

**CITY OF CANEY  
CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Elliot called the special City Council meeting to order at 6:30pm on Monday, September 15, 2025 in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 100 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present:	Josh Elliot	Mayor
	Mike Holeman	Council, Ward 1
	Kenith Butts	Council, Ward 2
	Elizabeth Burch	Council, Ward 3
	Becky Dye	Council, Ward 4
	Travis White	Council, Ward 4
Staff:	Andrea Sibley	City Manager
	Adam Lanter	City Clerk
	Ike Dye	Police Chief
	Jalissa Jones	Utility Billing Clerk

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

**4. INVOCATION**

Council Member White led the invocation.

**5. A. PUBLIC HEARING TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE (RNR) FOR FY 2026**

1. Mayor Elliot opened a public hearing regarding the City's intent to exceed the RNR for FY 2026. A citizen voiced that he had not yet had the chance to read it but noted that the City was asking for 10 mills. Mayor Eliot offered to break it down for him. The difference per year for residential is \$109.25, which broke down per month \$9.10. Commercial will be a difference of \$237.75, per month \$19.81. The 10 mills equate to a total of approximately \$120,000. The citizen mentioned other taxing entities that impose property taxes, including the County and the colleges, and questioned where the property taxes end. The citizen believed 10 mills to be high and encouraged the City Council members to work on the citizens' behalf.

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Another citizen voiced concern about the proposed increase and encouraged the Council to look at cutting services that aren't as necessary. He asked if the consultant that compiled the City's budget looked at cutting any services as opposed to increasing taxes. Mayor Elliot responded that he was unsure of that answer. The citizen expressed a desire to cut services that used to be necessary but no longer were. Mayor Elliot asked if he had any suggestions. The citizen expressed that the city can't keep growing unless more people come here, but if the taxes go up nobody will come here. Councilmember Burch stated that the Council all lives here and feels the 10-mill increase, as well. She stated that is part of the reason that it is necessary, as the City hadn't raised the mill levy in recent years and everything has gotten more expensive. She went on to say that if the city looked at cutting things, it would be the Fire Department that would absorb it, as the Police Department absorbed a cut, last year. She stated that professionals were hired to bring out the City's budget this year to provide accurate numbers for it and to increase transparency. Mayor Elliot stated that by selling the grocery store, the budget will see savings next year. The citizen responded that cutting first responders is not where cuts should be made. Mayor Elliot and Councilmember Burch reiterated that they do not want to cut those services and noted that most of those in attendance were not at the budget workshop, where there would have been more productive time to discuss concerns.

Another citizen asked how many Public Works employees there are. Mayor Elliot noted that there are seven staff members in the Public Works department. The citizen stated she had an issue once and she saw four employees riding together in one crew. Mayor Elliot noted that he does not keep tabs on every individual and that they are grown adults. Councilmember Burch noted that there were mechanical issues with the City's vehicle fleet but also stated that steps had been taken to mitigate those issues, recently.

**A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE CITY EXCEEDING THE RNR FOR FY 2026 (RESOLUTION 2025-16).**

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Mike Holeman	Yes
Kenith Butts	Yes
Elizabeth Burch	Yes
Becky Dye	Yes
Travis White	Yes

**MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED 5-0**

**MAYOR ELLIOT CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**B. A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET.**

1. Mayor Elliot opened a public hearing for citizen input on the proposed FY 2026 City budget. No citizens spoke on the item.

**A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2026. RESULTS:**

Mike Holman	Yes
Kenith Butts	Yes
Elizabeth Burch	Yes
Becky Dye	Yes
Travis White	Yes

**MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED 5-0**

**MAYOR ELLIOT CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**C. UPDATE: DISCUSSION – UPDATE FROM TOM FINGER REGARDING WATER  
LOANS - GRANTS SUBMISSION PACKET.**

1. Tom Finger came up and introduced himself and gave his qualifications in this sort of work. City Manager Sibley provided handouts in the agenda packets. A loan application was considered about a month ago to keep the project as affordable as possible and requested that the public hearing be opened.

**D. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE AND SECONDED BY  
COUNCIL MEMBER BURCH TO OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CANEY, KS**

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REGARDING A PROPOSED LOAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,090,000  
("THE LOAN") TO BE TAKEN BY THE CITY FROM THE KANSAS**

**PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN FUND ("THE FUND") ADMINISTERED BY  
THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ("KDHE")  
PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 65-163C ET SEQ.**

**MOTION CARRIES 5-0**

Phase I, the supply line from Coffeyville, is first on the agenda and what is being looked at to address the challenges with the water supply and so forth. The City has received a CDBG grant in the amount of \$1 million which is currently pending. He mentioned that KDHE has a funding component and has been in conversation with City Manager Sibley and the engineers. The proposal being prepared for KDHE and presentation to the Council a 50% forgiveness component to it. Combining these funding sources could provide enough funding to cover the entire cost of the supply line project.

The engineers have suggested another funding source from the Kansas Water Office ("KWO") being a construction grant. Applications for the KDHE and KWO grant are both due in the next two-four weeks. Tom reassured the Council that these applications do not commit the City to anything but just keeps Caney in consideration. Should one or both be awarded to the City, it would be brought in front of the Council for consideration. Tom reiterated that both the KDHE loan and KWO grant were very competitive, giving the example that last year there may have been \$300 million in applications and only \$30-\$40 million to award with. Tom felt good about Caney's prospects. Both the KWO grant and KDHE loan would address funding for the supply line from Coffeyville, i.e. Phase I.

Both phases are being looked at in conjunction with each other, Phase II is just more stable and poses less challenges. This led Phase I to take the lead and there were more external funding sources available for it as well. Phase II is the in-town distribution and storage improvements. That portion of the project is more costly than the supply line and many agencies are facing funding shortfalls and/or staff reductions making funding harder. The City of

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Caney was prioritized in replacing service lines in the City, replacing service lines to the homes from the meters.

Phase II has funding sources available from both the KDHE funding source and KWO. The KDHE loan is for \$2.09 million with 50% of that being

forgivable. The second KWO grant is for \$1 million and is a technical assistance grant, i.e. used for engineering and surveying, the prep work for the project. If Caney is selected for the grant, it will improve the readiness of the project which would in turn improve the City's odds of receiving other funding assistance. It would also get the design work completed. City Manager Sibley explained that a few weeks back the Council had discussed pulling a few items from these projects for consideration for this loan: the large booster station, the Caney Heights booster station, and one being the technical assistance required for the chlorinator to get their funding considered under this grant. Tom Finger stated that they have awarded both grants from the KWO to the same community in the same year in the past and given the challenges that Caney has faced. He believed that attempting to obtain more funding from as many sources as possible improved our odds due to it showing that we are attempting to bypass burdening our citizens with this funding.

Tom stated that a final funding source is from the USDA. Tom noted that the agency is very shorthanded, in Kansas especially. He is hopeful that next year will have more opportunities there but noted that they will want to know the whole picture further making these KWO and KDHE loans more pressing.

A reporter with the Chronicle clarified that Tom was not a banker and was with a non-profit. Tom reiterated that they have no hand in the money but just facilitate assistance in rural communities to obtain external funding. The reporter asked if he had any details about the grants/loans. Tom said the grants are grants and don't have any interest rates or anything like that. The KDHE loan is a forgivable loan so at least half of it can be forgiven. City Manager Sibley reiterated that we are just applying and were not accepting any loans at this time. The time frame for getting the word back on if we are a recipient or not is Spring – March/April. The reporter commented on the Phases stating that the situation is unique and that Officials in Coffeyville

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have said that they will not 'turn on' the water source until Caney fixes its internal distribution. Mayor Elliot clarified that the priorities are where we can secure funding first and explained that the water loss by the distribution system in town is not currently thought to be as bad of shape as it was previously. He also stated that he expects when the next loss study is

completed, he expects the water loss to continue to be lessened. City Manager Sibley explained that many of the grants are geared towards regionalization and local distribution and both phases fall in that scope.

A citizen requested an update for how shovel ready the project was. City Manager Sibley stated that we have gotten approval everywhere the line would pass between Caney and Coffeyville. The City has hundreds of pages of assessments and studies going back the past two years and it is believed to be very close to, if not already shovel ready. The components removed to make ready for grant funding are more expensive components. Past attempts at these grants attempted to get full funding for the projects, in the price range of \$6-\$7 million when the cap for total spending was \$8 across municipalities and the feedback was that giving you the grant in that amount doesn't allow assistance to other communities. The full cost for Phase I is around \$7.8 million and Phase II is around \$24 million.

**E. A MOTION TO EXIT PUBLIC HEARING FOR CANEY, KS REGARDING A PROPOSED LOAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,090,000 ("THE LOAN") TO BE TAKEN BY THE CITY FROM THE KANSAS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN FUND ("THE FUND") ADMINISTERED BY KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONOMENT ("KDHE") PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 65-163C ET SEQ**

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER DYE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**F. A MOTION TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR CANEY, KS, REGARDING A PROPOSED LOAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,090,000 ("THE LOAN") TO BE TAKEN BY THE CITY FROM THE KANSAS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN FUND ("THE FUND") ADMINISTERED BY KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONOMENT ("KDHE") PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 65-163C ET SEQ**

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**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLEMAN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**G. MOTION TO APPROVE KDHE RESOLUTION 2025-14.**

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLEMAN.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**H. MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURCH TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF USDA, RD FUNDING APPLICATION, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

- I. MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER DYE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION RELATING TO MATTERS OF FINANCE, ACCORDING TO K.S.A 75-4319 (1) FOR 10 MINUTES AT 7:22 PM TO INCLUDE THE CITY COUNCIL, MAYOR, CITY ADMINISTRATOR, AND CITY CLERK, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURCH TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AT 7:31PM.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**J. MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURCH TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-15 TO SELL THE CITY OWNED GROCERY STORE. "CANEY GROCERY" VIA ROLL CALL VOTE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE. RESULTS:**

Mike Holman	Yes
Kenith Butts	Yes
Elizabeth Burch	Yes
Becky Dye	Yes
Travis White	Yes

**MOTION CARRIES 5-0**

The reporter requested information on the deal, Mayor Elliot state that he reached out to the man that bought the grocery store in Sedan and asked if

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he wanted to take over the grocery store here in Caney. He was excited to accept. The deal was \$300,000 with \$80,000 down to be paid off in two years with an interest of 4.5%. The new owner is confident that he will be able to make the store thrive. When the store needs money which it has frequently, it got taken from water. The Mayor again encouraged participation at the workshops.

**6. MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:07 PM BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLEMAN**

**MOTION CARRIES.**