

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

October 7, 2025

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Bob Boyd.

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Attorney Shane Adamson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson, Police Chief Jason Wammack, Water Treatment Plant Operator Michael Tyler, City Supervisor Myles Adams, Officer DeVaughn Amann, Jessica Morgan, Debbie Yost, Stewart Warwick, Scherill Grissom and Tammy Bushong @ 7:04 p.m. and Bill Moses @ 7:18 p.m.

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

Boyd requested to add the Russell Creek Engineering electric upgrade to Old Business and move the Oak Hill Cemetery Meeting under Visitors on the Agenda. Motion by Wulf second by Nading to approve the Agenda with additions and changes. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Koontz to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2025, regular meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to approve the Treasurer Reports. Motion carried.

Boyd noted the budgeted transfers on the Warrant Register. Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to approve the Warrant Register. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # 3790 as follows:

Payroll Funds	\$ 31,732.33
Other Funds	<u>\$ 229,640.38</u>
Total of all Funds	\$ 261,372.71

MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES & VISITORS

Debbie Yost requested a water bill adjustment due to a leak. Motion by Wulf, second by Koontz to reduce Yost's bill to the city's cost. Motion carried. Yost also announced the upcoming Community Forum on October 20th, the Christmas Parade on December 10th and Christmas on the Street on December 13th.

Stewart Warwick also requested an adjustment on his water bill because of a leak. Motion by Wulf, second by Koontz to reduce Warwick's bill to the city's cost. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to adjourn the council meeting and open the Oak Hill Cemetery Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to close the Oak Hill Cemetery meeting and enter back into the regular council meeting @ 7:12 p.m.

Tyler reported that Maguire Iron Inc. is scheduled to begin repairs on the water tower riser after October 16th. The painting of the water tower has been postponed to the spring of 2026. Chlorine burn notices will need to be sent out and Tyler will provide the city office with the dates. He also shared that he met with a representative from AV Water Technologies regarding water and electric meters, but noted that the grant requires a matching contribution, so this project will be revisited in the future. Additionally, Tyler announced his intention to retire next year following the completion of the water tower painting.

M. Adams expressed his appreciation to the council for allowing him to attend the recent Kansas Municipal Utilities overhead electric workshop. He noted that the training highlighted the need to test a significant amount of equipment. Palfinger inspected both bucket trucks and the digger truck. The bucket trucks will require repairs. Clerk Wilkinson will provide the council with photos and inspection reports. Boyd requested that M. Adams update and include a copy of the city vehicle maintenance Excel spreadsheet in the council packets.

A. Wilkinson announced that she has submitted an application to the Kansas Water Office for the HB 2302 grant in the amount of \$111,450.00 to fund the water tower riser replacement project. This grant does not require matching funds.

Koontz commented on the Public Works crew for the excellent job they did trimming trees in the parks. She also expressed interest in exploring the possibility of transferring the city's trash service to a private company and asked the sanitation committee to evaluate whether this would be beneficial for the city. Boyd added that the Labette County Solid Waste Committee has been meeting with GFL Environmental, which is proposing a significant rate increase.

Bentley reported that he has transported the donated used electrical recloser to Osage City for testing.

Nading reported that the Fire Department has completed hydrant testing throughout town and reminded the public about the upcoming Fire Department Fundraiser dinner on Saturday, October 25th.

Boyd announced that the city's water testing successfully passed the lead and copper testing requirements through KDHE.

Seaman asked about the road repair on the south side of the school. Clerk Wilkinson explained that Atmos Energy is responsible for the repair and has been contacted.

Boyd also noted that Jessica Morgan was not seated at the council table because she is waiting for her resignation to be accepted at the upcoming City Library Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEWER UPDATE

Mayer Specialty Services has returned to town to make additional repairs on several sewer taps.

JUNK VEHICLE /OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE PLATE UPDATE

Chief Wammack reported that junk vehicle letters are still being delivered to residents. He also mentioned plans to contact Wildlife and Parks for assistance with the numerous sick raccoons in town. Wulf added that he believes the city should hire an Animal Control and Code Enforcement Officer and would like to see a plan developed to achieve this goal.

OPEN RECORDS FEE ORDINANCE NO.1005

The Open Records Fee Ordinance was presented for approval. Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to approve Ordinance No.1005. Motion carried.

9th STREET PROPERTY DISCUSSION

Discussion was held regarding potential uses for the 8.16-acre 9th Street Property. Wulf suggested exploring ways to encourage city growth, such as a future site for a swimming pool or a park. The easement for the property was also discussed. Additionally, the old library building at 312 Maple Street was discussed. Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to contact Sally Davis Real Estate and list the property for sale.

WILLOW ST. LIFT STATION GENERATOR REPAIR

Bentley reported he has obtained the necessary parts to repair the Willow Street Lift Station generator.

STATUS OF SEALED BIDS ON 3 CITY VEHICLES

The sale of city vehicles was discussed, including adding the burnt dump truck to the list. Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to go out for sealed bids for four vehicles. Motion carried.

STORAGE CONTAINER ORDINANCES IN OTHER CITIES

The council discussed storage container ordinances from other cities. Boyd asked council members to review the sample ordinances for potential ideas.

OFFICER EICHLER RESTITUTION

Attorney Adamson reported that he has not filed with the court for restitution against Officer Eichler, as a few items in the lawsuit need to be redrafted. Boyd emphasized that completing this should be a priority.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT 3rd QUARTER RUN PAY REQUEST

The Fire Department 3rd Quarter Run Pay request in the amount of \$528.00 was presented for approval. Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to pay the payment. Motion carried, with Nading abstaining.

PUMPKIN PARADE DONATION

Clerk Wilkinson requested that the City donate \$200.00 again this year to the Chamber of Commerce for the City Halloween Parade. Motion by Wulf, second by Koontz to approve the donation. Motion carried. Wilkinson also mentioned that the Police Department and the City Office staff plan to serve hot dogs and drinks for the kids attending the parade.

BUILDING PERMIT-STEINKAMP

Sharon Steinkamp to demolish an existing 15x20 structure and rebuild an existing 15x20x9 building at 115 N. 2nd Street, in the City of Chetopa. Assistant Building Inspector Ernie Wulf

recommended the approval of the permit. Motion by Seaman, second by Bentley to approve the building permit for Steinkamp. Motion carried, with Nading abstaining.

EMPLOYEE PROBATION

Public Works employee Daniel Campbell's 30-day extended probation ended on September 17th. Police Officer Gracie Mann's probation period ended on September 28th and Police Officer Bo Sharp's on September 30th. Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to remove all three employees from probation. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY FORUM

The meet and greet for the City Council and School Board member community forum is scheduled for October 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Mae Lessley Building.

RETIREMENT LETTER

Boyd publicly read the retirement letter from Patty Wilkinson, who serves as Court Clerk, Payroll Clerk, and Assistant City Bookkeeper. Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to regretfully accept Wilkinson's retirement effective January 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to advertise for this Court Clerk, Payroll, and Assistant Bookkeeper position. Motion carried.

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, and Attorney Adamson for a period of five (5) minutes, with the session ending at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried.

Entered: 8:44 p.m.

Returned: 8:49 p.m.

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

Motion by Koontz, second by Wulf to re-enter into executive session for five (5) minutes, with the session ending at 8:56p.m. Motion carried.

Entered: 8:51 p.m.

Returned 8:56 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 @ 8:56 p.m. Motion carried.

Seal

Mayor

Clerk