

Keep Saraland Beautiful
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2026

Member in attendance: Basil Smith, Mike Smith, Al Cleghorn, Barbara Sharp, Ron Mitchell, Rob McLean, Janice Harvison, Donna Hughes

Guests: David Williams, Jeremy Stewart (Saraland Building Dept Supervisor), Chris Andrews (City Council), Calvin Green, Mike and Kelly Salter, Steven Messer (City Planner)

Ron opened the meeting at 12:05pm. The KSB Annual Narrative Report was distributed, covering the time period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Jeremy Stewart addressed the group, giving his background and explaining what the role of his department is in the city government. The Building Department handles building permits, rights of way, plans for commercial and residential development, remodeling and additions, road patching, driveways, and more. The department uses the law to bring property into compliance. The environmental type of complaints, such as litter, fall under the authority of the Police Department.

If a resident has a vehicle or structure issue, they should call the Building Department and make a formal complaint. Once you file the complaint, if you would like to be updated, get the inspector's phone number and follow up with them. Your complaint will be investigated and photos taken, and if found to be in violation of the code/law, the owner will receive a citation by mail and on the door. The department works with the homeowner to find assistance to come into compliance. For example, an elderly person may need some help. After a period of time with the complaint unresolved, the owner will be summoned to court, and if they don't appear, a warrant will go out for their arrest. An online complaint system is planned to be in service in 2027.

Signage in Saraland pre-2007 cannot legally be challenged because it was grandfathered in when the modern sign ordinance was passed. The City cannot legally force the business owners who have used their signs since before the ordinance to bring them to the new code.

Chris Andrews spoke about the Revitalize Highway 43 Project committee. The City Council informally put it together with a few council members and stakeholders to address what can be done to keep Highway 43 a vital part of our growing and changing city. They discovered that with 200 businesses operating in our city limits on the highway, the problem is not a lack of businesses. The committee is studying the laws and ordinances and identifying the businesses that are grandfathered in. When approaching business owners about improving curb appeal, often they are receptive, for example, cutting grass they thought was someone else's responsibility. The committee is considering what the city should look like in 20 years and trying to map out the plan to get there. Ron asked if KSB could place a member on that committee, and Councilman Andrews agreed.

Ron thanked Mr. Stewart and Councilman Andrews for their time speaking to the group.

Barbara made a motion to accept the July minutes, which was seconded. Motion approved.

Basil gave the Treasurer's Report. The financial report was in order, and he reported that October 1 is the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Janice gave the Executive Director report. She completed the KAB annual report online and wrote it in narrative form to share with members and guests today. A copy will be delivered to the Council members for their review. She will renew the 501c3 status by completing the 990N form online.

Rob and Ron are scheduling a time to get a KSB credit card from the bank.

Al gave a report on the Ransom tour and lunch we provided on August 20.

He researched what it would take for Saraland to have an electronics collection point for Ransom to pick up. He described the concrete pad and container needed to house them, the location it would need to be placed in, and how it would keep more electronic items out of the landfill. Mike Salter described how other cities he's lived in have handled waste and recyclables. There was discussion whether Saraland needs to provide this service. Al made a motion that Keep Saraland Beautiful move forward to request the City provide an electronics recycling box be placed at the Public Works yard. It was seconded, motion passed.

The Fall Cleanup Day is scheduled for October 17. Janice will provide car litter bags to be given out that day from KSB.

Ron mentioned the Community Service cleanup program has been working for 25 years.

Barbara gave the Yard of the Month report. Sara Brenizer of 416 Sara Oaks Drive was awarded for September. When Barbara met the homeowner to share the news that her yard had been selected, Ms. Brenizer shared she'd had a heart attack the previous week while mowing her yard. Janice mentioned this program began in 2007.

Mike Smith was nominated to represent KSB on the Highway 43 Improvement Committee. Ron made a motion and it was seconded. Motion approved. The meetings are held roughly once a month, and are headed up by Councilman Kevin Dean.

Ron would like a designated City employee to report to KSB, and he will speak to the Mayor about that.

Elections were held. There being no nominees from the floor, the following slate was presented:

President: Rob McLean
Vice Pres: Ron Mitchell
Secretary: Janice Harvison
Treasurer: Basil Smith
Exec. Dir.: Janice Harvison

One Year Directors:
Jeanette Greene
Donna Hughes
Mike Smith

Two Year Directors:
Newton Cromer
Barbara Sharp
Juanita Chandler
Mildred Blass
Joan Carroll

Mr. Calvin Green joined as a member.

Al Cleghorn made a a motion to adjourn at 1:30pm.