

SMITHVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
WORK SESSION

June 17, 2025 5:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers and Via Videoconference

1. Call to Order

Mayor Boley, present, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present: Melissa Wilson, Marv Atkins, Leeah Stone (FKA Shipley), Ronald Russell, Kelly Kobylski and Dan Hartman.

Staff present: Cynthia Wagner, Gina Pate, Chief Lockridge, Chuck Soules, Jack Hendrix, Rick Welch, Matt Denton, Linda Drummond and Anthony Glenn.

2. Budget Discussion

City Administrator Cynthia Wagner presented a brief overview of the budget items on the work session agenda. She noted that staff would be looking for direction and feedback.

a) World Cup

Information was presented regarding proposed initiatives related to 2026 Federation International de Football Association World Cup (FIFA) and the impact on economic development for the City.

Parks Director Matt Denton presented information expanding our Fourth of July celebration and to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence to coincide with the World Cup activities. Matt noted that increasing the funding to \$22,000 would extend the fireworks show to approximately 25 minutes. Currently they last about 15 minutes. The City would continue to partner with Clay County to share in the cost. This would increase the 2026 fireworks budget for each entity by \$3,000. Clay County Parks Director John Davidson was present to help answer questions.

The Board discussed expanding the fireworks budget and asked that it be included in the FY2026 budget for review at a later date.

Assistant City Administrator Gina Pate presented information concerning the possibility of lifting the restrictions on the limits to short-term rentals for the timeframe from May 1 to July 31 to accommodate needed housing for World Cup visitors.

The Board discussed possible changes to the short-term rentals would be reviewed once the Planning and Zoning Commission made their recommendations.

Gina and Matt presented information on the General Fund the unbudgeted cost that would be associated with the World Cup and the economic impact it could have on the City. These costs would include the fireworks, advertising, downtown banners and design, bathroom facilities, bounce houses and activities and donation for the Go North KC Website.

Megan Sahlfeld with Clay County Tourism noted that Clay and Platte counties have formed a Northland World Cup Working Group to coordinate regional efforts. A key outcome of this collaboration is the upcoming launch of Go North KC, a branding and marketing website to promote Clay County, Platte County, and local municipalities. This platform will play a vital role in attracting visitors and businesses before and during the World Cup by

highlighting what is going on in our communities and be an economic driver for the Northland.

The Board discussed the details of staff's proposed plan and directed staff to increase funding to \$40,000 to enhance the Fourth of July celebration and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in conjunction with World Cup festivities. Final discussion on this expenditure will be included in future review of the FY2026 budget.

b) Snow Removal Operations

Public Works Director Chuck Soules and Street Superintendent Anthony Glenn presented staff's proposal to eliminate contracted snow removal services and instead integrate the efforts of the Street Division and Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division. This proposal includes the purchase of additional snow removal equipment estimated at \$60,000 not included in the FY2025 budget.

The Board discussed amending the current FY2025 budget to add the additional funds for the purchase of snow removal equipment.

Chuck noted that staff will obtain prices for future discussion.

c) Staffing Needs

Gina presented staffing recommendations for the development of the FY2026 Budget. The Board and staff reviewed staffing needs at the retreat in April. Staffing needs include an Animal Control Officer, funded by the Public Safety Sales Tax, a Communications Coordinator, GIS Technician and a Parks and Facility Manager, funded from the General Fund.

The Board discussed the City's priority of staffing needs and directed staff to include the Animal Control Officer, GIS Technician and Parks and Facility Manager in the FY2026 budget for future review of the FY2026 budget

d) Outside Funding Requests

Cynthia provided an overview of the funding requests made to the City by outside agencies.

i. Northland Assistance Center – Rent and Utility Assistance

Rita Pierce, Regional Director for the Northland Assistance Center, presented a budget request of \$5,000 for rent and utilities assistance for Smithville residents. She noted that if granted they would include entering into an MOU with the City. Rita also noted that they could provide reports on the use of the funds.

ii. Community in Action – Staff Funding

Jennifer Rhodes, Community in Action Director, presented a budget request for \$55,000 to support salaries and general non-profit management. They requested the funds come from taxes collected on recreational marijuana, alcohol and tobacco.

The Board discussed including an additional \$25,000 in the FY2026 Budget for review at a future meeting. They further directed staff to prepare a grant opportunity program similar to the Neighborhood Grant Program, with an application and review process for discussion at a future meeting.

3. Adjourn

Alderman Hartman moved to adjourn. Alderman Russell seconded the motion.

Ayes – 6, Noes – 0, motion carries. Mayor Boley declared the Work Session adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Linda Drummond, City Clerk

Damien Boley, Mayor