

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcement by City Manager Brian Silcott

City Manager Brian Silcott met with the City Commission today to announce his plans to depart from his position at the end of the year. Silcott is in his third year as City Manager.

“Brian brought a lot of best business practices to our city government,” said Mayor Emily Allen. “There were several areas where processes were improved, a more analytical approach was implemented, and the city will be better for that.” She specifically touted the road study that reviewed the condition of every city street and will form the backbone of the next phase of street improvements pending the sales tax vote in November.

Silcott said his priorities between now and the end of the year include helping secure the city’s financial future by providing education around the sales tax question, completing the new city website, finishing the city’s migration to a new geographic information system to help strategically plan work, public investments, and provide information to citizens; and finalizing development processes to make the process of building in Ottawa as user-friendly as possible.

City Commissioner Mike Skidmore said that Silcott had done a good job of trying to improve basic services while keeping a focus on the bottom line. “Our revenue neutral budget this year has a lot to do with Brian’s ability to help keep spending down in order to keep city property taxes level,” said Skidmore. Skidmore noted that the work Silcott had done on assessing public infrastructure would be critical in planning for future growth and development.

Silcott has served several Kansas communities, including Osage City, Sterling, Goddard, and Ottawa. He won the Buford Watson award in 2022, the highest honor given by the Kansas Association of City Managers. He is a National Guard veteran and was a firefighter before moving into city management.

The city will begin a search process to find a successor. Mayor Allen indicated the city hoped to have a new city manager on board by the end of the first quarter of 2026.