

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023, 6:00 P.M.
CHEROKEE CITY HALL**

A regular meeting was called to order on this date by Mayor Schmidt. Roll call: Present: Councilpersons Hayes, Loughlin, Nitz, Pingel, Wilberding, and City Clerk-Treasurer Lucas. Absent: None.

Motion by Pingel, seconded by Loughlin to approve the agenda. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

At 6:01 p.m., Mayor Schmidt opened the public hearing on the FY 23/24 Budget Amendment. As there was no oral or written comments, the hearing was closed at 6:02 p.m.

Motion by Pingel, seconded by Loughlin, to approve Resolution 2023-46, a Resolution Adopting Amendment to Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

On a motion by Nitz, seconded by Hayes the following was approved under Consent Agenda. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

City Council Minutes of November 14, 2023.

Approve Pay App #1-Wescott Park Relocation.

Approve Change Order #1-Wescott Park Relocation.

Approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for Monterrey Mexican Restaurant.

Bills totaling: \$379,775.24

AL'S CORNER OIL CO.	FUEL	\$34.97
ALEX AIR APPARATUS, INC.	VEHICLE SUPPLIES	\$767.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	NATURAL GAS	\$773.40
ALYSSA A. HERBOLD PLC.	10/23 LEGAL SERVICE & REIMBURSEMENT	\$3,184.43
AUDITOR OF STATE	FY23 AUDIT FILING FEE	\$625.00
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS	OPERATING LIGHTS	\$380.00
BOMGAARS	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$1,481.36
BRAD'S TIRE SERVICE	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$1,011.80
BUILDERS SHARP. & SERVICE	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$3,099.36
C-M-L TELEPHONE	TELEPHONE & INTERNET	\$190.73
CARROLL CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY	TRAIL SUPPLIES	\$189.03
CHAMPION ELECTRIC, INC.	REPAIRS, LOCATES, SUPPLIES	\$621.98
CHEROKEE AVIATION AUTHORITY	11/23 PROPERTY TAX DRAW	\$1,163.13
CHEROKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT	VOLUNTEER FIREMAN PAYROLL	\$960.00
CORE & MAIN LP	CHEMICALS	\$1,141.82
COUNTRY TIRE & SERVICE	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$91.90
ELECTRIC PUMP	PUMP REPAIR	\$16,356.56
FAREWAY STORES, INC.	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$52.90
FELD FIRE	GEAR REPAIR	\$113.63
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WATER & WASTEWATER SAMPLES	\$417.00
GPM	SAMPLER REPAIR	\$2,753.00
HAWKINS, INC.	WATER SUPPLIES	\$1,564.97
HOTSY EQUIPMENT CO.	POWER SHINE	\$620.00
HY-VEE, INC.	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$131.01
IMT INSURANCE CO.	FIDELITY BOND	\$900.00
IOWA LAKES ELECTRIC COOP	ELECTRICITY	\$91.00
IOWA STATE POLICE ASSOC.	2024 MEMBER DUES	\$250.00
JANITOR'S CLOSET, LTD.	CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$346.61

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$280.00
LARRY MORSE	DEPOSIT REFUND	\$79.75
LIEBER CONSTRUCTION	HYDRANT METER DEPOSIT RETURN	\$1,688.75
MEDIACOM LLC	INTERNET	\$416.90
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRICITY	\$337.28
MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC	CLAIMS THROUGH 11/22/23	\$11,171.67
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC.	WATER SUPPLIES	\$4,419.94
NORTHSIDE TIRE	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$81.29
NORTHWEST ELECTRIC	TRANSFORMER REPAIR	\$3,145.99
O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$26.07
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$128.29
SCHMILLEN CONSTRUCTION INC	WESTCOTT PARK RELOCATION	\$300,002.40
SIMPCO	DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES	\$487.00
SMITH AND WEST LAWN ENFORCEMENT	WEED CONTROL	\$1,331.50
STARLLA INMAN	YOUTH BB REFUND	\$20.00
TRIVISTA - IOWA	REPAIR TRUCK	\$897.43
U.S. BANK	MISC. CHARGES	\$5,653.98
UNUM LIFE INS. CO OF AMERICA	12/23 LIFE & DISABILITY INS.	\$1,452.55
USPS	UTILITY BILL POSTAGE	\$471.87
VALLEY VETERINARY CENTER	BOARD DOG	\$140.00
VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC.	BEECH ST.	\$2,428.00
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING	COPIER LEASE	\$79.00
WESTERN IOWA TECH. COMM. COLLEGE	POLICE ACADEMY	\$5,669.00
YONNYS GONZALEZ	DEPOSIT REFUND	\$53.99

Tom Grafft, ISG presented a Proposal for a Water System Pressure Study. The City has received complaints from businesses on the South side of town with low water pressure. ISG previously prepared a hydraulic water model utilizing the City's existing utility maps to assess the overall reliability of the City's water distribution system. The results of the water model showed the potential for water pressure concerns in the southern end of the City during peak customer usage. ISG is proposing to build upon the existing hydraulic model to perform field verifications of the existing problem conditions and identify potential improvements that can increase the reliability of the City's water infrastructure system. Motion by Wilberding, seconded by Hayes to approve the proposal from ISG for the South Industrial Park Model Development not to exceed \$21,000. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Tom Grafft, ISG is requesting Amendment #1 to the WRF Nutrient Reduction Improvement Contract. There have been a significant number of changes that have occurred on the project that are outside the scope of services outlined in the original contract. One significant change is the transition of multiple Wastewater Superintendents throughout the design of the project. ISG is working on completing the final plans, specifications and construction permits and submitting those to the IDNR by the end of November 2023. The original design fee in the existing contract was \$510,500 and ISG has invested approximately \$720,000 of effort to date and is expected to be at \$730,000-\$740,000 to complete the design. Based on the above outlined scope and project delays, ISG is requesting an additional \$131,500 for design bringing the total proposed design fee to \$642,000. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Wilberding to approve Amendment #1 to the WRF Nutrient Reduction Improvement Contract for an additional \$131,500. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Dave Zelle, Cherokee Community Theater (CCT) is requesting the Cities financial support in replacing the stage floor and replacing the stage curtains at the Community Center. Zelle presented a quote for the curtains and stage floor replacement, the stage floor is scheduled to be replaced in December 2023.

Since this was not a budgeted item for the Community Center and the CCT has the funds to pay for the stage replacement they will pay for it at this time. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Pingel to table the Cities payment of the stage until the FY 24/25 budget season with the intent that the City will budget for the reimbursement to CCT for the stage replacement. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Nitz to table the following Hotel/Motel applications, Roll Initiative Cherokee, Inc.-\$1,200, Twin Cedars Production Company-\$950, and Cherokee Community Theater-\$4,000. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Councilperson Pingel reported that the Recruitment Committee had been tasked with bringing forth a finalist for the City Administrator position. Moving through the process, the committee narrowed the applications down to three for second interviews and background checks. One candidate stood out above the rest, after a background check that candidate was found to not be a good fit for the City, however a second candidate stood out and the committee is recommending that this candidate is the best fit for the position. Motion by Hayes, seconded by Wilberding, to approve the Recruitment Committee's report and to adopt the Recruitment Committee's recommendation to name only one finalist. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Councilperson Pingel announced the candidate, Thomas Letsche, is the General Manager at Storm Lake Ford, and is originally from Cherokee.

Motion by Pingel, seconded to Loughlin to approve Resolution 2023-47, a Resolution Approving an Administrator Employment Agreement and appoint Thomas Letsche as City Administrator. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

The Cherokee Mental Health Institute is aiming to sell off 100 acres of their property. Nitz would like to see the City form a committee to have a discussion with the State over the sale of the property beginning by asking them to move the sale date back. A formal committee will be approved at the December 12, 2023 City Council meeting.

On a motion by Loughlin, seconded by Hayes the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Media Present: *Kate Kealey, Cherokee Chronicle Times.*

Craig Schmidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Lucas, City Clerk-Treasurer