

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

April 15, 2025

The Chetopa City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 2025,
at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ryan Darnell.

PRESENT: Council Members/ Bob Boyd, Justin Nading, Chuck Bentley, Linda Seaman, Brenda Dominguez and Ernie Wulf.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk/Toni Crumrine, Attorney Shane Adamson (via zoom), Assistant City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson, City Supervisor Myles Adams, Police Chief Scott Feagan, Officer Alexis Scofield, Barb and Phil Harris, Jessica Morgan, Roberta Carter, Nancy McKibben, Betsy Koontz, Pauline Brecheisen, Donna Davis, Michelle Feagan, James Rupert, Troy Bartlett, Steve Darnell, Mike Hall, Rogan Bruce, Tammy and Lee Bushong, Bill Moses, Dusty Rupert, Debbie Yost and Walter Posey @7:09p.m.

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

Darnell read his resignation letter as Mayor. Motion by Boyd, second by Wulf to accept Darnell's resignation. Motion carried. Clerk Crumrine then administered the oath of office to Council President Bob Boyd, officially appointing him as Mayor. Boyd took the Mayor seat.

It was requested to add Betsy Koontz, Mike Hall, James Rupert, Donna Davis, and Walter Posey as visitors, the library board member appointments and the first quarter Fire Department pay request to be added as new business. Motion by Dominguez, second by Seaman, to approve the Agenda with additions. Motion carried.

Motion by Nading, second by Bentley to approve the Court Report. Motion carried.

Motion by Nading second by Bentley to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

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

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

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 3728-3729 as follows:

Payroll Funds

3728	\$ 35,412.62
3729	\$ 1,680.38
Other Funds	<u>\$ 620,166.66</u>
Total of all Funds	\$ 657,259.66

MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES & VISITORS

Walter Posey requested permission to reside in his camper at 403 Plum Street temporarily but connected to city utilities, while he remodels his house at 413 Plum Street. Motion by Seaman, second by Nading to allow Posey to stay in his RV for 60 days during his home renovation. Motion carried.

Speaking on behalf of the Museum Board, Betsy Koontz thanked the council for removing the dead tree in front of the Museum.

Mike Hall voiced concerns about the current mowing situation. Mayor Boyd expressed gratitude to all the community volunteers who have supported the city during the public works staff shortage.

James Rupert also shared concerns regarding the mowing. Boyd explained the city workers' compensation rules, noting that it prevents volunteers from operating city equipment.

Donna Davis requested an extension for the nuisance letter she received for the property at 306 Willow Street. Davis mentioned that she could move the car into the garage, and Feagan confirmed that would be acceptable as long as it couldn't be seen from the road.

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Boyd read the library board recommendations and made the following appointments: Re-appoint Jessica Morgan and Johnna McDaniels to the library board and replace Virginia Davis with Marie Duggan. Motion by Nading, second by Dominguez to confirm the library board appointments. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT 1ST QTR 2025 PAY REQUEST

The Fire Department 1st quarter pay request for \$680.00 was presented for approval. Motion by Dominguez, second by Seaman to pay the request. Motion carried. Nading abstained.

Boyd shared a video showing the semi-annual cleaning of the water treatment plant raw water clarifiers.

K. Adams raised concerns about several residents with excessive trash. A list will be compiled of these locations so that an additional polycart can be delivered for an extra charge.

Crumrine announced a fundraiser scheduled for May 26th at the Mae Lessley Building. In accordance with the rental agreement, council approval is required for alcohol use at the event. Motion by Nading, second by Dominguez to permit alcohol in the building at the higher rental rate. Motion carried. Crumrine also mentioned that she had received inquiries about selling old water meters. Motion by Nading, second by Bentley to authorize M. Adams to conduct a count of the old meters and provide a proposed dollar figure to the council before proceeding with any sale. Motion carried. Crumrine thanked the community for the support over her 28 years of service as City Clerk, noting her final day will be Thursday, April 30th.

M. Adams requested approval to purchase ten streetlights in the amount of \$1,312.00. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to approve the purchase. Motion carried.

Debbie Yost announced that 'Love Labette week' is April 19-27th. The program promotes community kindness and encourages positive behavior. The Bank of Commerce has flyers for more information.

Boyd brought up ATV/Golf cart permits, emphasizing the importance of code enforcement verifying tag registrations. Bentley asked about the possibility of a waiver for community volunteers. The discussion was tabled for further information.

Boyd asked the council to elect a new President of the Council to replace him. Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to elect Justin Nading as President. Motion carried. Bentley voted Nay. Nading abstained.

Nading installed the new overhead door operator at the Fire Station; however, due to a defective part, the company will need to send a replacement. Nading also mentioned that the fire department plans to request new bunker gear for the 2026 budget.

Feagan announced that Liberty Utilities will be replacing two poles on Monday, April 21st, starting at 10:00 p.m. and there will be a total electrical outage for approximately 3 to 4 hours.

OLD BUSINESS

HOCKETT NUISANCE

Rakestraw submitted photos of the property at 403 N. 2nd Street. The council reviewed the images and discussed cleanup options. Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to proceed with a resolution authorizing Public Works employees to enter and clean up the property. Motion carried. Boyd encouraged council members to drive by this location. Additional properties throughout town were discussed as needing to be cleaned up. Feagan added that the Police Department has written nuisance tickets.

SATURDAY BRUSH DUMP DISCUSSION

Opening the brush dump on a Saturday for residents was discussed. It was decided to table this until public works is fully staffed.

OFFICER EICHLER'S CONTRACT RESTITUTION

A discussion was held regarding the collection of Officer Eichler's expenses for contract restitution. Attorney Adamson hopes to have all necessary inputs so written documentation will be ready to proceed at the next council meeting.

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

A complaint from the Bartlett Co-Op, Chetopa location was discussed. Bennett Inc. has addressed the problem and is working to resolve the issue. Residents experiencing property issues related to the sewer project are asked to contact the city office to be added to the punch out list. All property disturbed by the sewer contractor will be restored before the city finalizes the contract.

Feagan stated that 26 mowing nuisance letters are going out this week.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Wilkinson has reached out to the department heads to turn in any 2026 budget items that are needed.

Boyd addressed financial concerns highlighted in the audit review received by the council, specifically related to overtime expenses. Auditors are expected to visit in May or June. Boyd requested that the payroll clerk provide a report to him of all overtime hours before

payment. Bushong inquired about law enforcement overtime and it was explained that overtime is calculated after 171 hours worked within a 28-day period.

NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS OCCUPATION TAX

Discussion was held over The Liquor Store letter that was sent showing the Occupational Tax had not been paid for several years. It was decided to have Chief Feagan hand deliver a certified letter.

BG CONSULTING INVOICE

BG invoice No 32 for \$46,081.20 was presented for approval to pay. Motion by Seaman, second by Nading to pay the invoice. Motion carried.

KB ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING INVOICE

KB Archaeological Invoice for \$6,758.00 for monitoring the area noted by the Osage Nation during the sewer project construction was presented for approval to pay. Wilkinson stated this invoice would be submitted to the Kansas Water Office for reimbursement. Motion by Wulf, second by Bentley to pay the invoice. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE MEAL ALLOWANCE

Currently, there is no policy for employees' meal allowance during training. Discussion was held to follow the IRS directive which for 2025 is \$68 per employee per day for meal purchases. Motion by Bentley, second by Nading to follow the IRS directive every year for the employee meal allowance. Motion carried.

BUILDING PERMIT-FOX

Karla Fox to move in a 12x24 metal storage building to 322 Mulberry Street, in the City of Chetopa. Building Inspector Nading recommended the approval of the permit. Motion by Dominguez, second by Wulf to approve the building permit for Fox. Motion carried. Nading abstained.

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION

Talon George submitted in his resignation effective Tuesday, April 15th. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to accept the resignation. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with the Mayor, the council, and Attorney Adamson, for a period of ten (10) minutes with the session ending at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Entered: 8:35 p.m.

Returned: 8:45 p.m.

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

Motion by Wulf, second by Bentley to give the Public Works employees, the Water Treatment Plant employees and the office staff a \$1.00 per hour pay raise, except for Jason Morgan is to be given a \$2.00 per hour pay raise effective 04/15/2025. Motion carried. Boyd stated he appreciated our city employees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dominguez, second by Wulf to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with the Mayor, the council, and Attorney Adamson, Myles Adams, and Scott Feagan for a period of fifteen (15) minutes with the session ending at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried.
Entered: 8:50 p.m. Returned: 9:05 p.m.

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

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to enter back into executive session for five (5) minutes with the session ending at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried.
Entered: 9:05 p.m. Returned: 9:10 p.m.

Mayor Boyd called the meeting back to order and no action was taken from the executive session.

EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Boyd appointed Rogan Bruce as a City of Chetopa Public Works Employee at a pay rate of \$18.00 per hour. Motion by Bentley, second by Wulf to confirm Bruce’s appointment. Motion carried.

Mayor Boyd appointed Amy Wilkinson as Chetopa City Clerk effective May 1, 2025. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to confirm Wilkinson’s appointment. Motion carried.

FIREWORKS ORDER

The cost of the fireworks display has been negotiated down to \$8,000.00. The Fire Department will contribute \$1,000.00 towards the total cost again this year. Motion by Wulf, second by Bentley to approve the 4th of July fireworks order. Motion carried. Assistant Fire Chief Darnell will obtain a final invoice for the order.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Seal

Mayor

City Clerk