

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

April 02, 2024

The Chetopa City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 02, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ryan Darnell.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk/Toni A. Crumrine, Police Chief/City Supervisor Scott Feagan, Attorney Shane Adamson, Assistant City Clerk Amy Wilkinson, Utility Bookkeeper/City Treasurer Krystal Adams, Luke and Savannah Wethey, Hank Pippin, Jessica Morgan, and Court Clerk Patty Wilkinson @7:43 p.m.

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

It was requested to add the first responder/fireman pay to the new business.

Motion by Wulf, second by Dominguez to approve the agenda with the additions.

Motion carried.

Motion by Boyd, second by Wulf to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting.

Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the negative balances on the water and park funds. Clerk Crumrine reported that the \$50,000 budgeted electric transfer had already been added to the water fund. A check for \$844.68 has been included in the warrant register for the ½ cent sales tax transfer to the park fund.

Motion by Wulf, second by Boyd to approve the treasurer report. Motion carried.

Motion by Wulf, second by Dominguez to approve the warrant register. Motion carried.

**APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #3703** as follows:

Payroll Funds	\$ 36,299.95
Other Funds	<u>\$ 23,792.22</u>
Total of all Funds	\$ 60,092.17

**MAYOR, COUNCIL, EMPLOYEE & VISITORS**

**Luke & Savannah Wethey** requested the council's permission to set up the Brush Arbor in the East River Park for September 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion by Seaman, second by Wulf to use the East River Park for the Brush Arbor as they have done for several years in the past. Motion carried.

Hank Pippin with The Junction Internet Company, provided the council with details regarding the new location for their 150 ft self-supporting internet tower, scheduled for completion by the end of May. Pippin will oversee the completion of the building permit required for this

project. Discussions regarding the franchise fee between The Junction Internet and the city were held, and Clerk Crumrine will send Pippin a copy of the relevant ordinance.

A conversation regarding the city library took place. There have been reports about the Wi-Fi being left active after the library closes, which was included in the agreement. This matter will be investigated.

**Dominguez** mentioned that Bill Moses had approached her about the use of the city brush dump key when the city office is closed on a Friday afternoon. It was pointed out that according to the Brush Dump Ordinance, the use of the key can only be used during city office hours.

**Billingsly** congratulated Feagan and A. Wilkinson for receiving the Parsons Area Community Foundation grant award.

**Boyd** inquired about the grocery store's past-due balance. The payment arrangement with the store is not consistent. The junk vehicle list was discussed.

**Seaman** asked the council if they could donate 2 boxes of gloves and 2 boxes of trash bags to the school for the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day clean up.

Motion by Nading, second by Wulf to purchase the Earth Day supplies for the school. Motion carried.

**Seaman** also inquired about the Barr Lumber property. It was stated that the owners had 60 days from the March 5<sup>th</sup> hearing.

**Nading** stated that the fire department would like to purchase new hoses and nozzles for the pumper truck.

Motion by Wulf, second by Dominguez to allow the fire department to purchase the replacement hoses and nozzles for \$6,384.12 Motion carried.

**Mayor Darnell** discussed various street projects, and he intends to get with Feagan and Adams with the details.

**Clerk Crumrine** informed the council of the upcoming GWorks software webinar for the office staff on April 10<sup>th</sup> and requested permission to close the office during this webinar.

Motion by Wulf, second by Billingsly to allow the office to close on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for the GWorks webinar. Motion carried.

**Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan** announced that we were awarded \$5,000.00 from the Parsons Area Community Foundation to aid in the purchase of tasers for the police department. Feagan and A. Wilkinson will attend the award program on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to accept the grant. The total cost for the taser purchase package is \$19,497.60. Feagan proposed utilizing the \$5000 grant towards the taser proposal, with the remainder to be paid off over the course of the next four years.

Motion by Boyd, second by Dominguez to accept the taser proposal and allow Feagan to pay \$5,000 towards the taser invoice for the first-year payment. Motion carried.

**Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan** stated that mowing violation letters would soon be going out. Two of the police officers are interested in mowing on their days off. Feagan requested the mowing position's hourly wage be raised to \$15.00 per hour and allow the position to do any other job as deemed necessary.

Motion by Nading, second by Billingsly to increase the mowing position to \$15.00 per hour and to allow that position to assist in other jobs as necessary. Motion carried.

**Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan** stated that he would be conducting the first interviews for the full-time public works position. The council's final interview committee for the public works position will consist of Boyd, Billingsly, and Mayor Darnell.

**Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan** stated that all of the service lines to the old Riggs drug store building and the old barber shop on Maple Street have been disconnected. The owners will soon start demolition of these buildings.

**Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan** had budgeted for the purchase of dumpsters. Motion by Nading, second by Billingsly to allow Feagan to purchase dumpsters up to \$5000.00. Motion carried.

**Police Chief/City Supervisor Feagan** highlighted the concern regarding the bridge located on North 3rd Street. Nading and Wulf will investigate the matter.

Discussion took place regarding enhancements to park equipment. Clerk Crumrine brought to the council's attention the allocation of the ½ cent sales tax, which is divided between the special city-county highway and the parks. The council retains the authority to determine the distribution percentages. Presently, 75% of the tax revenue is allocated to the special city-county highway fund, while 25% is designated for park improvements. However, no adjustments were made by the council at this time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The increase in the Business Utility Deposits was discussed.

Motion by Nading, second by Billingsly to increase the business utility deposit to \$500.00. Motion carried.

Regarding the investigation into water utility rates, the decision was made to postpone any actions until the audit report is finalized.

The codification proposal in the amount of \$8000.00 with other upgrade options listed was presented.

Motion by Boyd, second by Wulf to approve the codification proposal. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **FIRST RESPONDER & FIRE DEPARTMENT RUN PAY**

The first-quarter pay request in the amount of \$980.00 for the First Responder runs and the pay request for the Fire Department in the amount of \$956.00 was presented for approval.

Motion by Seaman and second by Wulf to approve the First Responder and Fire Department first quarter pay request. Motion carried.

##### **BUILDING PERMIT**

Michael and Maria Billingsly to add onto their existing porch and extend existing carport at 807 Hardin Street, in the City of Chetopa. Building Inspector Nading recommended the approval of the permits.

Motion by Wulf, second by Dominguez to approve the building permits for Billingsly. Motion carried. Nading and Billingsly abstained.

Conversations took place regarding the disposal of dumpsters that have surpassed repair. There was no update on any pending items.

Motion by Wulf, second by Seaman to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Seal

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Mayor

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City Clerk