

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

July 15, 2025

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Bob Boyd.

PRESENT: Council Members/Linda Seaman, Josh Moore, Justin Nading, Chuck Bentley, and Ernie Wulf.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Police Chief Jason Wammack, Attorney Shane Adamson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Mike Tyler, and City Supervisor Myles Adams @ 7:19 p.m. Roberta Carter, Nancy McKibben, Scherrill Grissom, Betsy Koontz, Hassan Al-Rabbat, Barb Harris, Debbie Yost, Toni Crumrine, Chad and Jessica Siler, Ron and Karla Seaman, Donald Payne, Jessica Morgan, Lee and Tammy Bushong @ 7:10 p.m.

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

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to approve the Court Report. Motion carried.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Nading inquired about the Foley Equipment quarterly generator maintenance.

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

Boyd discussed the final two injectors that needed to be replaced on the trash truck.

Motion by Nading, second by Seaman to approve the repair work. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # 3735 as follows:

Payroll Funds	\$ 41,664.89
Other Funds	<u>\$ 227,232.41</u>
Total of all Funds	\$ 268,897.30

MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES & VISITORS

Boyd read council member Dominguez's resignation. Motion by Nading, second by Moore to approve the resignation. Motion carried. There were two applicants for the open council seat. Motion by Wulf, second by Bentley to appoint Besty Koontz to fill the vacancy. Boyd confirmed the appointment. Motion carried. A. Wilkinson administered the oath of office and Koontz took her seat at the council table.

Kyle Spielbusch with Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips, was present to discuss the 2024 Audit with the council. Motion by Nading, second by Bentley to 2024 approve the audit. Motion carried. Spielbusch also presented the 2026 budget report. A discussion was held. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to notify the county clerk of the city's intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, which would raise the mill levy from 71.552 to 73. Motion carried.

Debbie Yost, on behalf of the Chetopa Merchants, requested a donation for the Labette County Fair premium livestock sale. Motion by Wulf, second by Moore to donate \$200.00. Motion carried.

Tyler provided information on the quarterly generator maintenance contract with Foley Equipment. The quote for repairing the Willow Street lift station generator was also reviewed. Moore stated that he would evaluate the generator before moving forward with the repair.

M. Adams requested the Public Works Department begin operating on their summer schedule of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Motion by Seaman, second by Koontz to approve the summer hours, with the exception of employee Bruce, who will maintain his current schedule. Motion carried. Adams also mentioned the possibility of hiring Labette County Public Works employee Micah Ekhoft to mow the sewer lagoon and proposed reaching out to Labette County for approval. Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to hire Ekhoft to mow the lagoon again this year. Motion carried.

Karla Littlejohn raised concerns about the mowing of city lots adjacent to her property in the Hornet Addition.

Donald Payne addressed his nuisance complaint. Chief Wammack has contacted the property owner regarding the issue.

The splashpad/swimming pool fundraiser was discussed. Motion by Wulf, second by Moore to approve advertising for the fundraiser. A donation account has been established at the Bank of Commerce. Motion carried.

Boyd presented photos showing brush piled up on the bridge. KDOT has been contacted and is currently working on a solution. Boyd and Wilkinson attended the county commission meeting on Monday to discuss the need for a tax sale on various properties throughout town, as July of 2018 was the last county tax sale. County Attorney Brian Johnson stated that a tax sale is being scheduled for this fall.

Boyd noted that the 4th of July celebration was a great success and commended the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts. Photos were shared of the two reclosures donated to the city by Mound Ridge. A. Wilkinson reported that the new reclosure control panel was shipped on Friday, July 11th. Images of broken tree limbs that caused the last power outages were also shown. Boyd emphasized the importance of residents maintaining their trees to help prevent such issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

OFFICER EICHLER'S RESTITUTION

Officer Eichler's restitution was discussed. Adamson stated the lawsuit was about to be filed.

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

It was announced that the KRWa will be conducting smoke testing of our sewer lines on July 28th through July 31st.

JUNK VEHICLE LIST UPDATE

Wammack gave an update on the list and indicated that people are getting served.

CITY ANIMAL TAG ORDINANCE

City Attorney Adamson confirmed the council intended to repeal section 2-201-74, subsection B, and set the city fee of \$5.00 each for city animal tags.

RABIES VACCINE CLINIC

The Chetopa Veterinary Clinic administered rabies vaccinations to 19 animals on July 10th at \$10.00 each, paid by the city. Tammy Bushong has volunteered to donate \$100.00 toward the expense.

WATER TAP FEE ORDINANCE

Adamson clarified that the council wants customers to be responsible for the cost of any new service installation. After discussing the details, the ordinance revision was tabled to allow committee members, Wulf and Moore, time to research how charges could be applied to unused water taps.

PROPOSED SICK PAY

The personal policy regarding sick pay was discussed. The matter was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

SEALED BIDS

Three city vehicles scheduled for sale require new batteries. Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to authorize Moore to purchase the necessary batteries to get the vehicles running prior to advertising them for sale. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER

The following 2025 fire department roster was confirmed as follows:

Chief Justin Nading Assistant Chief Ryan Darnell

Captain Nathan Blackledge Captain Lane Rathjen

Lieutenant Lane Kabrey Lieutenant Tait Johnson

Firefighters: Andre Appleton, Jeremy Bates, Steve Blackledge, Charlie Blundell, Kyle Darnell, Scott Feagan, Zach Lawellin, Carthen Nash, Dakota Pease, and Conner Wright. Mayor Boyd appointed Nading as the Fire Chief. Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to confirm the 2025 fire department roster. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RUN PAY

The second quarter pay request in the amount of \$248.00 for the Fire Department runs was presented for approval. Motion by Wulf, second by Koontz to pay the request. Motion carried.

CITY RETIREE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE POLICY

A proposed retiree healthcare coverage policy, as requested by Freedom Claims Management, Inc was presented for inclusion in the city's policy manual. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to adopt the retiree policy changes with the Mayor's signature. Motion carried.

WATER TOWER REPAIR QUOTE

Discussion on the water tower repair quote was tabled until the Mayor and Clerk can schedule a meeting with Lawellin Backhoe.

BENNETT PROPERTY LIST

The sewer project is nearing completion. Residents with any unresolved issues are encouraged to contact the city office to report them.

LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

The city's agreement with Labette Community College, which provides employees with free tuition, was up for renewal. The 2025-2026 contract was presented for approval. Motion by Moore, second by Seaman to authorize the clerk to sign the agreement. Motion carried.

YEARLY UTILITY RATE INCREASE

Utility rate adjustments were discussed, including electric, water, sewer, and sanitation services. Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to increase water rates by 5% and raise electric, sewer, and sanitation rates by 3%. Motion carried. The current sanitation ordinance, which sets a \$15.00 fee for bulk item pickup, was also reviewed.

Resident **Hassan Al-Rabbat** addressed the council, emphasizing the importance of effective leadership and communication in the community. He expressed pride in being a member of the Chetopa community.

POLICE DEPARTMENT APPLICATION

De'Vaughn Amann, a certified part time police officer, was interviewed for a position with the department. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to hire Amann as a new city police officer. Motion carried.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to adjourn @ 9:53 p.m. Motion carried.

Seal

Mayor

City Clerk