

Cole Camp City Council Meeting
Public Hearing
August 20, 2026 6:45 P.M

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Cole Camp, Missouri met for the Public Hearing in the meeting room at City Hall on August 20, 2026 at 6:45 P.M. Administration in attendance: City Clerk Dawn Paul.

Mayor Garrett opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present:

Mayor Nicole Garrett

Alderman David Massingill

Alderman Steve Knox

Alderman David Locke

Alderman Jeremiah Crider

The tax Rate was published at 0.4560 and which is up from last year at 0.4540.

No discussion on the Tax Levy

Alderman Locke moves to adjourn with a second from Alderman Crider. All in Favor. Motion Carries. 6:47 P.M.

Cole Camp City Council Meeting
Regular Session
August 20, 2026 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Cole Camp, Missouri met in Regular Session in the council room at City Hall on August 20, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. Administration in attendance: City Clerk Dawn Paul. Attendance: Johnny Ehlers, Jason Sivils, Jo Ann Lane, Jon Beckman, Mildred Duffey, Steven Noel, Tim Craig, Wanda Brown, Bob Brown, Ashley Raetz, Clinton Raetz, John Meyer, Allan Ispen, Mona Ispen, Tracy Duvall, Shannon Hosman, Lenny Gerkin.

Mayor Garrett called meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Invocation by Mayor Garrett

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present:

Mayor Nicole Garrett

Alderman David Massingill

Alderman Steve Knox

Alderman David Locke

Alderman Jeremiah Crider

Alderman Crider moves to approve the agenda with a second from Alderman Locke. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Knox – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Aye. Motion Carried.

Alderman Crider moves to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes June 18, 2026; Regular Meeting Minutes July 16, 2026; Closed Meeting Minutes July 23, 2026 with a second from David Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Massingill – Aye; Alderman Knox – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye. Motion Carried.

Great River Update: Jason Sivils with Great River Engineering: Mr. Sivils presented an update on both of downtown sidewalk projects. The West Side Sidewalk is mostly finished with the exemption of the handrails; they are being fabricated.

Mr. Sivils also presented an update on the for the East Sidewalk Project. He reported that work on the East Side is progressing with most of the vertical walls completed and additional concrete, cubing backfilling and flat work is underway. He expects concrete work to be completed before the fair. The temporary handrails are in place and will be permanently placed after the fair.

Questions that were asked:

Mona Ipsen asked about yellow painting on the elevations. Mr. Sivils replied that it is not currently planned, noting that the ADA requirements are vague. Alderman Locke agreed that the City should look into the matter.

Jon Beckman commented on the temporary handrails, suggesting that they be looked at again to ensure they are very secure, given the large number of people expected to attend the fair.

RES 2026-09 Approve Accounts Payable July 14, 2026 to August 17, 2026 HP Tire & Muffler/City Clerk: Alderman Locke moves to accept RES 2026-09 for \$641.00 for HP Tire & Muffler with a second from Alderman Knox. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Knox – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Abstain. Motion Carried.

RES 2026-10 Approve Accounts Payable July 14, 2026 to August 17, 2026/City Clerk: Mayor Garrett asked about the payment to AFLAC. It was explained that AFLAC premiums are deducted directly from employees' paychecks and are therefore considered a net-zero expense to the city. Alderman Locke asked about the hydrant for St Paul's Church stand. Mayor Garrett commented that early on she had talked to Mr. Hayes about passing the cost to them. Mayor Garrett will follow up with church. Alderman Crider moves to approve RES 2026-10 for the payments of July 14, 2026 to August 17, 2026 with a second from Alderman Massingill. Roll Call: Alderman Massingill – Aye; Alderman Knox – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye. Motion Carried.

BILL NO. 2026-03/ORD 583 2026 Tax Levy/Administration: "An Ordinance levying and providing for the collection of taxes and establishing the rate of \$0.4560 per \$100.00 assessed valuation for the City of Cole Camp, Missouri and revoking Ordinance No. 577". Alderman Crider moves to accept ORD 583 Bill No. 2026-03, Alderman Crider amends his motion for the first reading by title only of the Tax Levy

Ordinance, Bill No. 2026-03 ORD 583 with a second from Alderman Locke. Roll Call: Alderman Massingill – Aye; Alderman Knox – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye. Motion Carried. City Clerk Dawn Paul read Bill No. 2026-03 by title only. Alderman Locke moves for the second reading of Bill No. 2026-03 ORD 583 Tax Levy Ordinance, by title only with a second from Steve Knox. Roll Call: Alderman Crider – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Knox – Aye; Alderman Massingill – Abstain. Motion Carried. City Clerk Dawn Paul read Bill No. 2026-03 a second time by title only.

Bill NO. 2026-04/ORD 584 Memorandum of Agreement – Letter of Interest-United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement/Police: A technical correction of the ORD 548 to ORD 584 was made. Mayor Garrett opened up the discussion by explaining that the item was placed on the agenda at the Chief of Police's request as a potential funding opportunity for the department, which is experiencing a shortage of funds, and noted that placing the item on the agenda is the only way to allow the Board to lawfully discuss a matter under the Sunshine Law. Mayor Garrett also recommended delaying consideration until September to allow for public comment and further discussion, noting that the Chief would also be available to provide additional information. Comments by the Board of Alderman: Alderman Locke and Alderman Crider would like this item to be moved to September. Alderman Crider was also concerned on the possibility of costing the city later. Alderman Knox commented he hasn't had enough time to do research. Alderman Massingill moved to kill it. With no second to the motion, the item failed for lack of a second.

Semi-Annual Report/City Clerk: City Clerk Dawn Paul was asked to give a summary of what the City's semi-annual financial report is, the report is for six months of the year, and summarizes receipts, expenditures, and indebtedness for each City fund. The report is prepared for transparency, public information, City records, and auditing purposes.

Mayor Garrett reviewed the financial activity reflected in the semi-annual report and noted that several funds had expenditures exceeding revenues during the first six months of the year. The General Fund had approximately \$277,000 in revenues and transfers and \$294,000 in expenditures; the Water Fund was approximately \$2,000 over revenues; the Sewer Fund was approximately \$82,000 over revenues; and the Library Fund was approximately \$4,000 over revenues. The Sewer Fund expenditures included approximately \$100,000 for lift station work that was paid at the beginning of 2026. The Library Fund also included approximately \$10,000–\$11,000 that should have been recorded in 2025 rather than 2026 due to prior audit adjustments. Mayor Garrett also reviewed projected revenues and expenditures for the General, Water, and Sewer Funds and noted that certain capital improvements and other expenses were being funded from existing cash reserves.

Mayor Garrett expressed concern that the budget was relying on cash reserves and stated that, in her opinion, the budget was not truly balanced if savings were being used to cover the difference between revenues and expenditures. She expressed concern about using reserves for ongoing operational expenses and the potential long-term impact on the City's finances. The Board members agreed that the budget should be reviewed and that the City should work toward a truly balanced budget. The Mayor stated that she would meet with each Board member regarding their respective commissions and departments to review spending, identify potential reductions, and determine appropriate amounts to set aside as savings or reserves within each fund.

Drive by Water Meters/Public Works: Mayor Garrett requested that the discussion regarding drive-by meters be set aside until the City can further review and determine its financial position. She mentioned that the point-and-click meter reading system currently being used by the City is working effectively. The Board of Aldermen agreed to set the matter aside for the time being.

Street Resurfacing/Public Works: Mayor Garrett discussed the proposed resurfacing of Pine, Peach, Drennon, and possibly Hazlett Drive. The Board agreed that sewer and water conditions should be evaluated and necessary repairs completed before resurfacing. City Clerk Dawn Paul was asked to provide an update on the Streets Fund, including expenditures and grant reimbursements, to determine available funds for resurfacing. Mayor Garrett also asked to obtain updated bids, as previous bids are valid through October 1. She also discussed sewer issues identified during the smoke test near Pine and Oak Streets. No vendor is known to have been retained at this time. The Board agreed that the sewer issues should be addressed before resurfacing to avoid future removal of new asphalt.

Financial Reports: Alderman Locke moves to approve the financial reports as written with a second from Alderman Knox. Roll Call: Alderman Massingill – Aye; Alderman Knox – Aye; Alderman Locke – Aye; Alderman Crider – Aye. Motion Carried.

Clerk Report: Submitted reports in writing. Alderman Crider commented about the proposed October cleanup and whether to proceed with the fall trash pickup due to the additional cost. Mayor Garrett reminded the Board that the matter could not be voted on at this meeting because it was not listed as an agenda item under New Business. The Board agreed to place the fall cleanup on the September agenda for further discussion.

Public Works Report: Submitted reports in writing.

Police Report: Submitted reports in writing.

Mayor's Address: Mayor Garrett wanted to say thank you Kullman Masonry for fixing the stone pillars at Water Tower Park and there was also \$1,000 anonymous donation for that project. The project cost the city \$3,800. She also mentioned if someone was looking for a worthy cause the city would accept donations. Mayor Garrett also distributed the 2027 tentative budget schedule and went over the schedule Proposed Budget Schedule:

- Revenue Projections: Prepare 2027 revenue projections first.
- Departmental Budget Requests: Department heads will submit budget requests based on the projected revenues.
- October: Hold public budget meetings to review departmental requests, discuss capital expenditures and Board priorities, and ensure the Board understands proposed operating expenses.
- November: Hold a public meeting for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to discuss potential budget amendments. Department heads may present and justify significant capital purchases or expenditures that would require the use of cash reserves.
- December: Finalize and vote on the 2027 adopted budget prior to the statutory December 31 deadline.

Mayor Garrett discussed the Missouri Municipal League (MML) annual conference and the required training for elected officials. She stated that the conference provides useful information on city finances, planning and zoning, the Sunshine Law,

budgeting, statutes, and the Missouri Constitution. However, she noted that she does not agree with some of the philosophies and initiatives promoted by MML, including social justice/DEI initiatives and gun control. Mayor Garrett also stated that she disagrees with the philosophy that elected officials should simply stay out of the way of city staff and rely on staff to make decisions. She emphasized that elected officials, particularly in a fourth-class city, have a responsibility to remain involved in city government. She stated that, as mayor, she is accountable to the citizens, while unelected staff are accountable to the mayor under state law. She said she promised during her campaign to become involved in city business, ask questions, and report back to citizens, and that while some findings have been positive, others have been concerning, issues have been addressed when brought before the Board.

Mayor Garrett expressed appreciation for city staff and acknowledged that the City could not operate without them but emphasized that staff are not the governing authority of the City and that elected officials should not hand over their responsibilities to staff. She stated that she will continue to be involved, ask questions, and learn how city government operates, including understanding the City's water quality, wastewater operations, and sewer plant. She also expressed concern about relying on expensive consultants that the City cannot afford. Mayor Garrett concluded by stating that she expects the City to remain friendly and customer-service oriented. While acknowledging that government rules and guidelines must be followed and that the customer cannot always be right, she stated that every citizen should have an opportunity to be heard. She thanked city staff for their work and for working with her.

Citizens' Comments: Mona Ipsen – ICE: Ms. Ipsen voiced concerns regarding assisting ICE, including potential hidden expenses, liability, and ICE training requirements. She expressed hope that the City would remain focused on its role as a small town. Jon Beckman – Mr. Beckman expressed concern regarding members meeting outside regular meetings, including after the July meeting, which he stated was supported by video, and again on August 10, without the meetings being recorded. Board members clarified that the August 10 gathering was personal and that no City business was discussed. He also expressed concerns regarding a trust issue stemming from the previous administration, particularly in regard to the budget and Police Department.

Alderman Crider moves to adjourn with a second from Alderman Massingill. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 P.M

Minutes by Dawn Paul:

Minutes approved by:


Nicole Garrett, Mayor

Attest: 
Dawn Paul, City Clerk

