

**City Commission Minutes**

Regular Session  
December 8, 2025

City Commission Chambers  
101 S Lincoln Ave.  
Chanute, KS 66720

**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, Tim Egner, Tim Fairchild, and Larry Taylor.

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

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Mayor Jacob LaRue.

**AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved on motion by Commissioner Egner, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. 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 – November 24, 2025
- Warrant Register dated November 25, 2025
- Warrant Register dated December 3, 2025
- Review Various Board and Committee Minutes and Reports

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Egner, to approve the consent agenda. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Scott Christensen, SEK-CAP Director of Transportation, reported to the City Commission that General Public Transportation Services will be suspended to Neosho County residents Thursday, December 11, 2025 related to a shortfall of funding. He provided a brief overview of the suspended services that are currently available to Chanute/Neosho County residents. He also provided a brief overview of future funding dates and return of services.

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

Commission consensus was for SEK-CAP to invoice the City of Chanute for the one-year sponsorship that was approved at the July 14, 2025 regular City Commission meeting for a City Fiber Advertisement in the amount of \$5,000.

SEK-CAP Director of Transportation Scott Christensen reported that payment of this invoice will allow general public transportation services to continue in Chanute/Neosho County through January 12, 2026.

Commission consensus was to place SEK-CAP's funding shortfall to provide general public transportation services for Chanute/Neosho County on the January 12, 2026 Agenda for further review and discussion.

This will allow SEK-CAP to provide the City with a copy of their budget, service area, and a summary of clients served. This will also allow the City Manager to research this item to continue providing services for Chanute residents after January 12, 2026 through June 2026.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Todd Newman gave his report on City activities and operations. Items reported on included an update on the Depot HVAC Project.

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

City Manager Newman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Conduct a Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget Amendment and for that purpose, Mayor LaRue opened a hearing at 6:50 p.m.

As there were no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed at 6:51 p.m.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

For 2025 nine (9) funds are included in the Budget Amendment: City Roof Repair, Depot Building, Special Highway, City Infrastructure, Electric Fund, Gas Fund, Refuse Fund, Fiber Fund, and Ele/Wtr/Gas Fund. 2025 revenue will support the proposed amendment.

Increasing the limit in these funds is necessary for the City to pay its obligations through the end of the year. This will not increase taxes, but allows us to spend revenue already received.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adopt the 2025 Budget Amendment and by signature of the Governing Body authorize Certificate to the County Clerk. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE – REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT**

The Chanute City Commission on June 9, 2025, approved the initial Resolution for a Reinvestment Housing Incentive District for Chanute Housing, LLC. This project is to be approximately 32 units on the land behind Wal-Mart.

At the November 10, 2025 regular City Commission Meeting, the City Commission repealed Ordinance No. S-580 due to the Neosho County Commission rejecting the RHID based on the project having an adverse effect on the County.

The County Commission has agreed to an 18-year RHID so a new public hearing is required.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CHANUTE, KANSAS DETERMINING THAT THE CITY IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT WITHIN THE CITY AND ADOPTING A PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC FACILITIES IN SUCH PROPOSED DISTRICT; ESTABLISHING THE DATE AND TIME OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON SUCH MATTER, AND PROVIDING FOR THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF SUCH PUBLIC HEARING (HIDDEN HILLS REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT). Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Resolution was assigned: No. 2025-140

**QUARTERLY REPORTS – AVAILABLE CASH**

Chief Finance Officer Cory Kepley provided an update on Available Cash according to GFOA Standards.

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

**APPLICATIONS FOR 2026 LICENSE TO RETAIL CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE**

Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses are approved annually in December for the following year. Inspection of the buildings have been made and approved by the Building Inspector and Fire Department with no deficiencies noted. Clearance through the Police Department has been approved. The City License Fee and the State Cereal Malt Beverage Tax have been paid by all applicants.

Motion made by Commissioner Egner, seconded by Commissioner Fairchild, to approve the applications for a 2026 Cereal Malt Beverage License. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

### **RESCHEDULE/CANCEL DECEMBER 22, 2025 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

The last regular City Commission meeting for the year 2025 is scheduled for December 22nd, Commission may wish to consider either cancelling the second meeting in December and/or rescheduling for another date to wrap up any unfinished end-of-year business.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Egner, to approve cancelation of the December 22, 2025 regular City Commission meeting. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Taylor wished City staff a Good Christmas and a Good New Year. He also thanked City staff for the work that they accomplish.

Commissioner Egner wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Berthot wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Blessed New Year.

Commissioner Fairchild commented that “there is nothing that is impossible for God and God does nothing alone”. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked City staff for the work that they accomplish.

Mayor LaRue thanked the volunteers that helped with the Christmas in the Park displays. He also thanked City staff for a great year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adjourn. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Tina L Bailey, CMC  
City Clerk