

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, Phillip Chaney, and Tim Fairchild.

Staff Present: Todd Newman, City Manager; Ryan Follmer, Assistant City Manager; Tina Bailey, City Clerk; David Brake, City Attorney; and Cory Kepley, Chief Finance Officer.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Commissioner Phillip Chaney.

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on motion by Commissioner Fairchild, 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 – July 24, 2023
- Warrant Register dated July 26, 2023
- Warrant Register dated August 2, 2023
- Warrant Register dated August 9, 2023
- Review Various Board and Committee Minutes and Reports
- Request for Street Closures – First United Methodist Church

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeana Lawrence, Chanute Public Library Executive Director provided a brief overview of summer library activities.

Ruthann Boatwright, Interim Chanute Main Street Executive Director commented on upcoming Artist Alley activities.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Todd Newman gave his report on City activities and operations. Items reported on included an update on repair/maintenance of downtown buildings damaged during the 2023 Spring Storm, 112 West Main and the need for the City to spend funds on minimum maintenance of the building, and pinning of additional lots/spaces in Memorial Park Cemetery that will be available for purchase early next year.

City Manager Newman requested that the City Commission consider contracting services for maintenance of City owned cemeteries.

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

Commission consensus was for the City Manager to go out for bids as discussed and to add this item to a future Agenda for review and consideration.

City Manager Newman commented on the Certification of the 2024 Budget with no City mil levy.

Chief Finance Officer Cory Kepley distributed a spreadsheet and provided an overview of the City's 2024 Budget with no city mil levy, including other Neosho County taxing entities.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE

Conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed 2024 Municipal Budget & Tax Rate and for that purpose, Mayor LaRue opened a hearing at 6:57 p.m.

As there were no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed at 6:58 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTRIC RATES

The City of Chanute last adjusted its electric rates seven years ago in 2016. At the last work session, the City Commission discussed making a slight adjustment to the current rates.

Inflation has risen approximately 23% since 2016. Increasing the meter charge by \$2.50 and raising KWH rate by 1¢ will still have the average customer paying less for electricity in inflated dollars than what they paid in 2016.

The increase is needed to cover rising costs for transformers, repairs, and other necessary electric utility costs.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to pass an Ordinance Amending Chanute Municipal Code Section 14.16.200 Pertaining to Electric Rates for Customers Inside and Outside the Corporate Limits of the City of Chanute.

Further discussion was made.

Mayor LaRue called for a vote for the motion on the floor. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Ordinance was assigned: No. 2659

WATER METER CHARGES

During the July 17, 2023 City Commission Budget Work Session City staff presented commissioners with a \$2.00 meter increase to be disbursed across the board. The increase would bring in roughly \$100,000.00 annually for debt service.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Chaney, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to pass an Ordinance Amending Chanute Municipal Code Sections 14.16.010 and 14.16.030 as presented, with the water meter charge increase going into effect for the month of September. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Ordinance was assigned: No. 2660

2024 BUDGET ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION

The County Clerk has submitted a preliminary assessed value for Chanute at \$70,480,523. Based on this assessment, the value of one mill should be approximately \$70,480 which is \$9,935 more per mill than last year's mill value of \$60,545,844. The estimated Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) for the 2024 budget is 8.139 mills which is 28.397 less than the Neosho County provided rate of 36.536.

The 2024 Budget Certification establishes a maximum spending limit of \$67,499,187. This limit is \$6,233,723 higher than the 2023 limit of \$61,265,464. The property tax levy is set at 8.139 mills, which is less than the 2023 proposed levy of 36.536.

A Public Hearing for the 2024 Municipal Budget has been conducted.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Chaney, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, to Adopt the 2024 Budget as published, with no City mills and authorize the Governing Body to sign the Certificate. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL COURT SETTINGS

Municipal Court has been conducted on Wednesdays beginning at 8:30 a.m. The judge has requested that the time be moved to the afternoon. Chief District Court Judge Daniel Creitz has approved the requested change of time for Chanute Municipal Court.

Police Chief and Municipal Court attorneys are in agreement with Judge Gensweider in regard to the change in time for court.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to pass an Ordinance Amending Chanute Municipal Code Section 2.28.040 Pertaining to Municipal Court Settings. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Ordinance was assigned: No. 2661

PERMISSION TO USE THE FIESTA GROUNDS AND ALLOW SELL/SERVE ALCOHOL DURING THE 2023 MEXICAN FIESTA EVENT – THE JOLLY PICKLE

Jerri Totman, The Jolly Pickle, is requesting permission to use the Fiesta Grounds during the Mexican Fiesta on Saturday, September 16, 2023 and to sell/serve alcohol, after obtaining appropriate licenses.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Chaney, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to approve “The Jolly Pickle’s” request, contingent upon receipt of a support letter from the Chante Mexican Fiesta Board, to use the Fiesta Grounds during the Mexican Fiesta Event on Saturday, September 16, 2023 and allow sell/serve alcohol, after obtaining appropriate licenses. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 716 NORTH KANSAS
PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1220 WEST MULBERRY LOT #14
PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1001 SOUTH DENMAN
PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 316 WEST 14TH
PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 802 SOUTH FOREST
PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 519 SOUTH LINCOLN
PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 718 NORTH EVERGREEN
PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 21 SOUTH WESTERN

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 Berthot, 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. 2023-82, No. 2023-83, No. 2023-84, No. 2023-85, No. 2023-86, No. 2023-87, No. 2023-88, and No. 2023-89.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Chaney commented on the need of habitable and affordable housing in Chanute.

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

Commissioner Chaney commented on a recent electric outage at McDonalds and thanked City staff for the work that they do and that he is grateful for them.

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

Commissioner Chaney commented on the road condition located at the S-Curve and also the need for pavement markings at the intersection of 35th & Plummer.

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

Commission consensus was for City staff to research these items and provide follow-up to the City Commission.

Commissioner Chaney commented on the City Pool and requested future conversations to define the overall operation of the pool and the number of needed lifeguards.

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

Commission consensus was to place review of this item on the Agenda after the first of the year.

Commissioner Fairchild commented on the City Landbank and that he wished that it was more active.

Commissioner Fairchild commented that he appreciated tonight's conversations during the Joint Work Session and making progress toward a solution.

Mayor LaRue commented on tonight's action for Certification of the 2024 Budget with no City mil and that he hopes to see coverage of this time in the local, state, and national news. He thanked City staff for their presentations during this year's budget work sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Mayor LaRue, to adjourn. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Tina L Bailey, CMC
City Clerk