

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

September 16, 2025

The Chetopa City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

PRESIDING: Mayor Bob Boyd.

PRESENT: Council Members/Linda Seaman, Betsy Koontz, Jessica Morgan, Ernie Wulf and Chuck Bentley. Justin Nading was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Attorney Shane Adamson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson, Police Chief Jason Wammack, Debbie Yost, Barb Harris, and Tammy Bushong.

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

Boyd requested to add employee appointment under New Business. Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to approve the Agenda with addition. Motion carried.

Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to approve the Minutes of the September 2, 2025, regular meeting. Motion carried.

The CD interest was discussed. Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to approve the Warrant Register. Motion carried. Koontz mentioned that the Sprouse Family remarked on how helpful Patty Wilkinson had been when they spoke with her regarding cemetery matters.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # 3739 as follows:

Payroll Funds	\$ 45,522.02
Other Funds	<u>\$ 91,295.09</u>
Total of all Funds	\$ 136,817.11

MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES & VISITORS

Boyd asked Chief Wammack about the streetlights outage list he requested. Wammack stated that his officers are still compiling the list.

Seaman raised a concern about the large hole at the football field entrance and Wilkinson noted she would submit a work order. The property on South 5th Street and Maple Street was also discussed as needing attention.

Koontz asked about the trees in Veterans Park that required trimming and Wilkinson explained that a work order was pending. Boyd commented on the recent trimming of trees in the

East River Park. Koontz added that the Christian Church Vacation Bible School had raised funds to plant a tree in Elmore Park and Boyd expressed appreciation for their donation.

Wulf reported he is almost done with repairs on the playground equipment at Veterans Park.

Boyd presented photos of one of the backwash filter actuators needing replaced at the water treatment plant, as well as photos of the 1975 dump truck following an electrical fire.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEWER UPDATE

Bennett Inc. has been in town finalizing property rut repairs.

JUNK VEHICLE /OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE PLATE UPDATE

Chief Wammack explained the procedure for handling tickets related to out-of- state vehicle tags and is to verify Oklahoma LLC in question is registered to do business in the State of Kansas.

OPEN RECORDS FEE ORDINANCE #1005

Questions from the clerk's office remain regarding the ordinance; therefore, it has been tabled until the next meeting.

HORNET ADDITION DISCUSSION

Attorney Adamson reviewed two property deeds in the Hornet Addition and clarified that the covenants do not apply to the 8.16 acres on the north side of Pecan Street. As a separate entity, the city maintains sole possession and ownership rights of said property. Boyd recommended tabling the discussion and asked the council to develop ideas to utilize the property to the city's advantage.

WILLOW ST. LIFT STATION GENERATOR REPAIR

Bentley reported he would order the low coolant level sensor, wrap the exhaust and complete the installation himself.

PROPOSED SICK PAY DISCUSSION

Bentley stated he had consulted with neighboring cities regarding their sick leave policies and recommended allowing employees to accumulate up to 30 days of sick leave, payable only upon retirement. Motion by Bentley, second by Koontz to adopt this policy, with the exception of three long-time employees, P. Wilkinson, M. Tyler, and P. Trinkle, who will be grandfathered under the previous sick leave payout policy. Motion carried.

STATUS OF SEALED BIDS ON 3 CITY VEHICLES

Clerk Wilkinson reported that M. Adams confirmed both the dump truck and the pole truck are operational and the yellow Ford is awaiting two replacement batteries.

Boyd reported attending the Labette County Commission meeting on Monday, September 15, 2025 which included the county's Notice to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing, as well as the discussion of the abandoned cemeteries. He also inquired about the sheriff's property tax sale originally expected for the fall and was informed that no date has yet been set.

1504 MAPLE STREET PROPERTY

The property owner at 1504 Maple Street has not responded to emails or phone calls.

STORAGE CONTAINER ORDINANCES IN OTHER CITIES

Attorney Adamson provided Mayor Boyd with three sample ordinances from other cities regarding storage containers for review.

VETERANS PARK RIVERBANK FENCING

Koontz submitted a proposal to repair the fence along the riverbank in Veterans Park. M. Adams will review the matter and provide an update at the next meeting.

ICR ELECTRIC LLC. TRANSFORMER INSTALL BID

The labor quote from ICR Electric for installing transformers at Russell Creek Engineering, LLC was presented. Motion by Koontz, second by Morgan to accept the labor quote for \$2,880.00 for the transformer upgrade. Motion carried.

OFFICER EICHLER RESTITUTION

Attorney Adamson distributed a copy of the contract for the petition against Officer Eichler and noted that, upon learning she was employed by the Galena Police Department, he would update the petition and proceed with serving her.

NEW BUSINESS:

AUDIT FIRM ENGAGEMENT LETTERS

Engagement letters from Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips for the 2025 Audit and 2027 Budget Preparation were presented for approval. Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to authorize the Mayor to sign the letters for the 2025 Audit at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.00 and the 2027 Budget Preparation for \$2,900.00. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Luke Wilkinson was interviewed for the public works position. Mayor Boyd appointed him as a public works employee. Motion by Wulf, second by Koontz to confirm the Mayor's appointment. Motion carried. Boyd stated that trimming trees around the electric lines will be the top priority for this employee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with the Mayor, the council, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Court clerk, Police Chief and Attorney Adamson for a period of ten (10) minutes, with the session ending at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Entered: 8:02 p.m.

Returned: 8:12 p.m.

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

There was no council action taken at that time.

Motion by Seaman, second by Koontz to adjourn @ 8:13 p.m. Motion carried.

Seal

Mayor

Clerk