

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 Jacob LaRue and Commissioners Kevin Berthot, Sam Budreau, Phillip Chaney, and Tim Fairchild.

Staff Present: Todd Newman, City Manager; David Brake, City Attorney (via Zoom); Tina Bailey, City Clerk; Cory Kepley, Chief Finance Officer; Susan Galemore, Director of Planning & Development; and Brandon Westerman, Director of Electric Utilities.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Phillip Chaney.

AGENDA

The 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 8, 2021
- Warrant Register dated February 10, 2021
- Warrant Register dated February 17, 2021
- Board and Committee Minutes and Reports

General discussion was made.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jane Brophy, Chanute Chamber of Commerce & Office of Tourism Executive Director provided a brief update on new downtown banners and also new postcards.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Todd Newman gave his report on City activities and operations. Items reported on included an update on last week's winter weather event and also delivery of new equipment.

City Manager Newman thanked local Industries for working with the City and complying with the City's request to conserve natural gas and electric use.

City Manager Newman reported that he attended a KDOT meeting today with County Commissioner Gail Klaassen, Neosho County Road & Bridge Director Mike Brown, and City Public Works Supervisor Wayne Robinson. KDOT provided the group with an overview of project phases related to closure of US-169 over the next couple of years. KDOT representatives will provide the Commission with a project update at the regular March 8, 2021 City Commission Meeting.

City Manager Newman reported that he met with railroad engineers and provided the Commission with an update on a Trans-System Quiet Zone, which would include the railroad crossings on Main Street, Walnut, and Ash. Mr. Newman reported that the initial step to obtain the project cost would be to conduct an Engineer Scope of Work at an estimated cost of \$32,000. Mr. Newman requested consensus from the Commission to move forward with an Engineer Scope of Work for a Trans-System Quiet Zone.

General discussion was made.

City Manager Newman provided a brief overview of completed Fiber Pons 3, 11, & 0 and upcoming budget work session discussion related to future Fiber Pons 8, 9, 12 & 13.

NEW BUSINESS

ORIZON INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS

At Orizon's request in 2017 the City issued Industrial Revenue Bonds which were purchased by Orizon. Since then, the City has provided Subordination Agreements in favor of Community National Bank and other lenders.

The City of Chanute has again been requested by the lenders to Orizon to execute a Lien Waiver and Collateral Access Agreement. Community National Bank, the first mortgage holder on the property, has also agreed with the City of Chanute executing the proposed agreement.

The City of Chanute has no financial obligation in regards to the industrial revenue bonds or mortgages.

Bond counsel has approved the language and proposed execution of the agreement by the City of Chanute.

Motion made by Commissioner Chaney, seconded by Commissioner Budreau to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement as presented. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER FUNDING REQUEST – OPERATION SOUP LINE

Operation Soup Line was cancelled this year because of COVID guidelines. Board Member Martha McCoy is requesting that the governing body consider a \$20,000 donation to their organization. Annual funds raised go to the ACCL Emergency and Utility Fund to assist Chanute citizens with their utility payment.

Board members Martha McCoy and Gary Maxwell provided a brief summary of their organization and request.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by Operation Soup Line Board Members Martha McCoy and Gary Maxwell, City Manager Todd Newman, and Chief Finance Officer Cory Kepley.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Budreau, to approve a one-time three-to-one matching donation, not to exceed \$15,000 to Operation Soup Line and allocation of funds from the Commission's budget prior to December 31, 2021. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission consensus was for Ms. McCoy to work with the City Manager's office for allocation of the approved funds.

CHANUTE FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE AND FIREWORKS FUND

The Chanute Fourth of July Committee was established in 2016. The committee and fund were created to help manage and facilitate the annual fireworks show presented at Santa Fe Lake.

With committee members and community support this has been quite the event for the past few years. As the commission is aware Kristi Pierce and Larry Pierce have since moved away leaving Kevin Jones as the only active committee member.

City staff has reached out to the Chanute Regional Development Authority (CRDA), Chanute Mainstreet, and the Chamber of Commerce to see if there was any interest in taking over the Chanute Fourth of July Committee and Fireworks Fund. At this time CRDA is not interested, Chanute Mainstreet and the Chamber of Commerce are waiting on board approval.

With the current committee members departure and a fund balance of \$8,158.97 City staff is placing this back in front of the governing body for review and discussion.

Chanute Main Street Executive Director Ruthann Boatwright and Chanute Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism Executive Director Jane Brophy distributed a hand out titled "4th of July Proposed Plan" to the Commission for review. They provided a brief overview of their proposed plan to oversee the event and committee.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by Ms. Boatwright, Ms. Brophy, and City Manager Todd Newman.

City Manager Todd Newman suggested that City staff oversee and assist with the event set-up and 2021 Fireworks display.

This item will be placed on a future Agenda for further review and discussion to determine the future of a Chanute Fourth of July Committee and Fireworks Fund.

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1006 NORTH GARFIELD

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1614 SOUTH EDITH

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1113 NORTH GARFIELD

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 0 NORTH LEE

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1612 SOUTH EVERGREEN

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Budreau, 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. 2021-12, No. 2021-13, No. 2021-14, No. 2021-15, and No. 2021-16.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Fairchild thanked City staff for their work during last week's weather event and keeping services running.

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

Commissioner Budreau thanked City staff for all that they do and commented on the power plant diesel generators.

Commissioner Chaney thanked City staff for their work behind the scenes during last week's weather event and for keeping the City running.

Commissioner Chaney commented on City utility bills, customer usage, and a potential program to assist customers.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman and Chief Finance Officer Cory Kepley.

Commissioner Chaney commented on the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of 35th and South Santa Fe.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman and Chief Finance Officer Cory Kepley.

This item will be placed on a future Agenda for further review and discussion.

Commissioner Chaney commented on the Revolving Loan Fund.

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

Commissioner Chaney commented on City regulations related to raising chickens inside City limits.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman.

Commissioner Chaney thanked the Commission, on behalf of his family for their kind words and support during the past couple of weeks.

Commissioner Berthot thanked City staff for their work behind the scenes during last week's weather event. He also thanked the community for pulling together.

Mayor LaRue thanked everyone for their safe and secure planning during last week's weather event.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to adjourn.

Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Tina L Bailey, CMC
City Clerk