

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

November 19, 2024

The Chetopa City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ryan Darnell.

PRESENT: Council Members/Bob Boyd, Linda Seaman, Brenda Dominguez, Justin Nading, and Ernie Wulf. Maria Billingsly was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Toni A. Crumrine, Police Chief/City Supervisor Scott Feagan. Attorney Shane Adamson via zoom, Assistant City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson, and Jessica Morgan.

Mayor Darnell called the meeting to order and led the council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance. Nading led the council in prayer.

It was requested to remove the trash truck tire quotes from the agenda.

Motion by Wulf, second by Dominguez to approve the agenda with the deletion. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to approve the court report. Motion carried. Boyd questioned the park balance. Crumrine noted the balance reflected the waste tire grant award money. The camping fees were discussed.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to approve the treasurer report. Motion carried. Boyd asked about the payroll ordinance and Crumrine clarified that payroll was included under the warrant register.

Motion by Nading, second by Seaman to approve the warrant register. Boyd voted Nay. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # 3718 as follows:

Payroll Funds	\$ 36,117.99
Other Funds	\$ <u>83,367.48</u>
Total of all Funds	\$ 119,485.47

MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES & VISITORS

Crumrine stated the water treatment plant operator training class in Pittsburg, originally scheduled for this month, has been rescheduled for February.

Adams mentioned that no VIN money has been collected or deposited since May. The LIEAP program has contacted the city and after 18 months, any unused funds must be returned to the State. The electricity balance will reflect this adjustment next month.

Boyd expressed his disappointment that there was no American flag displayed at Oak Hill Cemetery on Veterans Day and asked who was responsible for this. P. Wilkinson and Mayor Darnell took responsibility, explaining that the trees had not been trimmed, preventing the flag from being raised. Boyd also inquired about the fire extinguisher in the old library building. Feagan will follow up on this, as the extinguishers' location still needs to be determined. Boyd further addressed the overtime report, stating he had significant concerns about the number of overtime hours.

Darnell stated that no council member has the authority to direct an employee's actions. All decisions should go through him as the Mayor. Wulf added that there seems to be communication before the facts and a council member cannot act outside the official meetings. Boyd clarified that there is a difference between fact-finding and making binding decisions. He also expressed frustration when a citizen approached him about a city issue that he was unaware of. Darnell reminded everyone that communication between council members could potentially violate rules, and they should be mindful of this.

Crumrine mentioned that Josh Clair, owner of the car wash, questioned if there are any ordinances regarding vending such as license, fees, etc, as he is interested in expanding his business by adding laundry services and a dog washing station in the vacant bay. Crumrine also reported the 2025 waste tire grant opportunity is due in January. Action will be taken after the first of the year.

A vacation request for a total of three days for Water Treatment Plant Operator Paul Trinkle was presented.

Motion by Dominguez, second by Wulf to approve Trinkle's vacation. Motion carried. The complaint from the school about the damaged water meter lid was discussed. Feagan stated he would get this ordered.

Feagan requested an executive session for non-elected personnel.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEWER PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

A bank form for the CDBG reimbursement was presented and will require the Mayor's signature.

Motion by Wulf, second by Dominguez to approve the Mayor's signature. Motion carried.

CITY CODE DISCUSSION

A copy of the city code will be emailed to all governing body members. This will need to be reviewed and a work session will need to be scheduled as all changes will need to be completed by January 10th.

BUILDING PERMIT ORDINANCE (MOBILE HOME RESTRICTIONS)

The building permit mobile home restrictions ordinance #992 was presented for approval. Boyd suggested adding a legal description for mobile homes. Adamson agreed to provide a legal description. This will be updated and presented at the next meeting.

FOOD TRUCK POLICY ORDINANCE

The food truck policy ordinance #991 was presented for approval.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to approve ordinance #991. Motion carried.

LABETTE COUNTY SHERIFF PATROL ASSISTANCE DISCUSSION

Feagan stated he had spoken with Labette County Sheriff Eichinger, who said he did not commit to a specific time or number of hours to assist the city. However, Eichinger mentioned that roughly 24/7 shift coverage would cost approximately \$600.00 to \$650.00 per shift, totaling about \$1200.00 per day, \$438,000 annually. They also discussed academy travel time pay for officers. Boyd expressed disagreement with the overtime pay for travel time back and forth to the LE Academy on weekends and requested this issue be addressed before any new police officers.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESIGNATION

Pauline Brecheisen's resignation letter was presented for approval.

Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to accept Brecheisen's resignation effective immediately. Motion carried. Crumrine volunteered to monitor the Mae Lessley Building clean-up.

INSURANCE RENEWAL DISCUSSION

BCBS 2025 rates have increased 21.42%. Other insurance options are being explored for cost savings and will be presented at the next meeting.

MOWING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION

A discussion was held regarding the mowing special assessments for the property at 612 Locust Street, where a request had been made to reduce the amount of charges.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to take no action. Motion carried.

BG CONSULTANTS INVOICE #27

The BG Consultant Invoice #27 in the amount of \$44,949.50 was presented for payment.

Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to approve paying said invoice. Motion carried.

UTILITY/PAYROLL/AP SOFTWARE DISCUSSION

The G-Works Software annual support contract increase was discussed. The invoice increased from \$3,618.00 to \$9,600.00. A. Wilkinson has been working with several other software companies for quotes.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to table paying the G-Works Invoice. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL

Motion by Dominguez, second by Nading to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with the council, Attorney Adamson via zoom, and Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan, for a period of (15) fifteen minutes with the session ending at 8:23 p.m.

Motion carried. Entered: 8:08 p.m. Returned: 8:23 p.m.

Mayor Darnell called the meeting back to order and asked if any action was to be taken.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to re-enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with the council, Clerk Crumrine, Attorney Adamson via zoom and Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan for a period of (10) ten minutes with the session ending at 8:33 p.m.

Motion carried. Entered: 8:23 p.m. Returned: 8:33 p.m.

Mayor Darnell called the meeting back to order and the following action was taken.

Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to allow Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan to advertise for a part-time police officer position. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Dominguez to adjourn. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Seal

Mayor

City Clerk