

The El Dorado City Commission met in a regular session on June 1, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center with the following present: Mayor Bill Young, Commissioner Andrew Tipton, Commissioner Kendra Wilkinson, Commissioner Syndee Scribner, Commissioner Leon Leachman, City Manager David Dillner, and City Attorney Ashlyn Lindskog.

VISITORS

Tabitha Sharp	Assistant City Manager	El Dorado, KS
Scott Rickard	Director of Engineering	El Dorado, KS
Mike Holton	Police Chief	El Dorado, KS
Liz Blakely	Management Intern	El Dorado, KS
Kate Bosserman	Experience El Do Manager	El Dorado, KS
Olivia Malanchuk	Marketing Specialist, Experience El Do	El Dorado, KS
Julie Clements	Municipal Information Officer	El Dorado, KS
Kye Lehr	511 W. Central	El Dorado, KS
Sam McVay	114 N. Vine St.	El Dorado, KS
Jeff Klein	317 Race	El Dorado, KS
Laurie Klein	317 Race	El Dorado, KS
Jordan Friesen	425 S. Arthur	El Dorado, KS
Matt Click	830 W. Central	El Dorado, KS
Marvin Daniels	1602 W. 3 rd	El Dorado, KS
Victoria Fox	5750 NE 10 th	El Dorado, KS
Tonya Kerschner	5584 NE 10 th	El Dorado, KS
Steve Fellers	Chelsea Dr	El Dorado, KS
Ravin Young	1318 W. 2 nd	El Dorado, KS
Nicholas Tong	1017 Clark	El Dorado, KS
Austyn Hill	400 N Taylor	El Dorado, KS
Kerry Dorsen	1774 Lakeland	El Dorado, KS
Danny Diefenderfer	2841 W. 5 th	El Dorado, KS
Brain Johnson	602 Marmaton	El Dorado, KS
Steven Shannon	2049 Dragonfly	El Dorado, KS
Mary Burling	2370 US HWY 54	El Dorado, KS
Clinton Winger	10055 SW Haverhill	Augusta, KS
Christie Bowman	730 SW 80 th	El Dorado, KS
Carrie Shearburn	324 N Orchard	El Dorado, KS
Jarod Rutliff	1439 Lawndale	El Dorado, KS
Amy Gardner	7246 NW Kiowa	El Dorado, KS
Scott Trembly	3878 NE 2 nd	El Dorado, KS
Matt Hermreck	323 N. Summit	El Dorado, KS
Madeleine Carter	512 Simpson Rd	El Dorado, KS
Danica Dickson	921 W. Olive	El Dorado, KS
Meghan Wright	2499 NW River Valley Rd.	Towanda, KS
Sarah Henshaw		El Dorado, KS
Laura Collins	1310 Skyview	El Dorado, KS
Kathleen Mabry	409 NW 60 th	El Dorado, KS
Amber Alvord	1153 NW 60 th	El Dorado, KS
Elias Nicholson	2598 SW 50 th	El Dorado, KS
Callie Nicholson	2598 SW 50 th	El Dorado, KS
Terry Lowmaster	857 NW 90 th	El Dorado, KS
Eric Larsen	649 SW 80 th	El Dorado, KS
Crystal Sallee-Reed	217 N 8 th	Towanda, KS
Lane Volavka	628 Main	Towanda, KS
Chandler Kirkhart	1810 Megan Cir	El Dorado, KS
Kathryn Schaffner	1815 SW 60 th	El Dorado, KS
Kayla Higgins	116 N Emporia	El Dorado, KS
Rachel Harder	2757 NE Grant	El Dorado, KS
Charles Leidig	313 N Orchard	El Dorado, KS

Stephanie Williams	419 S Denver	El Dorado, KS
Andrew Blakeman	611 N Emporia	El Dorado, KS
Dominic Luna	235 Dellway	El Dorado, KS
Mike Booe	2382 SE US HWY 254	El Dorado, KS
Susan Stroud	11047 SW Boyer Rd	El Dorado, KS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Young called the June 1, 2026 meeting to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Leon Leachman moved to recess into executive session under the non-elected personnel exception under K.S.A. 75-4398(b)(12) to discuss matters relating to security measures that protect a public body and public building, specifically the security plan for the June 1st City Commission meeting, and to reconvene the meeting at 5:45 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Auditorium.

Commissioner Kendra Wilkinson seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Bill Young called the meeting back to order at 5:45 p.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Syndee Scribner opened the meeting with invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITION

Commissioner Kendra Wilkinson read the Pride Proclamation proclaiming the month of June as Pride Month.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Mayor Bill Young opened the floor for Personal Appearances.

There were no personal appearances.

Mayor Bill Young closed the floor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bill Young provided an overview of the procedure for public comment for the evening and a statement. He then opened the public hearing.

Kye Lehr discussed the wording of may instead of shall in the proposed amendments.

Sam McVay stated his support for the proposed amendments.

Jeff Klein expressed concern for transparency in the economic development process.

Laurie Klein expressed concern for lack of transparency.

Jordan Friesen stated his opposition to the Pride Proclamation.

Matt Click stated his opposition to the Pride Proclamation.

Marvin Daniels stated his hopes that the Commission will diligently consider strengthening their regulations to protect community resources.

Victoria Fox expressed concern for transparency in the economic development process and opposition to data centers in the region.

Tonya Kerschner expressed concerns over data centers and potential hazards.

Steve Fellers expressed his support for the proposed amendments.

Ravin Young asked for a moratorium to be added to the proposed amendments.

Nicholas Tong asked for a moratorium. He also expressed his support for the Pride Proclamation.

Austyn Hill expressed his opposition to data centers in the region.

Kerry Dorsen expressed concerns over transparency.

Danny Diefenderfer expressed concerns over data centers in the region.

Steven Shannon expressed concerns over potential hazards from data centers.

Mary Burling expressed support for a moratorium.

Clinton Winger expressed concerns over electrical rates with increased usage and environmental concerns.

Christie Bowman stated concerns over water consumption of data centers.

Carrie Shearburn expressed concerns with easements and past Evergy projects.

Jarod Rutliff expressed concerns over transparency and asked for a moratorium.

Amy Gardner expressed a wish for tighter regulations and a moratorium.

Scott Trembly expressed gratitude to Emerald for her handling of KORA requests. He expressed concerns over how the data center industry operates.

Matt Hermreck expressed support for amendments being passed to protect the City from legal issues, though he would like to see tighter regulations. He expressed concerns regarding emerging industries coming to El Dorado.

Madeleine Carter expressed opposition to data centers.

Danica Dickson expressed concerns over transparency from El Dorado Inc and expressed a desire for a moratorium.

Meghan Wright requested proposed amendments be sent back to the Planning Commission and expressed concerns over noise from emerging data centers.

Sarah Henshaw said that an industrial hygienist be brought in to advise on guidelines and should be rewritten.

Laura Collins expressed that amendments should be rewritten to forbid emerging centers.

Kathleen Mabry expressed concerns over potential water issues, public trust, and requested a moratorium.

Amber Alvord expressed concerns over public trust.

Elias Nicholson requested a moratorium to pursue a ban on emerging industries.

Callie Nicholson read scripture passages.

Eric Larsen requested the City undertake studies before rewriting the zoning amendments.

Crystal Saltee-Reed expressed concerns over water usage from data centers and other environmental concerns.

Lane Volavka expressed concerns over water usage from data centers.

Chandler Kirkhart expressed support for the proposed amendments. He expressed that he shares concerns over data centers and believes that the amendments allow for local control and oversight.

Kathryn Schaffner expressed concerns over data centers and requested a moratorium.

Kayla Higgins requested a moratorium.

Rachel Harder requested the amendments be sent back to the Planning Commission for proposed strengthening.

Charles Leidig expressed concerns over vague wording in the proposed amendments.

Stephanie Williams expressed opposition to data centers.

Andrew Blakeman raised concerns over potential changes to the community if emerging industries come to El Dorado, as well as environmental concerns.

Dominic Luna expressed concerns over transparency and public trust and requested more specifications be added to regulations.

Susan Stroud expressed concerns over drought conditions and water usage of data centers.

Mayor Bill Young closed the public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of City Commission Work Session Minutes from May 4, 2026.

Commissioner Andrew Tipton moved to approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Sydnee Scribner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 3, APPENDIX A, AND ARTICLE 6 OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF EL DORADO, KANSAS, TO ADD DEFINITIONS, USE CLASSIFICATIONS. AND SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR CERTAIN EMERGING INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE USES.

City Engineer Scott Rickard provided an overview of the proposed amendments, including definitions and proposed regulations. He provided a timeline of the Planning Commission's process in creating these amendments.

City Attorney Ashlyn Lindskog stated that these amendments are intended to fill in current gaps in the Zoning Code in relation to emerging industries. She stated that zoning requirements must respect the due process rights of landowners and have a level of discretion. She provided clarification on potential actions the Commission could take on this item. She stated that the Commission could pass the zoning amendments, override the Planning Commission's recommendations, or send the proposed amendments back to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She advised the Commission that if they wish to send the proposed amendments back to the Planning Commission, the Commission should provide specific feedback and instruction.

City Attorney Lindskog advised the Commission that passing a ban on emerging industries at this meeting could be difficult to defend legally. Such an action can be undertaken through a public process and deliberate work from the city.

Commissioner Syndee Scribner asked for clarification on whether not passing these regulations would leave the City vulnerable to development without appropriate guidelines.

City Attorney Lindskog stated that this is correct.

Commissioner Leon Leachman asked for clarification on why a moratorium would not be appropriate.

City Attorney Lindskog stated that a moratorium would not be a zoning decision and could not be passed that evening as it would require a written document with the timeframe and reasoning for passing the moratorium. She stated that if the Commission wishes to move forward with a moratorium, the Commission must still vote on the proposed amendments and then undertake the moratorium process.

City Engineer Rickard stated that moratoriums are primarily used when a specific project or permit has been filed.

Mayor Bill Young asked if the Commission could pass the proposed amendments at this meeting and then further amend the zoning regulations to reflect community input.

City Engineer Rickard stated that community concerns can be reflected in the Special Use Permit process by adding them to the requirements for the permit.

Commissioner Leachman asked if the Zoning Regulations are viewed as a living document. City Engineer Rickard stated that there have been other changes made this year.

Commissioner Andrew Tipton asked if the Special Use Permit process takes away City control and ability to regulate.

City Engineer Rickard stated that there is no loss.

City Attorney Lindskog stated that by amending current zoning regulations addresses gaps that could allow a data center by right since the lack of clarity could make them an arguable use and that the Special Use Permit allows for community engagement and stipulations from the City.

Mayor Young stated that his earlier question was to ascertain whether the Commission can continue discussing and adapting regulations after putting the initial standards in place. He stated that the vote this evening is not the end of the discussion in his opinion.

Commissioner Scribner asked whether the “may” stipulations are an exhaustive list of regulations that can be applied to projects and that this appears to allow for project specific regulations.

City Engineer Rickard stated that the Planning Commission can add conditions throughout the Special Use Permit process.

Commissioner Tipton asked whether the Special Use Permit process allows the Commission to deny a permit if all conditions are met.

City Engineer Rickard stated that with sufficient reason the Commission can deny permits. He also stated that substantive changes would require a new permit process be completed.

Commissioner Tipton asked for clarification on the legal defensibility of a denial.

City Attorney Lindskog stated that the Commission should be intentional in a potential denial and stated that public safety and concern could be a mechanism for denial. She stated that the City must provide due process in these situations with a clear record.

Commissioner Kendra Wilkinson stated her support for passing the amendments at this meeting and then asking for revisions and further amendments based on public concern to provide the city with a level of protection.

Commissioner Leachman agreed.

City Attorney Lindskog advised that the Commission provide specific changes they would like to see to provide clarity and accountability.

City Engineer Rickard stated that the Commission can table the decision to gather information.

City Attorney Lindskog stated that if the amendments are tabled the Commission should outline a plan with specific guidance for staff to provide more information.

Commissioner Syndee Scribner moved to approve Ordinance No. G- 1463, an ordinance amending the City of El Dorado, Kansas Zoning Regulations by adding definitions to Article 3, adding use classifications to Appendix A, and adding supplementary district regulations to Article 6 for certain emerging industries, and to adopt the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Leon Leachman seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Young read a closing statement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were none.

REPORTS

CITY COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

Commissioner Andrew Tipton stated that Main Street has received applications for a new director and are vetting these applications.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

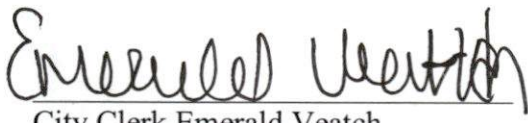
There was no report.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Andrew Tipton moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Commissioner Syndee Scribner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.


City Clerk Emerald Veatch


Mayor Bill Young