

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

October 21, 2025

The Chetopa City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

PRESIDING: Mayor Bob Boyd.

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Attorney Shane Adamson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Police Chief Jason Wammack, City Supervisor Myles Adams, Debbie Yost, Rodger Wilson, Jason Morgan, David Hubbell, Aaron and Nichole Conard, Tammy Bushong, Barb Harris, and Brett Darnell.

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

Boyd requested to move the Library Board Resignation up on the Agenda. Motion by Wulf second by Nading to approve the Agenda with the change. Motion carried. Boyd read Jessica Morgan's resignation from the Chetopa City Library Board. Motion by Koontz, second by Seaman to accept Morgan's resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Koontz to approve the Minutes of the October 7th, 2025, regular meeting. Motion carried.

Boyd commented the Treasurer's report was looking better. Nading inquired about the sewer balance and it was explained that it was due to paying the yearly bond payment. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to approve the Treasurer Reports. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to approve the municipal court report.

Boyd noted that during the last quarter of the year, any purchases need to be run across the City Clerk's desk. Motion by Wulf, second by Nading to approve the Warrant Register. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # 3741 as follows:

Payroll Funds	\$ 39,741.27
Other Funds	<u>\$ 82,692.80</u>
Total of all Funds	\$ 122,434.07

MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEES & VISITORS

Aaron and Nichole Conard announced their intentions to purchase and fully restore 303 Maple Street. They also shared plans for the property and noted they will be applying for the Kansas Commerce Historic Economic Asset Lifeline Grant. In addition, the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan will be reviewed as a potential resource for the project. A. Conard also asked about the city-owned property located on the west side of this property.

Brett Darnell requested permission to use the Elmore Park ballfield for a softball tournament on November 8th, 2025, as a fundraiser for ballfield improvements. Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to allow the tournament. Motion passed.

Rodger Wilson requested a water bill adjustment due to a waterline break. Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to reduce Wilson's bill to the city's cost. Motion carried.

David Hubbell reported that he had attended the Bartlett Co-op annual meeting and expressed concern regarding the closure of the Co-op at the Chetopa location.

M. Adams updated the council on ongoing equipment issues, noting that the digger truck is experiencing mechanical problems. Adams also reported that the trash truck will be sent to Fleet Maintenance Solutions for its annual service. Additionally, the lift stations at 8th Street and Willow Street require float replacements. Boyd thanked Wulf and Bentley for their assistance with the numerous repairs needed in Public Works.

A. Wilkinson clarified that the podium had not been permanently removed; it was borrowed and returned to its owner. She also stated that this action was unrelated to limiting public comments.

Adamson noted that he submitted the paperwork on Friday regarding Officer Eichler's restitution.

Boyd explained that the recent relocation of the City Office and the Police Department was done for the benefit of the community. The Police Department had outgrown its previous space due to increased evidence storage needs. The former police station has now been transformed into an improved city office, which will soon feature a drive-through window at very little cost.

Nading asked about the possibility of selling the former fire station property at 303 Maple Street. Boyd stated he would contact Davis Realtor to determine the property's value. Nading also inquired about the potential advantages and disadvantages of annexing the old Bartlett Coop building into city limits.

Adamson reported that he had attended the Continuing Legal Education Conference in Kansas City. Nading added that the fire trucks will be serviced once the Water Tower Project is completed.

Boyd commented on the recent "Meet the Candidates" event held on Monday, October 20th. He noted that Craig Sanders did an excellent job as moderator and that communication between the city school district, the city, and the chamber was a major focus of the discussion. Boyd expressed disappointment with the low turnout, stating that many residents who frequently express concerns online did not attend. He also shared a KMEA article regarding utility rate increases, which exceed the city's recent increase. Additionally, he presented photos of the water tower riser pipe and the newly planted apple tree in Elmore Park that was donated by the First Christian Vacation Bible School fundraising event.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEWER UPDATE

Mayer Specialty Services has returned to town to continue re-opening taps and identifying potential problem areas.

WATER TOWER RISER

Lawellin Backhoe and Trenching will be replacing the water main outside the tower, Following installation, the water plant will begin the process of restoring 200,000 gallons of water to the tower. Photos of the original 50-year-old water tower riser pipe were presented.

RETIREMENT LETTER

Boyd read Michael Tyler's retirement letter, stating his final working day will be June 1, 2026. Motion by Nading, second by Koontz to accept Tyler's retirement. Motion carried. A second motion by Nading, second by Wulf was made to advertise for the Water Treatment Plant Supervisor position. Motion carried. Seaman and J. Morgan will meet with Tyler to review the qualifications required for the role.

JUNK VEHICLE /OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE PLATE UPDATE

Chief Wammack reported that notices regarding junk vehicles are still being delivered to residents. Additionally, several citations have been issued for vehicles with out-of-state plates.

WILLOW ST. LIFT STATION GENERATOR REPAIR

Bentley reported that he will be moving forward with the repairs to the generator at the Willow Street Lift Station.

STATUS OF SEALED BIDS ON 4 CITY VEHICLES

Motion by Wulf, second by Nading, to advertise four city vehicles for sealed bids over the next month: a 1975 Ford F600 dump truck, 1992 Ford Super Duty jet-rodder truck, a 1992 Ford F350 utility truck, a 1997 Ford F70 pole digger truck and a 1989 Ford 3910 tractor. Motion carried.

STORAGE CONTAINER ORDINANCES IN OTHER CITIES

The council reviewed examples of storage container ordinances from other municipalities. Boyd requested that council members continue evaluating the samples for potential ideas.

RUSSELL CREEK ENGINEERING LLC.

The council discussed the ongoing electrical issues related to Russell Creek Engineering. ICR will be contacted to inform them that the necessary work is considered a priority.

NEW BUSINESS:

REAL ESTATE CONTRACT REVIEW

The real estate contract for the former city library building was discussed. 312 Maple Street will be listed for sale at \$40,000.00, in as-is condition.

9th STREET PROPERTY DISCUSSION

Discussion was held regarding the potential sale of the 8.16-acre property on 9th Street. This item was tabled pending notification to neighboring property owners. Motion by Koontz, second by Morgan to send letters informing adjacent property owners of the city's intent. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Boyd reported on the Labette County Solid Waste Committee meeting. The transfer station is requesting a forty percent rate increase. He noted that from January through August 2025, the city delivered approximately 364 tons of waste to the transfer station at a total amount of \$16,446.00. Contracting out sanitation services was discussed; however, it was noted that the sanitation fund is self-sustaining and supports two employees' salaries.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to adjourn @ 8:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Seal

Mayor

Clerk