

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

February 04, 2025

The Chetopa City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ryan Darnell.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk/Toni A. Crumrine, Police Sergeant Travis Rakestraw, Attorney Shane Adamson, Assistant City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson, Officer Alexis Scofield, Officer Jason Wammack, Assistant City Supervisor Myles Adams, Pauline Brecheisen, Roberta Carter, Angela Forquer, Betsy Koontz, Debbie Yost, Barb Harris, Jessica Morgan, Barbara Evans, Scherrill Grissom, Ashley Judd, Joie and Tim Smith @7:23p.m. and Wesley Weishaar via Zoom.

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

It was requested to add Pauline Brecheisen and City Library Director Angela Forquer as visitors and Nading requested an executive session.

Motion by Seaman, second by Nading to approve the Agenda with additions.

Motion carried.

Motion by Dominguez, second by Nading to approve the Minutes of the last regular meeting. Motion carried.

Boyd praised the excellent work done on the back utilities collected by the city office.

Motion by Boyd, second by Seaman to approve the Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Boyd commented on the high Atmos Energy bill for the Museum.

Motion by Seaman, second by Dominguez to approve the Warrant Register. Motion carried.

**APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 3723** as follows:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Payroll Funds      | \$ 32,206.78      |
| Other Funds        | <u>183,265.08</u> |
| Total of all Funds | \$215,471.86      |

**MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES & VISITORS**

**Pauline Brecheisen** brought up fundraising ideas for the city to the council and shared concerns about the community collaborating for a positive outcome.

**Wesley Weishaar with BG Consultants** via Zoom gave a sewer project update. The Willow Street lift station issues were discussed. Boyd and Bentley explained the No.3 pump repairs currently being accomplished at JCI Industries.

**Forquer** with the City Library shared recommendations for the library building. She noted that the library has \$15,000 available, along with an additional \$2,200 in donations, toward the purchase of the building and discussed plans for future fundraising initiatives.

It was requested to move the library building discussion to old business on the next agenda.

**Tim and Joie Smith** confirmed the council's approval for the cleanup of their property at 201 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The council remarked that the property looked nice.

**K. Adams** presented information regarding 2 new park camping fee boxes for \$658.00.

Motion by Boyd, second by Nading to purchase new camping fee boxes for both parks. Motion carried.

**A. Wilkinson** requested approval to attend the CCMFOA Spring Conference in Manhattan, KS along with Clerk Crumrine on March 19-21.

Motion by Seaman, second by Bentley to approve the attendance for Wilkinson and Crumrine to attend the spring conference. Motion carried.

**Crumrine** noted that two representatives were required for the solid waste committee.

Motion by Seaman, second by Dominguez to approve Mayor Darnell and Myles Adams as members of the committee. Motion carried.

Salary Ordinance No. 994 was presented for approval. The salary ranges were updated to include in the new city code draft.

Motion by Seaman, second by Dominguez to approve the adoption of Ordinance No. 994 as presented. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 994/ AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SALARIES AND WAGES OF CERTAIN APPOINTIVE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF CHETOPA, KANSAS AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 964 AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

The invoice for the fire department reporting software from ESO Solutions was presented for approval.

Motion by Seaman, second by Dominguez to approve the payment of the ESO invoice for \$3,032.33. Motion carried.

The 4-H members are selling flowers and the budget for the parks was discussed.

Motion by Nading, second by Seaman to approve a \$2,000 budget for park flowers. Motion carried.

A Chamber of Commerce member inquired about the possibility of hosting a beer garden fundraiser during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. It was discussed that there is no available space to accommodate such an event.

A public works application has been submitted.

Motion by Dominguez, second by Bentley to authorize Seaman and Boyd to interview the applicant along with Myles Adams attending, and pending approval, extend a job offer. Motion carried.

Three Wastewater H2O invoices for work done in December and January on the lift stations were presented for approval. Boyd commented that with these invoices we have paid over \$30,000 to Wastewater H2O in the last 3 years for repairs and preventative maintenance. Pictures of the lift station pumps were displayed.

Motion by Nading, second by Seaman to pay all three invoices in the amount of \$6,792.00. Motion carried.

**Rakestraw** asked if officer Scofield, who lives in Columbus and drives to Baxter Springs to drop her children off at daycare for her 24-hour shifts, could use the police truck so she could come directly from there to work in Chetopa.

Motion by Nading, second by Bentley to grant Scofield's request pending review and approval from the city attorney and city insurance agent. Motion carried.

**M. Adams** requested approval to arrange servicing for the public works small bucket truck, gray ford truck and trash truck. The council agreed to allow Adams to proceed with scheduling the service.

**Boyd** requested the purchase of a Chloride Dioxide Generator pump from Grainger in the amount of \$1,362.90 for the water treatment plant.

Motion by Dominguez, second by Bentley to allow the purchase of the pump. Motion carried.

**Seaman** inquired about the property on 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street that required attention due to tall weeds and grass. The neighbor across from this property also noted the need for this to be addressed.

**Nading** requested permission to seek bids for the replacement of one of the garage door openers at the fire department.

Motion by Boyd, second by Bentley to go out for bids to replace the door opener. Motion carried. Crumrine asked for Nading to provide the bid specifications.

There was a waterline break at 725 Elm Street and Nading requested a water adjustment at city cost for the water usage due to the residents' hardship to attend meeting in person.

Motion by Dominguez, second by Seaman to give a water adjustment for 725 Elm Street. Motion carried.

**Bentley** inquired about a property on Maple Street. Nading indicated he had spoken to a county commissioner about an upcoming tax sale for some of these properties.

The noise ordinance was discussed with Rakestraw. Rakestraw noted if residents encounter a problem, they should contact dispatch at that time.

**Dominguez** was approached regarding the trailer of rotting pumpkins on Elm Street.

Motion by Nading, second by Dominguez to send a nuisance letter to the property owner requesting cleanup at both of his property locations. Motion carried.

**Harris** asked about residents in town with-out-of state tags on their vehicles. Rakestraw responded that he could pull them over and issue a citation.

Bennett Inc. submitted pay request No.4 in the amount of \$205,418.63 for payment. The CDBG pay request for \$51,262.00 was also submitted for the mayor and clerk to sign.

Motion by Seaman, second by Nading to authorize Mayor and clerk to sign and approve the Bennett Inc. and CDBG pay request. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **CLEANING POSITION DISCUSSION**

Mckinzie had requested an hourly wage of \$12 for cleaning the city facilities.

Motion by Bentley, second by Nading to raise the hourly wage to \$12. Motion carried.

#### **JUNK VEHICLE UPDATE**

Boyd discussed the junk vehicle list that was provided to the council, mentioning that the list was incomplete and needed to cover the entire city limits. Boyd also requested that the camper at the residence on North 5<sup>th</sup> Street be removed off the city sidewalk.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **BUILDING PERMIT**

Brandon Bates to build a 30x40 shop at 516 Pecan Street, in the City of Chetopa. Building inspector Nading recommended the approval of the permit.

Motion by Dominguez, second by Seaman to approve the building permit for Bates. Motion carried. Nading abstained.

#### **UNLICENSED DOGS/CATS RUNNING AT LARGE**

Boyd highlighted the importance of addressing the issue of dogs and cats running loose and suggested posting the city ordinance on our city Facebook page to remind residents about the requirement to purchase pet tags. A discussion ensued. Mayor Darnell asked for this to be posted on Facebook.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Nading, second by Boyd to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with the mayor, council, and Attorney Adamson for a period of five (5) minutes with the session ending at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried.

Entered: 8:47 p.m.

Returned: 8:52 p.m.

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

Motion by Nading, second by Seaman to re-enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with the mayor, council, Attorney Adamson for a period of five (5) minutes with the session ending at 8:58 p.m. Motion carried.

Entered: 8:53 p.m.

Returned: 8:58 p.m.

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

Motion by Seaman, second by Nading to give Officer Scofield a .50 hourly pay raise, retroactive to her Law Enforcement Academy graduation date of 12-13-2024. Motion carried.

Motion by Dominguez, second by Seaman to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Seal

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Mayor

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City Clerk