

City of Leoti Governing Body met in regular session Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., at the City Hall Meeting Room.

Mayor Chris Kreutzer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Kreutzer asked City Clerk Jeannine Hassell for Roll Call; Council President Derek Meyer, Councilors Kelma Burch, Rick Griem, Aron White and Jim Kreutzer. Also present were City Superintendent Blaine Medina, City Attorney Charles Moser, Aimee Baker, Steve Baum, Terry Bloedorn, Mirna Jimenez, Susannah Louderbaugh, Michelle Sheppard, Shaelyn Wright, Lanna Kreutzer, Kristopher Casper and Maegan Berry

Mayor Kreutzer opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

White moved Burch seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Agenda items included: a. April 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, b. Payroll warrants \$19,682.91, c. Accounts Payable warrants \$63,039.07. (The warrants were available for review).

Burch moved White seconded to approve the consent agenda items a-c. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kreutzer opened the floor for public comments. There were no comments

Mayor Kreutzer welcomed Michelle Sheppard, Board President of the Grow and Learn Childcare Center. Sheppard shared the childcare center has been in operation for four years. When the center was opened there were grants available and community support. There are very few grants available for childcare centers that would help support operational cost at this time. Sheppard shared they are in need of help and support to keep the doors open. The board has made several cuts including cutting staff, cutting wages and raising tuition to name a few. There are currently twenty-nine kids enrolled in the childcare center. If the doors close, this will affect over twenty families and possibly their jobs if they cannot find daycare. Possible investors have approached Sheppard but want to know the community is in support before they commit. The childcare center is in a deficit of \$192,000. The board needs \$60,000 to \$80,000 of support per year. A benefit and donations will help them finish out the year. If the funds are not secured soon, the doors will be forced to close on May 15th. Discussions were held on different avenues that could be taken. Council all agreed the childcare center is needed in our community. Mayor Kreutzer asked Sheppard to come to the next council meeting on May 4th with proof of support from the community.

Mayor Kreutzer welcomed Assistant Fire Chief Steve Baum and EMS Director Terry Bloedorn. Baum shared he applied for the Kansas Revolving and Assistance Fund (KRAF) Match Grant through Kansas Board of EMS. The grant applied for is two Zoll Auto Pulse NXT resuscitation systems. The match grant is 75% and 25% match. Baum was awarded \$33,063.00 and will need \$11,024.15 for the 25% match. Baum and Bloedorn asked the city to cover the cost of the match. Council will have a decision at the next meeting on May 4th.

Shaelyn Wright, Steve Baum and Terry Bloedorn left the meeting at 7:27pm.

Mayor Kreutzer welcomed County Clerk Lanna Kreutzer. Kreutzer shared the Interlocal Agreement, had been restructured with the changes requested by City Council. The Neighborhood Revitalization projects have been reduced to \$25,000. The County Commissioners approved the plan this morning followed by the public hearing. Kreutzer asked for the agreement to be signed so it can be sent off to the Attorney General. Mayor Kreutzer signed the agreement with Clerk Hassell attesting with the city seal.

City Grant Writer Aimee Baker reported she had met with Leoti, Tribune, Horace and Dighton today to discuss the water project. All of the cities involved agreed to use EBH Engineering. The goal is have the bid in and ready to go by May 15. Andrew Brunner with EBH will conduct the surveys. Jeff Crocket with Tribune will be the team leader and will give all the cities updates as the project proceeds. The plan is to have it all completed by August so in September we can apply for

a grant on the water infrastructure. The group of cities will meet monthly to stay on top of things. There is no word yet on the T-Mobile or AARP grant that have been applied for. Baker shared she found a \$15,000 grant from State Farm for safety, community or education. Council agreed to move forward with the education grant for the Grow and Learn Childcare Center if it fits the criteria. If it will not work for the childcare center then apply for the safety grant for the fire department. Baker asked for direction on what the focus should be for upcoming grants. Council expressed to have the daycare at top of the list when applying for grants if it meets their criteria. If it doesn't then council will decide what project it will work for. Council also would like for Baker to help the childcare center with finding and applying for grants.

Mirna Jimenez, Michelle Sheppard, Maegan Berry, Aimee Baker and Lanna Kreutzer left the meeting at 7:46pm.

White moved Meyer second for approval B & H Paving chip seal proposal for the northeast quadrant for \$93,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussions on 2027 projects and purchases were tabled.

City Attorney Moser had nothing new to share.

City Superintendent Blaine Medina reported the storm pond pump is back in the east storm water pond and working. The city crew cleaned out the west storm water pond just in time to capture a little rain. The crew also found a brick in a sewer line that was causing some blockage. The brick was removed and all is flowing now. Flags were hung in honor of Greeley County Firefighter Levi Evans who lost his life in the line of duty. Sporer Land and Development has erected a portable concrete plant near the city shop. They will begin pouring concrete for a new hanger being installed at the airport. When they are done, they will be installing the crosswalks for the Pathways Project.

City Clerk Hassell shared she ordered the PC Connector Modem for the LED sign today. Hopefully this will get it running again. The office is still in training for our new accounting software system. Hassell also shared she had emailed everyone The Tomorrow's Water/Playa handout and included one in your binders to review. The 2026 Legislative Session has concluded and the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program that the City and County sponsor will not be extended or updated. The program will sunset on June 30, 2026. Participants who are in the program will finish out their five years.

The next city council meeting is on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

There being no further business J. Kreutzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Meyer seconded. Motion carried.



Chris Kreutzer, Mayor



Jeannine Hassell, City Clerk

