

**THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY
CITY OF CHETOPA, KANSAS**

November 07, 2023

The Chetopa City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 07, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

PRESIDING: Mayor Tammy Bushong.

PRESENT: Council Members/Bob Boyd, Linda Seaman, Justin Nading, Ernie Wulf, and Geraldine Castle. Juanita Kepner was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk/Toni A. Crumrine, Police Chief/City Supervisor Scott Feagan, Attorney Shane Adamson by Zoom, Assistant City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Debbie Darnell, Krystal Adams, Pauline Brecheisen, Bryan Midgett, and Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson (@7:18p.m).

Mayor Bushong called the meeting to order, led the council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance, and opened the meeting in prayer.

It was requested to add the BG Invoice, KDHE pay request, Building Permit, and library board appointment to the agenda.

Motion by Castle, second by Wulf to approve the agenda with the additions. Motion carried.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Seaman, second by Boyd to approve the treasurer report. Motion carried.

Boyd asked about the Premium Audit and Deductible Invoice for Workers' Compensation. Clerk Crumrine clarified that an annual audit is conducted to determine employee classifications based on wages and there have been significant overtime and additional employees hired, resulting in an increase in the work comp premium. The work comp policy has a \$500 deductible and the city is billed quarterly for the deductibles. Any claim under \$500 does not go against the experience mod in determining the policy premium. Boyd inquired about the invoice for the museum's AC/Heat unit. Clerk Crumrine informed Boyd that the check would be mailed once the system had been inspected and signed off on by the city. Boyd questioned the 1998 Bond payment of \$6042.25 and Clerk Crumrine reported that this payment is for the principal and half of the annual interest payment on the water system utility revenue bond 1998. The first half of the interest was paid in May. Payments are due June 21st and December 21st and have to be received by the state at least 20 days prior to the due date.

Motion by Boyd, second by Wulf to approve the warrant register. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #3693 as follows:

Payroll Funds	\$32480.98
Other Funds	<u>\$65641.74</u>
Total of all Funds	\$98122.72

COUNCIL, EMPLOYEE & VISITORS

Fire Chief Midgett requested to purchase four (4) new sets of fireman bunker gear out of the fire department fund. Each set costs \$2,989.39 and the price is expected to increase by \$1000 per set after the first of the year. This quote is good until 11-30-23. Jon Maples, Carly Eichler, Conner Wright, and Charlie Blundell have joined the fire department.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to allow Midgett to order four (4) new sets of bunker gear. Motion carried.

Mayor Bushong had been informed by a resident of the burning of a house on Elm Street and had been told that Fire Chief Midgett had approved the burning of the house. Midgett stated that he had not granted the homeowner authorization to burn down the house but that he had recommended that the owner consult the state fire marshal for guidance on rules and regulations. Bushong updated the council on the meeting with the engineer regarding the sewer project. Given that three years have passed since the project's initial engineering report, there has been a substantial increase in material costs, estimating an additional cost of \$750,000 to the project. Consequently, alternative funding options to accommodate this rise must be explored. Presently, we have secured \$600,000 in CDBG grant funds and USDA funding consisting of a 12% grant and an 88% loan. The engineering firm is set to go out for bids for the project, providing more precise cost estimates to present to USDA.

Boyd discussed a USDA Solar Project that KMEA is doing. Boyd asked Wilkinson how many water line surveys had been turned in and Wilkinson stated 51% had been returned. Boyd talked about the chlorine leak occurring at the water plant, as well as the need for a planned maintenance schedule for the water equipment. Boyd questioned the lights around the water plant and Feagan reported he had ordered 6 new LED street lights and 1 will be installed outside of the water plant. Additionally, Boyd extended a warm welcome to Krystal Adams, introducing her to the team.

Nading inquired about a property on Main Street that has barricades set up in front of the building and is deteriorating. Feagan reported that he had a phone conversation with the owner, who assured him that the issue would be addressed, but no action has been taken thus far. Nading raised the question of when it becomes possible for us to intervene and initiate the demolition process. Feagan reminded the council that if it is an emergency condemnation a Resolution would need to be passed and made public, but if the owner orders the city off their property, the city would have to seek a judge's order in district court before any further action could be taken on the demolition. Assistant City Clerk Wilkinson will contact the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Committee to inquire about any help available for demolition costs. Nading with Boyd agreeing, praised Pauline Brecheisen for her excellent work in cleaning our city's buildings.

Wulf stated that he was approached by a citizen who would like us to price a Fiberglass Swimming Pool Insert. Wulf requested for us to get a fiberglass bid from the pool company in Joplin.

Clerk Crumrine stated she was starting on the Budget Amendment. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Renewal quotes were received last week at a 46% increase for the Chamber Blue option. If the city opts out of the Chamber Blue organization and returns to an age based policy, it will be a small group, and the MERP option that was presented by Scott Day in April, may be an option for employees 65 and over as Medicare would then be the primary insurance and BCBS would be the supplement. Scott Day with Freedom Claims will be at the council meeting on November 21st to discuss Insurance options.

Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan provided information about the incident with the Dodge Ram police truck, in which a Chelsea Police Officer collided with the city police vehicle. A repair estimate of \$4952.55 has been received from Full Body Auto Repair in Columbus and the truck is currently there being repaired. The claim has been turned into our city insurance and a check for the repair estimate less our \$1000 deductible will be mailed to the city office. EMC will seek reimbursement from the Chelsea Police Department for the total repair expense and the \$1000 deductible will be returned to the city. Our city's insurance will cover the deductible for these repair costs and their insurance company will reimburse us. Feagan contacted Rush Truck Company to inquire about the absence of the block heater that was originally on our large bucket truck before they performed their repairs. The supervisor is supposed to call him back.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

A letter was received from the Chetopa City Library Board requesting the appointment of Jessica Morgan to the library board due to the resignation of Tiffany Harris.

Mayor Bushong appointed Jessica Morgan to the Chetopa City Library Board.

Motion by Castle, second by Wulf to confirm the appointment. Motion carried.

BG CONSULTANTS

Invoice # 17 in the amount of \$1690 was received from BG Consultants for professional services done on the sewer project and a KDHE pay request was also presented to request funding from the revolving loan funds to pay the BG invoice.

Motion by Castle, second by Wulf to approve the payment to BG and authorize the mayor to sign the KDHE pay request. Motion carried.

BUILDING PERMIT

The following building permit was posted on the Facebook Residents page and city website with no protests: Brett Darnell to build a 16' x 24' addition to the south side of the house at 506 Cherry St., in the City of Chetopa.

Motion by Castle, second by Wulf to approve the building permit. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS FOLLOWUP

Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan gave an update on the 1989 Ford Tractor. R & F Supply gave a repair estimate that is good for six (6) months in the amount of \$2350.00. This will repair the 3pt hitch issue, and the starter and power steering issues.

Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to approve the estimate for the tractor repairs. Motion carried.

Feagan let the council know that Jason Morgan had passed his CDL testing so he requested that he receive his CDL pay increase effective October 30th.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to give Jason Morgan his CDL pay increase. Motion carried.

Boyd questioned Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan about a road by the school that needs to be repaired. There seemed to be some confusion on the road that he was talking about, but it may be too late in the season to get cold or hot patch and rock may be the only thing that can be done as of right now.

Assistant City Clerk Wilkinson presented the Library Repair Bids for the council's consideration. The council expressed concerns that the overall expense of repairing the library building outweighed its value, prompting them to explore alternative solutions. There was also a quote presented for the roof repair of the Electrical Storage building on Main Street. The Four States Pool Company's bid to fill in the pool was also discussed. There was deliberation on other potential swimming pool options and the extent to which our public works employees could contribute to cost savings by doing the work instead of hiring it done.

City Clerk Crumrine discussed the cost of the upcoming sewer project and noted that the current ordinance calls for an automatic 1% annual increase in the sewer rates and felt that a higher increase needed to be done, so that when the project is completed and rates are determined to fund the project costs, it won't be as large of an increase all at once. If the council elects to increase the annual percentage, a new ordinance will need to be drafted and adopted.

Motion by Boyd, second by Wulf to increase the sewer rates by 3% annually. Motion carried. A new ordinance will be drafted and presented at the next council meeting for adoption.

Mayor Bushong went over the junk vehicle list, inquiring about any fines that have been issued. The lease purchase for the museum AC/Heat units was discussed and Clerk Crumrine reported that in visiting with Debbie Yost, the bank doesn't normally loan on such equipment but they have offered to make a loan with a balloon payment after the first of the year, but the rate would be 8.99%. Mayor Bushong questioned if a loan could be taken out on one of the CDs but it was pointed out that there was not a General Operating CD and funds cannot be co-mingled.

VACATION REQUEST

Water plant Supervisor Michael Tyler's request for eleven (11) days of vacation time was presented for approval.

Motion by Castle, second by Wulf to approve Tyler's vacation request. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The employee Christmas party was discussed and a date of Saturday, December 16th was decided on and would be held at the Mae Lessley Building if available. Clerk Crumrine was requested to check on the availability of the building.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Seal

Mayor

City Clerk