

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Jacob LaRue presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners Present: Mayor LaRue and Commissioners Kevin Berthot, Sam Budreau, Phillip Chaney, and Tim Fairchild.

Staff Present: Todd Newman, City Manager; Ryan Follmer, Assistant City Manager; Tina Bailey, City Clerk; David Brake, City Attorney; Cory Kepley, Chief Finance Officer; Brandon Westerman, Director of Electric Utilities; Chris Pefley, Police Chief; and Jeff Mitchell, Fire Chief.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Tim Fairchild.

PROCLAMATIONS

CHANUTE BLUE COMET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING TEAM

Mayor LaRue recognized and congratulated the young women on the 2022-2023 Chanute Blue Comet High School girls wrestling team for demonstrating tremendous athletic talent, and recognized the Blue Comet coaches for their dedication in teaching, coaching and building outstanding students into a team. CHS Girls Wrestling Coach Nothern accepted the proclamation.

YOUTH ART MONTH – MARCH 2023

Mayor LaRue proclaimed that March 2023 be observed as Youth Art Month in Chanute, Kansas. All citizens are urged to take interest in and give full support to quality school arts programs for children, youth, and art galleries. Bob Cross and Alicia Fickel accepted the proclamation.

LIFESAVING AWARD PRESENTATION

Chanute Fire Chief Jeff Mitchell and Captain Shawn Reinecke provided a brief overview of a recent lifesaving event and presented Police Captain Josh King, Police Officer Hayden Cole, and Police Officer Tim Talbert with a letter of accommodation and lifesaving metal.

Chanute Police Chief Chris Pefley and Assistant Police Chief Marc Umbarger also presented each officer with a lifesaving medallion.

AGENDA

Mayor LaRue requested the removal of Agenda Item 11F-Property Resolution 505 North Central & Item 11L-Property Resolution 803 North Steuben. The amended Agenda was approved on motion by Commissioner Budreau, seconded by Commissioner Berthot. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is used to approve non-controversial or routine matters by a single motion and vote. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- Minutes – City Commission – February 27, 2023
- Warrant Register dated March 1, 2023
- Warrant Register dated March 8, 2023
- Review Various Board and Committee Minutes and Reports

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Budreau, to approve the Consent Agenda. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Todd Newman gave his report on City activities and operations. Items reported on included an update on the process for selecting a new restaurant for the golf course location and announced that Spring Clean-Up week has been scheduled for May 1 – May 6, 2023.

City Manager Newman provided an update on the VFW Memorial.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman and City Attorney David Brake.

OLD BUSINESS

PARK ADVISORY BOARD – ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

At the last Chanute City Commission meeting, commissioners wanted to expand the eligibility for membership of the Park Advisory Board to include individuals who are customers of a Chanute municipal utility.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman and City Attorney David Brake.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Budreau, to pass an Ordinance amending Chanute Municipal Code Section 2.92.030 pertaining to Membership to Park Advisory Board.

Voting Aye: Mayor LaRue and Commissioners Berthot, Budreau, and Fairchild.

Voting Nay: Commissioner Chaney.

Motion carried.

The Ordinance was assigned: No. 2653

PARKING ON ONLY APPROVED SURFACES – ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

At the last Chanute City Commission Meeting the Commission reviewed Chanute Municipal Code 10.08.087 pertaining to parking in the front yard of residentially zoned areas.

After significant discussion, the Chanute Commission wanted to consider an amended ordinance that expanded the ordinance to any property receiving city utilities at the residential rate.

City staff has confirmed that all property owners are being charged accordingly for utilities.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman, Assistant City Manager Ryan Follmer, and City Attorney David Brake.

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Chaney, to pass an Ordinance amending Chanute Municipal Code Section 10.08.087 pertaining to Parking on Only Approved Surfaces.

Voting Aye: Mayor LaRue and Commissioners Berthot and Chaney.

Voting Nay: Commissioners Budreau and Fairchild.

Motion carried.

The Ordinance was assigned: No. 2654

AMENDMENT TO RECREATION FACILITY LEASE AGREEMENT

This item was tabled at the February 13, 2023 regular City Commission meeting to allow the CRC Board to consider an amendment to Article 1.4 of the June 1, 2021 Recreation Facility Lease Agreement, by removing the building fund balance cap.

The Chanute Recreation Commission Board approved the City Commission's suggested amendment to Article 1.4 during their regular March 6, 2023 meeting.

General discussion was made.

Motion made by Commissioner Chaney, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to approve amendment to the Recreation Facility Lease Agreement as presented. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION APPLICATION – KJA ENTERPRISES, LLC

KJA Enterprises, LLC has submitted an application under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. It has been verified that the property listed under the scope of the application, 904 N Lafayette, parcel identification number 067-044-17-0-40-17-003.00-0 is within the scope of the city limits of Chanute. The application has been submitted and reviewed by the Neosho County Appraisers office along with the Neosho County Treasurer's office.

The application is now being submitted to the City Commission for consideration and approval. The application will be void one year from the date of the application being approved unless the construction is finished before then. The applicant is to notify the County Appraiser of the commencement of construction within ten (10) days after starting the project.

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization Application – KJA Enterprises – 904 N Lafayette. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION APPLICATION – CLEAVER DEVELOPMENT

Cleaver Development has submitted an application under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. It has been verified that the property listed under the scope of the application, 2103 South Santa Fe, parcel identification number 067-049-32-0-10-01-001.00-0 is within the scope of the city limits of Chanute. The application has been submitted and reviewed by the Neosho County Appraisers office along with the Neosho County Treasurer's office.

The application is now being submitted to the City Commission for consideration and approval. The application will be void one year from the date of the application being approved unless the construction is finished before then. The applicant is to notify the County Appraiser of the commencement of construction within ten (10) days after starting the project.

Motion made by Commissioner Budreau, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization Application – Cleaver Development – 2103 South Santa Fe. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW GOLF CARTS & UTILITY VEHICLE ORDINANCE

Review of City Ordinance No. 2606 pertaining to golf carts and utility vehicles. The following was provided to the Commission for review: Steps for Obtaining Special Purpose Vehicle Annual Permit, Application for Registration and License for Special Purpose Vehicle, and City Ordinance No. 2606. Staff remains available to perform further analysis if requested. Staff offers no recommendation.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman, City Attorney David Brake, and Police Chief Chris Pefley.

ELECTRIC FUEL ADJUSTMENT ORDINANCE

Changing the City's current electric fuel adjustment ordinance was discussed at a recent commission meeting. Because of the current volatility in monthly electric wholesale costs, switching from a monthly to a 12-month rolling average fuel adjustment should provide more stable pass-through costs for the City's retail customers. In the last 12 months, the electric utility has seen monthly wholesale costs as low as 3.9¢ to as high as over 7¢.

Most electric utilities pass through the actual cost of the purchase of wholesale electricity to its customers through a fuel adjustment formula. Electric utilities then charge a set rate over the cost of the electricity to recover the costs of the infrastructure, employees, and other operational expenses of the utility. Darren Prince, Manager, Regulatory & Rates, Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, has worked with City staff on the revisions to the current ordinance setting forth the City's fuel adjustment formula.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman, City Attorney David Brake, and Director of Electric Utilities Brandon Westerman.

Motion made by Commissioner Budreau, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to pass an Ordinance amending Chanute Municipal Code Section 14.16.220 pertaining to Fuel Adjustment and Transmission Cost. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Ordinance was assigned: No. 2655

CIP UPDATE

City staff provided an update to the City Commission of ongoing projects. Items discussed were 21st and Plummer, Ball Complex, Municipal Buildings, Downtown Restroom, Water Plant, Osa Martin RHID, and Wastewater Treatment Plant.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman and Assistant City Manager Ryan Follmer.

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1306 SOUTH CENTRAL

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1006 NORTH GRANT

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 519 NORTH EVERGREEN

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 507 WEST 7TH

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 218 WEST 7TH

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to adopt resolution declaring that the above properties are in violation of Chanute Municipal Codes and authorizing abatement of certain nuisances as presented. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Resolutions were assigned: No. 2023-29, No. 2023-30, No. 2023-31, No. 2023-32, and No. 2023-33.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Fairchild commented on the CIP update and thanked City staff.

Commissioner Budreau commented on the Fiber Project.

Commissioner Chaney commented on the Fiber Project, Property Resolutions, and the Parking Surface Ordinance. He also thanked City staff for the great job that they perform.

Commissioner Chaney requested future review of the Land Bank Ordinance and By Laws.

Commissioner Berthot requested future review of the Land Bank Ordinance and By Laws.

Commissioner Berthot requested everyone to recognize unsung heroes in the community.

Mayor LaRue reported that he is proud of the community and thanked City staff for all that they do for the City and community.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Mayor LaRue, to adjourn. Voting Aye: All.
Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Tina L Bailey, CMC
City Clerk