

City Commission Minutes
Regular Session
January 12, 2026

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; and Chris Pefley, Chief of Police.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mayor Jacob LaRue.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS

Mayor LaRue presented a plaque to outgoing Commissioner Tim Egner and thanked him for his service as City Commissioner.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR RE-ELECTED & ELECTED COMMISSIONERS

City Clerk Tina Bailey swore in re-elected Commissioners Kevin Berthot and Jacob LaRue and elected Commissioner Tim Harding.

AGENDA

Mayor LaRue requested the addition of an Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel. The amended Agenda was approved on motion by Commissioner Taylor, 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 – December 8, 2025
- Warrant Register dated December 10, 2025
- Warrant Register dated December 17, 2025
- Warrant Register dated December 23, 2025
- Warrant Register dated December 30, 2025
- Warrant Register dated January 7, 2026
- Review Various Board and Committee Minutes and Reports

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

COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

City Attorney David Brake reviewed the ordinance and procedures for choosing a Mayor and Vice-Mayor.

Mayor LaRue opened the floor for nominations.

Mayor nominations included the following:

- Commissioner Fairchild nominated appointment of Jacob LaRue for Mayor, seconded by Commissioner Taylor.

Mayor LaRue called for a vote to appoint Jacob LaRue (himself) for Mayor.

Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. LaRue accepted the nomination.

Vice-Mayor nominations included the following:

- Commissioner Taylor nominated appointment of Tim Fairchild for Vice-Mayor.

General discussion was made.

Commissioner Taylor withdrew his nomination for Tim Fairchild as Vice-Mayor.

- Commissioner Taylor nominated appointment of Kevin Berthot for Vice-Mayor.

Mayor LaRue called for a vote to appoint Kevin Berthot as Vice-Mayor.

Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Berthot accepted the nomination.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Jenson, Chanute Chamber of Commerce & Office of Tourism Executive Director invited the Commission to attend the Chamber Area of Commerce & Office of Tourism annual meeting, Thursday, January 29, 2026, 6:00 p.m., SEK Impact Center.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Todd Newman congratulated re-elected Commissioners Kevin Berthot & Jacob LaRue and elected Commissioner Tim Harding.

City Manager Newman gave his report on City activities and operations. Items reported on included an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project, the Water Treatment Plant Project, the Solar Farm Project, the Fiber Project, and the Depot HVAC Project.

City Manager Newman distributed a copy of the City's Strategic Plan to the Commission for review and provided a brief overview.

City Manager Newman distributed a copy of the City's Sales Tax Projects, CIP List, and Equipment Replacement Program.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING FOR REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT (RHID) FOR CHANUTE HOUSING, LLC

Conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of "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" and for that purpose, Mayor LaRue opened a hearing at 6:49 p.m.

As there were no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT (RHID) FOR CHANUTE HOUSING, LLC

The Chanute City Commission on December 8, 2025, approved the initial Resolution for a revised Reinvestment Housing Incentive District for Chanute Housing, LLC. The Chanute City Commission set a public hearing for the January 12, 2026, Chanute City Commission meeting.

The Kansas Department of Commerce has granted initial approval for the Reinvestment Housing Incentive District. The next required commission action to establish the district is passage of a new ordinance

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman, City Attorney David Brake, and Chanute Housing, LLC representative Darrin Luebbering.

Motion made by Commissioner Berthot, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to pass AN ORDINANCE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CHANUTE, KANSAS ESTABLISHING A REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT WITHIN THE CITY AND ADOPTING A PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC FACILITIES IN SUCH DISTRICT, AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS IN CONJUNCTION THEREWITH THE HIDDEN HILLS REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Development Agreement. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The Ordinance was assigned: No. S-586

PRESENTATION ON GENERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES - SEK-CAP

SEK-CAP is requesting additional funding to keep transportation services active in Neosho County through June 30, 2026 and also July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

SEK-CAP Transportation Director Scott Christansen, Chief Executive Officer Jamey Whitney, and Community Engagement Coordinator Casey Brown distributed a 2023 – 2026 Neosho County General Public Transportation Impact Report to the City Commission and provided a brief overview of the report.

General discussion was made. Comments were made by City Manager Todd Newman, Mr. Christansen, Mr. Whitney, and Mr. Casey Brown.

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Harding, to approve SEK-CAP's request for funding in the amount of \$21,373 to provide general public transportation services in Chanute/Neosho County through June 30, 2026, paid out of the City's 2026 Budget and to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$25,273 to provide general public transportation services in Chanute/Neosho County July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, paid out of the City's 2027 Budget, contingent budgeted funds.

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

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

APPOINT/REAPPOINT COMMISSIONERS TO INTERFACE WITH SPECIFIC CITY BOARDS

Commission may wish to discuss assigning and/or reassigning Commissioners to interface with local City boards. A current list of City Board/Commission liaisons was provided for review.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to appoint Commissioners as representatives to interface with specified City Boards/Committees as follows:

Chanute Main Street Board – Mayor Appointee, Tim Harding
Chanute Regional Development Authority – Tim Harding
Chanute Regional Development Authority Executive Committee – Mayor Appointee
Economic Development Committee – Mayor & Larry Taylor
Golf Course Advisory Committee – Larry Taylor
Grow Neosho County – Jacob LaRue
Housing Authority Board – Tim Fairchild
Library Board – Mayor
Parks Advisory Board – Tim Harding
Planning Commission – Tim Harding
Recreation Commission – Kevin Berthot
Tourism Committee – Larry Taylor

Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1315 SOUTH PLUMMER

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 722 SOUTH GRANT

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1611 SOUTH HIGHLAND

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 706 NORTH HIGHLAND

PROPERTY RESOLUTION – 1005 SOUTH PLUMMER

City Manager Todd Newman reported on 1315 South Plummer and 722 South Grant.

General discussion was made.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, 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. 2026-01, No. 2026-02, No. 2026-03, No. 2026-04, and No. 2026-05.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Commissioner Berthot, that the City Commission recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the City Commission Chambers at 7:45 p.m. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Commission returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.

No action taken.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Fairchild thanked outgoing Commissioner Tim Egner for his service and welcomed new Commissioner Tim Harding.

Commissioner Fairchild thanked City staff for the work that is accomplished for Chanute and that he is looking forward to the upcoming year.

Commissioner Taylor thanked outgoing Commissioner Tim Egner for his service and welcomed new Commissioner Tim Harding.

Commissioner Taylor commented on the Fiber Project and the Chanute Housing, LLC RHID Project.

Commissioner Harding thanked the Commission for their welcoming comments and that he is looking forward to serving the community over the next four years.

Commissioner Berthot thanked outgoing Commissioner Tim Egner for his service and welcomed new Commissioner Tim Harding.

Commissioner Berthot commented that he is looking forward to serving the next two years and blessed & positive things for the community.

Mayor LaRue thanked outgoing Commissioner Tim Egner for his service and welcomed new Commissioner Tim Harding.

Mayor LaRue thanked Assistant City Manager Ryan Follmer for attending last week's Planning Commission meeting and participating in the Osa Martin Heights Sub-Division Plat discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Fairchild, seconded by Mayor LaRue, to adjourn. Voting Aye: All. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Tina L Bailey, CMC
City Clerk