

**Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa
October 14, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting was called to order on this date by Mayor Murphy. Present: Council member Johnson, Brown, Miller, Pingel, Peck, City Attorney Miller, Administrator Eikmeier, Clerk-Treasurer Taylor.

A motion by Brown, seconded by Johnson, unanimously approved the following under “Consent Business”.

City council minutes of September 23rd and September 30th.

Bills totaling \$1,031,963.97.

ACCO	CHEMICAL PUMP SERVICE; PARTS	147.70
AHLERS & COONEY P.C.	LABOR RELATIONS; TIF; BOND ISSUE	11,083.45
AL'S CORNER OIL CO.	DIESEL	32.80
ALEX AIR APPARATUS, INC.	REPAIR AIR COMPRESSOR; HURST STREAMLINE KIT	854.57
ALLIANT ENERGY	NATURAL GAS	721.07
AMERICAN AQUATIC TESTING	WET TEST REQUIRED BY DNR	975.00
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES	SHOP RAGS; RUGS; MOPS	46.72
ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST	SUBSCRIPTION	31.00
ARTHRITIS TODAY	SUBSCRIPTION	19.95
ATIRA CREDIT MASTERCARD	MEALS; MOTEL-ACADEMY-WK. 1; AVIATION FUEL	276.01
AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS CO.	MOTOR STARTER-MHI; BEECH REPAIRS	2,893.29
AVENET, LLC	FINAL PAYMENT-NEW WEBSITE	2,610.00
AWWA IOWA SECTION	TREATMENT/DISTRIBUTION TRAINING	40.00
BAKER & TAYLOR, INC.	BOOKS & DVDS	1,397.38
BANKERS TRUST CO.	BONDS CALLED & REFINANCED	582,589.81
BARKLEY ASPHALT, INC.	PAVE WESTCOTT RD.; HOT MIX PATCH	13,411.74
	REPAIRS - PARK VANDALISM	13,140.00
BLACKTOP SERVICE CO.	WIDEN/SEALCOAT-PARK ROAD	30,745.00
	OVERLAY SPOTS-S. 11TH/ W. VIEW DR.	4,000.00
	LEVEL & SEALCOAT AS BID	79,648.57
	BLACKTOP PATCH-BUS BARN WATER LEAK	4,320.00
BLAINE ADAMSON	SOCCER GAMES - 9/8/14-10/6/14	125.00
BLAINE'S WATER CONDITIONING	SOFTENER SALT; WATER FOR LAB	141.81
BOMGAARS	OPERATING SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	2,701.78
BREAK TIME	PEG'S RETIREMENT CAKE	40.00
BRETT GANNON	MEAL @ CLASS; DEF. COMP. SURRENDER	6,418.40
BRIAN HEIDESCH	MEAL @ CLASS IN WEBSTER CITY	9.20
BROWN SUPPLY CO.	SAFETY GLASSES; EAR PROTECTION	494.67
	REPAIR CLAMP; COUPLINGS; VALVE	797.45
	MANHOLE CASTING; LIDS; RISER-HWY. 59	1,710.00
BUILDERS SHARP. & SERVICE	EQUIPMENT PARTS; RENT SEEDER ('14 FLOOD)	356.42
	RENT EXCAVATOR-KOHN HOUSE DEMO	425.00
CALHOUN-BURNS & ASSOCIATES	ENG. - RIVER RD. BRIDGE PROJECT	12,774.90
CARUS CORPORATION	CALCIQUEST	1,153.50
CB HAZARDOUS WASTE AGENCY	PAINT; PESTICIDES DISPOSAL	404.15
CENTRAL IOWA DIST. INC.	GARBAGE BAGS	263.00
CHAMPION ELECTRIC, INC.	INSTALL RECEPTACLE	52.74
CHEROKEE AUTO PARTS	BELTS	22.15
CHEROKEE AVIATION AUTHORITY	SEPT. TAX DRAW	1,990.45
CHEROKEE CO. SOLID WASTE	OCT. LANDFILL FEE; SHOP BLDG. RUBBLE	29,706.15
CHEROKEE CO. WORK SERVICE	CLEAN SHOP RAGS	5.98
COUNTRY STORES OF CARROLL	GAS & DIESEL	378.40
CHEROKEE COUNTY RECORDER	RECORD TIF DOCUMENTS	17.00
CHEROKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT	VOLUNTEER ALLOWANCE	450.00
CHEROKEE LUMBER, INC.	STAKES; MASONITE; REROD; SEAL FOAM; LUMBER	372.07
CHEROKEE POLICE DEPT.	CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS	450.00

CHEROKEE REGIONAL CLINICS	PHYSICAL-H. CLAYTON	79.00
CHEROKEE REG. MED. CENTER	RANDOM CDL DRUG TESTS	75.00
CHEROKEE STATE BANK	LOAN PAYMENT-FORD TRUCK	12,086.23
	LOAN PAYMENT-'13 INT'L TRUCK/ PLOW	36,530.57
	NSF CHECK	81.00
CHESTERMAN COMPANY	POP FOR MACHINE	72.10
CHRONICLE TIMES	MINUTES; ORD., ADS; NEWSLETTER	2,020.00
COLE VIETOR	SOCCER GAMES-9/8/14-10/6/14	135.00
COMES INVESTMENTS (PIZZA HUT)	LAST DAY OF POOL SEASON PIZZA	71.00
COUNTRY PINES	REMOVE/REPLACE TREE-LEWIS HOTEL NODE	375.00
COUNTRY TIRE & SERVICE	TIRE REPAIRS	66.33
CRA PAYMENT CENTER	FUEL FILTER; REPAIR CLUTCH – TRACTOR MOWER	3,596.49
CREATIVE SERVICES	COACHES SHIRTS;PLAYERS SOCKS	638.69
DAVE GRAVENISH REPAIR, INC.	REAR END REPAIRS - '03 GMC	240.91
DEMCO, INC.	SUPPLIES	325.27
DENNY'S SERVICE	PLUMBING REPAIR	45.00
DISC GO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	SUPPLIES	38.90
DONALD LARSON	BALANCE OF WATER DEPOSIT	5.17
DOUBLEDAY LARGE PRINT	BOOK	9.01
DOUGLAS AUCKLAND	BALANCE OF WATER DEPOSIT	35.54
DPC INDUSTRIES, INC.	CHLORINE	562.25
ERIC PETERSON	SOCCER GAME-10/6/14	25.00
EVERTEK, INC.	INTERNET SET UP; 1ST MONTH	234.05
FAREWAY STORES, INC.	SUPPLIES	31.20
FELD FIRE	NAME TAGS; EXTINGUISHERS; TESTS; SEALS	1,413.60
FIELD & STREAM	SUBSCRIPTION	19.97
FIRST FINANCIAL MERCHANT	AUG. CHARGE CARD FEES	109.67
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	SAMPLE TESTING	1,229.00
FOX ENGINEERING	ENG. - CHLORIDES INVESTIGATION	327.50
FREDERICK WELDING & SALES	PARTS	1.51
HACH CO.	LAB SUPPLIES	97.64
HALLETT MATERIALS	CLASS A ROCK; LIMESTONE; GRAVEL; SAND	765.32
HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS, LTD.	MATERIALS; REROUTE TYSON WATER LINE	1,015.13
HIGH COUNTRY AUTO	HAUL STOLEN LAWN MOWER	62.00
HOLZHAUER MOTORS, LTD.	SERVICE 2013 TAHOE	38.95
HUNTER MORROW	SOCCER GAMES-9/8/14-10/6/14	135.00
HY-VEE, INC.	SHIPPING RETURN	53.31
I.M.W.C.A.	2013-14 W/C PREMIUM ADJUSTMENT	705.00
IAWEA REGION 3	REGISTRATIONS (3) FOR CEU'S	90.00
ICS HEALY-RUFF	ENCL. FAN-#2 PANEL @ SPRUCE ST.	342.00
INDELCO PLASTICS CORP.	4-WAY VALVE – POTASSIUM FEED PUMP	92.47
INGRAM BOOK COMPANY	BOOKS	125.29
IOWA ASSOC. OF MUNIC. UTILITIES	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	235.00
IOWA COMM. ASSURANCE POOL	INS.-PARK STORAGE BLDG.; J.D. LOADER	913.98
IOWA D.N.R.	ANNUAL WATER USE FEE	99.00
	LAB CERTIFICATION FEE	400.00
IOWA LAKES ELECTRIC COOP	ELECTRICITY (2 MONTHS)	106.66
IOWA ONE CALL	AUG. LOCATES	97.20
IOWA RURAL WATER ASSOC.	FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	130.00
J. D. ROGGE	MILEAGE-CHILD ADVOCACY INTERVIEW	64.40
JANITOR'S CLOSET, LTD.	TISSUE; TOWELS; SOAP; GARBAGE BAGS	376.25
JIM GANO	U.S. FLAGS & POW-MIA FLAG	110.00
JIM PECK	MILEAGE-SIMPCO MTG.-9/18/14	67.20
JOHN MEIS	ENG. - N. ROOS. PROJECT; SIMPCO MTG.	5,848.00
JUDY GRIENKE-MILLER	MILEAGE; LCD PROJECTOR & CASE	472.61
K-MART #9222	STOP WATCHES; SHELVES; VAC.; SUPPLIES	238.89
LINDSAY WILLIAMS	SOCCER GAMES-9/8/14 & 9/29/14	30.00
LUNDELL CONSTRUCTION CO.	BLACK DIRT - KOHN PROPERTY	916.25
	GRAVE DIGGING	172.50
	WATER LEAK - INDIAN/ & CHIEF	2,552.50

	CHANGE VALVE - S. 4TH	1,924.00
	CHANGE HYDRANT – PARK & CLARK	821.00
	CLEAN SEWER ON JEFFERIES	160.00
MACKENZIE BALLOU	SOCCER GAMES-9/15/14-10/6/14	135.00
MARK NAPIER	MOTEL; MEALS-OKOBOJI CONF.	117.88
MARY JO RUPPERT	BOOKS; DVD; MILEAGE	104.65
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRICITY (2 MONTHS)	57,223.62
MODERN HEATING & COOLING	REPLACE CONNECTOR IN HEATER	88.35
MOTOR PARTS SALES CO.	12 V. BATTERY FOR PATCHER	92.78
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC.	SADDLE; CURB BOXES/CORP.; METERS	3,641.52
NATIONWIDE PAY. SOLUTIONS	CHARGE CARD READER FOR MUNICIPALPAY	95.23
NELSON'S LOCKSMITH SHOP	KEYS	12.00
NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS	SEPT. INTERNET SERVICE	79.90
NORTHWESTERN MASONRY	MATERIALS-STORM SEWER BASIN	45.60
O'HALLORAN INTERNATIONAL	WIRE HARNESS; MAKE HYD. HOSE	80.12
	ELEC. ACTUATOR TO OPEN VALVE	878.19
OFFICE ELEMENTS	COPIER LEASES; OFFICE SUPPLIES	490.80
OFFICE OF VEHICLE SERVICES	12 SALVAGE AUTO CERTIFICATES	120.00
PERKINS OFFICE SOLUTIONS	OFFICE SUPPLIES	832.50
PETTY CASH - LIBRARY	BOOK GROUP SUPPLIES; POSTAGE; D.M. REG.	240.57
PITNEY BOWES FINANCIAL SERV.	SEPT. POSTAGE METER RENT	35.00
PITNEY BOWES	POSTAGE FOR METER	1,000.00
R.J. THOMAS MFG. CO., INC.	REFUND-TRINITY PRESCHOOL SIGN PERMIT	35.00
SANITARY SERVICES	DUMPSTER-OLD PARK BUILDING	804.38
	SEPT. GARBAGE PICKUP	25,658.70
SCHOLASTIC, INC.	BOOKS FOR BABIES	796.00
SCHOON CONSTRUCTION CO.	MAKE HYD. HOSES- BACKHOE; SWEEPER	98.53
	CAP OFF 6" LINE BY KENNEDY CHIROPRACTIC	2,806.72
SIMMERING-CORY, INC.	NORTH 2014 & WATER TOWER TIF	3,850.00
SIOUX SALES COMPANY	BOOTS; SHOES; TROUSERS	419.35
STANDARD READY MIX	CONCRETE-E. BEECH FLOOD DAMAGE	2,515.38
	CONCRETE-SPILLWAY-S. 9TH	452.38
	CONCRETE-CURB/GUTTER-CENTER ST.	446.88
	CONCRETE-S. 4TH VALVE REPLACEMENT	441.88
STEVE'S WINDOW SERVICE	WINDOW CLEANING	90.00
STU HOGG	SOCCER - 9/8/14	15.00
SYNCHRONY BANK/AMAZON	DVDS	189.31
THE BOOK VINE	BOOKS	32.74
THE COURT FOCUS	OCT. SUBSCRIPTION	13.00
THREE RIVERS BENEFIT	CLAIMS THRU 10/2/14; OCT. ADMIN. FEE	1,625.88
TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA	SEPT. SALES TAX	6,303.62
TREASURES/SUBSCRIBER SERV.	SUBSCRIPTION	58.00
UNITED PARCEL SERVICE	SHIPPING CHARGE	183.56
UNITED STATES CELLULAR	CELL PHONES-8/22/14-9/21/14	275.74
UNITYPOINT CLINIC-OCC. MED.	RANDOM CDL DRUG TEST REVIEWS	111.00
USPS	ROLLS OF STAMPS; POSTAGE FOR UTILITY BILLS	965.03
VALLEY GLASS & FRAMING	DOOR REPAIR	35.00
VALLEY VETERINARY CENTER	IKE CHECKUP/SHOTS	17.50
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELLS PHONE & CARD	146.39
WALDNER'S LAWN SERVICE	SEPT. LAWN CARE	160.00
WALLY MILLER, JR.	SEPT. LEGAL SERVICES	3,812.50
WATCHGUARD VIDEO	EVIDENCE DVD FOR CAR CAMERAS	109.00
WIESE OIL & SUPPLY CO., LTD	GAS & DIESEL	8,667.38
WINDSTREAM	PHONE/INTERNET - 9/13/14-10/12/14	1,142.04
WINNER, STAVE & CO., LLP	PROG. PAYMENT-2013/14 AUDIT	12,500.00
WYATT BALLOU	SOCCER GAMES-9/8/14-10/6/14	135.00
ZEE MEDICAL SERVICE CO.	FIRST AID SUPPLIES	96.15

Reviewed Library Board minutes of September 3rd.

Tax abatement application for 209 W. Willow St.

Tax abatement application for 806 E. Spruce St.
Street closing on Thursday, December 4th for 16th annual Christmas parade.
Renewal of Class “E” liquor license – Hy-Vee Food Store.
Renewal of Class “C” liquor license – Cherokee Bowl.
Renewal of Class “C” liquor license – Danny’s Sports Spot.
Renewal of Class “B” beer permit – Godfather’s Pizza.

Administrator Eikmeier reported that the Chamber of Commerce, CAEDC, and Historic Preservation Commission have been meeting since last spring regarding possible Community Development Block Grant funding for a downtown façade program. The program would provide 50% funding, up to \$500,000, for façade improvements, including structural issues. The 50% match would be funded by property owners, industrial development, city, and other outside sources. He indicated that the any City contribution may have to come from Hotel/Motel Tax that is currently earmarked for the storefront renovation program and tourism loan program. If used, the \$25,000 annual allocation could be earmarked for the façade program for a 3-year period. The City must be the applicant for CDBG funding. Julie Herring-Kent, Chamber Director, said a committee has been meeting throughout the summer. The thought is that the Downtown Historic District would be the main area, possibly with a few adjustments. There are approximately 80 properties in this district and their goal would be to have at least 20 interested property owners. To proceed with the program, an inventory of each property must be completed. Jim Adamson, representing the Historic Preservation Commission, said he and members John Snapp, Barb Busch-Mott, and Dwight Varce have been working with property owners to complete the initial assessments. The Administrator said this is a federal program so there is a lot of red tape and hoops to jump through, such as the Davis-Bacon Act regarding wages. Because of federal regulations, some property owners may not want to get involved. All projects would be combined and bid as one project. An architect and structural engineer would be involved. Because of the City’s current project workload, if the council decides to move forward, a consultant would most likely be hired to prepare the application and administer the program, if awarded. The City’s main involvement would be whether to designate Hotel/Motel Tax funds to the program. Jim Adamson said that a grant award wouldn’t be known until April 2015, and construction most likely wouldn’t begin until 2016. A motion by Brown, seconded by Miller, unanimously authorized submitting a Community Development Grant application for the downtown façade program.

A motion by Miller, seconded by Peck, accepted the resignation of Kent Wenck from the Cherokee Aviation Authority Board, and appointed Dan Mott to fill the unexpired term, which ends 12/31/15. Motion carried.

John Cook, Cook Law Firm, was present to review a request for the temporary, partial closing of the alley behind his office on W. Willow St. As his son has recently moved back to practice law in Cherokee, they are adding 1,500 sq. ft. to the building for additional offices and a conference room. In doing so, scaffolding will have to be placed along the alley to install the brickwork. After reviewing the amount of space needed for the scaffolding, it appears there will be enough room in the alley for delivery trucks to pass. The alley closing is not needed at this time.

On a motion by Brown, seconded by Johnson, the council unanimously authorized the purchase of 250 tons of road salt at \$61/ton for the 2014-15 season.

Bids were solicited from Modern Heating and Denny’s Service for the replacement of the boiler at the wastewater treatment plant. The city budgeted \$30,000 for this project. Denny’s Service was unable to bid because of their current workload, so a motion by Pingel, seconded by Peck, authorized a contract with Modern Heating to replace the boiler for \$26,772.04. Motion carried.

In ongoing discussions to offset the Tyson revenue loss, Administrator Eikmeier presented five alternatives for council review. Alternative #1 is the proposal presented at the last meeting where the street, water, wastewater, and park departments would be merged into one Public Works Dept. This

would merge 4 managers and 9 hourly employees into 1 manager and 9 hourly employees. The net savings, after deducting retirement incentives and leave payout, would be approximately \$112,500/yr. Positives are the reduction of management positions; retains manpower for water, wastewater, and street operations; follows models adopted by similar size cities; provides for 6 snowplow operators, 1 trails/walks operator, and 3 to maintain water and wastewater plants during snowstorms. Negatives are that Napier and Mummert retire earlier than they want, with Mummert two years away from IPERS full retirement. Alternative #2 is the same as #1, except with the retirement of one hourly employee, reducing hourly employees to 8. The net savings would be about \$160,500/yr. Positives would be that this option saves the maximum annual dollars. Negatives are the same as those in #1 along with the reduction of one hourly employee, which reduces manpower to the absolute minimum; if any employee is on leave during a snowstorm, would reduce water and wastewater plant operations to one employee each; would likely extend the length of time to clear snow. Alternative #3 is the same as #1, except the Park Dept. would not be included. The department would remain the same with one manager and one hourly employee. Savings would be approximately \$105,100/yr. Positives would remove the negative impact to Mummert and leaves snow crews equal to current services. Negatives would be that Napier retires earlier than he wants. Alternative #4 would merge water and wastewater into a combined Utility Dept.; assumes water or wastewater supt. would serve as the combined supt. position and other would take early retirement; if both opt for early retirement a new utility supt. would be hired; assumes street supt. takes early retirement; appoints a foreman in Street Dept. to report directly to Administrator; leaves Park Dept. full-time employees in place. Savings of about \$107,900/yr. Positives are savings that are approximately the same as Alternate #1; leaves snow crews in place; evolves to a Public Works Dept. upon retirement of utility supt. in future years. Alternative #5 would leave all departments in place and eliminate the City Administrator position effective July 1, 2015; cost savings about \$124,500/yr. Positives are that it has the least impact on street, water, wastewater, and park departments; eliminates early retirement incentives; buys the City more time to consider how to absorb eventual retirements of management staff. Negatives leaves the overall management of all city departments to the Mayor's position; substantially reduces oversight of a \$10,000,000 annual budget; last tried in 2006, 2007, and 2008 resulting in the resignation of the Mayor; loss of early retirement incentives will be viewed negatively by at least two department heads. Other alternatives not fully evaluated include contracting with private company for water and wastewater services; contracting with accounting firm for payroll and accounting functions; reductions in police, fire, library, and recreation departments. The other challenge is that of replacing the Grade 4 operator upon the retirement of Steve Casey. The only way this can be achieved by someone on staff is if they have at least one year of managerial experience. Storm Lake and Carroll are currently dealing with this same issue. It is difficult to find certified people for this position. The Administrator said he would be visiting with the D.N.R. in the coming weeks to see if there is some leeway in this matter. Council member Brown asked what determines the grade level. Steve Casey, Wastewater Supt., said that an activated sludge plant requires a Grade 4 operator. Council member Pingel asked how a current employee gets the necessary management experience when there is already a Grade 4 operator on staff? Administrator Eikmeier answered that this is one of the questions he will be asking the D.N.R. As the council had no further comments, the Administrator encouraged council members to visit with the department heads, as well as department employees, in the next couple weeks. Council was asked to bring additional alternatives to the Administrator, which he hopes the council will narrow to 2 at the next meeting.

The council reviewed the following reports.

1. Administrator's report. Sand and silt removal in the park should be completed by the end of the week. Fire department employees will follow Storm Lake's inspector on rental inspections three Tuesdays in October. Inspections are expected to begin the first part of November. Siouxland Regional Housing Authority personnel will meet with the Administrator and firemen regarding the condition of the Lewis Hotel.
2. September Clerk-Treasurer's report and receipts as follows: General-\$152,169.41; Police Forfeiture-\$364.35; County Library-\$3,501.16; Road Use-\$49,985.52; Employee Benefits-\$59,969.98; Emergency-\$3,582.87; LOST-\$52,011.29; Hotel/Motel Tax-\$26,739.64; Tax Increment Financing-\$302; Revolving Loan-\$415.30; Library Memorial-\$169.63; Park & Rec. Capital Impr.-\$3.13; Debt Service-\$660,403.56;

Emergency Set-Aside-\$4.25; Oak Hill Perpetual Care-\$28.22; Water Utility-City-\$67,437.05; Water Utility-Industrial-\$16,118.97; Water System Maint.-\$9,173.84; Sewer Utility-City-\$101,455.49; Sewer Utility-Industrial-\$28,541.37; Sewer Bd./Int.-\$29,610; Sewer System Maint.-\$5,750; Sewer Improvement-\$1,793.67; Aviation Authority-\$1,990.45; Solid Waste-\$26,080.18; Landfill-\$31,593.48; Storm Sewer Utility-\$6,841.90; Self Insurance-\$20.75; Police Special Acct.-\$.20.

3. September General Fund revenue/expense report.

4. September Police reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

News media – Nikki Thunder, KCHE.

Mark Murphy – Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor
City Clerk-Treasurer