommodate grade changes.

11. APC Tower Lease Buyout.

Background-

- APC offering \$302,000 upfront for lease buyout.
- City retains land; buyout covers lease only.
- Attorney confirmed lease term is 10 years, not perpetual.

Financial Analysis-

- Monthly payments would not break even until year nine.

Attorney Recommendation-

- Request APC's formal buyout agreement and review details.
- Vaughn will followup.

12. Adoption of 2027 Tax Rate.

Tax Rate.

- County sets tax rate unless city initiates Truth-in-Taxation.
- Property tax revenue history:
 - 2025: \$96,979
 - 2026: \$100,225
 - 2027: \$105,382

Clarification.

- This is not a city tax increase.

12. Adoption of 2027 Budget.

Budget Overview.

General Fund Revenue & Expenditures: \$1,291,040 Road Fund: \$190,945 Water Fund Revenue: \$240,500 Water Fund Expenditures: \$226,477 Sewer Fund Revenue: \$189,268 Sewer Fund Expenditures: \$137,335

Notes

- Grants expected in 2027 include:
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Cemetery Bridge Replacement
 - Park Improvements
- Budget can be amended during year with public hearing.

Motion

- **Rich Walker** moved to adopt the 2027 budget as presented.
- **Jacob Littlefield** seconded the motion.

Vote

- **Kerry: Yes**
- **Vaughn: Yes**
- **Rich: Yes**
- **Kim: Yes**

- **Jacob: Yes**

Motion Carried.

13. Playground Equipment Committee.

- Playground equipment is in poor condition.
- Some grant money leftover/Request a Scope of Work Amendment
- CDBG rules are strict; installation must follow guidelines exactly.
- Committee formed: Office Staff, Jacob, and Curt.

15. Police Report (North Valley Police Department).

Key Points-

- Fountain Green officially approved to join North Valley PD.
- New officer hired for Fountain Green; will be on duty soon.
- **July 1:** heavy police presence to address issues quickly.
- July celebrations require all 11 officers on duty.
- **Lamb Day:** strong police presence; traffic control maintained.

Dog Ordinance Enforcement-

- Current ordinance: No animals in park.
- Council asked whether ordinance should be amended; police advised enforcement first.
- Police will take lead during Lamb Day.

16. Library Report.

Major Accomplishment.

- Complete re-barcoding and re-cataloging of entire library.
- Inventory loss only 1.9%, far better than typical 4–8%.

Book Worms & Carpet Beetle Issue.

- Bugs found in some books.
- Solution:
 - Lower temperature to 60–65°F
 - Use black light to find trails
 - Freeze affected books for 48–72 hours
- Library temporarily not accepting donations.

17. Planning Commission Report.

Building Permits.

- Shed permit in commercial zone requires council approval.
- Four additional permits approved by Planning Commission.

Emergency Meeting Appreciation.

- Council thanked for emergency meeting enabling Kate Lund to begin construction.

• CiviclinQ Update.

Status

- Ordinances uploaded; not yet public.
- Codification required due to deep layering in old code.
- CivicLink corrected cross-references.
- Jim and Rich will compare old vs. new documents.
- CiviclinQ offers excellent training videos.

New Features

- Ordinances divided by year for easier searching.

18. Annexation of City-Owned Property.

- The Planning & Zoning Committee was asked to review annexing the portion of the cemetery that is currently in the county.
- During discussion, the committee questioned why any city-owned property adjacent to city limits wouldn't automatically be annexed, since:
 - The county is requesting annexation of the cemetery portion.
 - Annexation would simplify permitting (e.g., the cemetery building permit).
- The committee recommended:
 - Annexing all city-owned property adjacent to city limits, not just the cemetery section.
- Council response:
 - General agreement—no one could think of a reason *not* to annex city-owned parcels.
 - Need to identify all such properties first.
 - Staff will prepare a list of adjacent city-owned parcels so they can be annexed together.
 - This will come back on a future agenda once the list is ready.

19. Building Permit – 266 North State Street (Crosby Property).

- The Crosbys want to place a shed on their property.
- The property is in the commercial zone, so Planning & Zoning must recommend approval.

- Planning & Zoning confirmed:
 - The shed meets all requirements.
 - They recommend approval.

Motion

- Kerry Farnsworth motioned to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and approve the Permit for the Crosby's shed.
- Vaughn Jacobsen seconded the motion.

Vote

- Kerry: Yes
- Vaughn: Yes
- Rich: Yes
- Kim: Yes
- Jacob: Yes

Motion carried.

20. Appointment of New Fire Chief.

Motion

- Rich Walker motioned to appoint Austin Blackham as the new Fire Chief.
- Kim Johnson seconded the motion.

Vote

- Kerry: Yes
- Vaughn: Yes
- Rich: Yes
- Kim: Yes
- Jacob: Yes

Motion Carried.

Fire Department Report (Chief Austin Blackham).

Recent Fire Activity-

- Large fire near Freedom:
 - Reached 16.3 acres in 30 minutes
 - Contained with help from Moroni Fire and State
- Gas leak in town:
 - Family evacuated

- Enbridge repaired leak

Youth Group Activity-

- Fire department conducted training with youth group; highly successful.

EMT Training-

- EMT class completed:
 - Started with 7 participants
 - 4 completed

Significant weed problems in town-

- Use existing ordinance authority.
- Process:
 1. Issue warning
 2. If unresolved → citation
 3. If still unresolved → hire professional crew, mow weeds, bill property owner
- Amy (code enforcement) will write tickets.

Fire Department Policy Proposals to discuss -

- Annual inspections for all businesses.
- Council to oversee hiring/dismissal with chief recommendations.
- Minimum 50% attendance for firefighters.
- Dash cameras for liability protection; approx. \$100 each.
- City fire restrictions should match state restrictions.

23. City Bills.

Motion

- **Kim Johnson motioned to approve and pay the city bills.**
- **Jacob Littlefield seconded the motion.**

Vote

- **Kerry: Yes**
- **Vaughn: Yes**
- **Rich: Yes**
- **Kim: Yes**
- **Jacob: Yes**

Motion Carried.

24. Miscellaneous.

Announcement-

- No July council meeting.

Website Accessibility (WCAG Compliance)-

- Website WCAG compliance completed.
- CiviclinQ also meets accessibility requirements.

Lamb Show Update-

- Lamb show running “full steam.”

County Building Permit System-

- County offering interlocal building permit system:
 - City can submit permits online
 - Cost: \$400–\$500 per year
 - First year may be free

Motion

- **Kerry Farnsworth** motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- **Jacob Littlefield** seconded the motion.

Vote

- **Kerry: Yes**
- **Vaughn: Yes**
- **Rich: Yes**
- **Kim: Yes**
- **Jacob: Yes**

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



Michelle Walker, City Recorder

