

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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, City Administrator Letsche, City Attorney Herbold and City Clerk-Treasurer Lucas. Absent: None.

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

Council elected to form a committee and sub-committee to address concerns about the Mental Health Institute land sale. Herbold suggested the council determine the goals of the committees and suggested the sub-committee include a representative from Planning & Zoning, Historic Preservation, Trails, and Disc Golf. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Pingel to form a MHI land sale committee to include Nitz, Wilberding, and Letsche. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None. Motion by Pingel, second by Loughlin to encourage Letsche to reach out to the committees that have showed interest in the MHI land sale and select one person from each committee to be on the sub-committee. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

At 6:16 p.m., Mayor Schmidt opened the public hearing on a Proposal to Vacate Gillette Drive. As there was no oral or written comments, the hearing was closed at 6:17 p.m.

Letsche expressed concerns from the Cherokee Community School District that they would like wording in the agreement that the City would restore Gillette Drive to its original condition if we ever had to do utility repairs. Motion by Pingel, seconded by Wilberding to table Ordinance 724, Vacating Gillette Drive and Resolution 2023-48, Disposing of Vacated Gillette Drive until the December 26, 2023 meeting so Herbold can draft an agreement to address the school districts concerns. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Pilot Investments, Inc. would like to donate 15.19 acres to the City located in the E1/2 of the SE1/4 of Section 34, Township 92 North, Range 40 West of the 5th P.M., the premises is located within the corporate limits of Cherokee in Cherokee County. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Nitz to approve Resolution 2023-49, a Resolution to Accept Real Property "Donated Lands" from Pilot Investments, Inc. Roll call: AYES: Hayes, Loughlin, Nitz, Pingel. NAYES: None. Wilberding abstained.

On a motion by Pingel, seconded by Hayes the following was approved under Consent Agenda, except for the bill to Beck Engineering for Country Club Estates 2nd Addition for \$8,346.25. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

City Council Minutes of November 28, 2023.

November Police Report.

Approve Planning & Zoning minutes of November 27, 2023.

November Treasurers Report and Receipts as follows: General \$697,461.21; Police Forfeiture \$121.35; County Library \$4.89; Road Use \$57,548.24; Employee Benefits \$36,279.34; Emergency \$2,039.44; Other Street Monies/Local Option Sales Tax \$84,330.98; Hotel/Motel Tax \$37,439.24; Tax Increment Financing \$13,592.02; Library Memorial \$2,930.46; Park & Rec Capital Improvement \$61.72; Cemetery Special Care \$1.98; Debt Service (\$1,228,400.45); Floods of 2018/2019 \$150,000.00; Country Club Estates \$506,954.47; 2016 Capital Projects \$0; Willow St. Bridge \$0; Hwy 59 Storm SW/Sidewalk \$0; American Rescue Funds \$349.45; Emergency Set-Aside \$88.17; Euclid St.

Reconstruction \$0; Oak Hill Perpetual Care \$0; Water Utility \$70,126.43; Water Utility – Industrial \$2.56; Water Main Project Bond & Interest \$5,032.50; Water System Maintenance \$9,298.09; Sewer Utility \$116,503.90; Sewer Facility Bond & Interest \$5,653.50; Sewer System Maintenance \$8,600.04; CDBG Sanitary Sewer Euclid/Spruce \$1,123.41; Beech St. Lift Relocation \$0; Aviation Authority \$1,163.13; Solid Waste \$30,947.81; Landfill \$28,646.35; Storm Sewer Utility \$6,639.95; Self-Insurance \$1,761.72; Police Dept. Special Acct \$0.

Bills totaling: \$292,957.76

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| A-OX WELDING SUPPLY CO | Q CYL LEASE 1 YEAR | \$62.95 |
| AHLERS & COONEY P.C. | LOPEZ URBAN RENEWAL, NOR-AM COLD STORAGE | \$225.50 |
| ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ | UTILITY DEPOSIT REFUND | \$64.38 |
| ALLIANT ENERGY | NATURAL GAS | \$569.81 |
| AURELIA LUMBER COMPANY | BUILDING REPAIR SUPPLIES | \$391.82 |
| BAKER & TAYLOR INC. | BOOKS | \$479.53 |
| BECK ENGINEERING, INC. | COUNTRY CLUB EST. 2ND ADD | \$6,083.75 |
| BECK ENGINEERING, INC. | WESTCOTT PARK RELOCATION | \$9,520.00 |
| BECK ENGINEERING, INC. | CURB & GUTTER IMP. | \$1,142.50 |
| BLAINE'S WATER CONDITIONING | COOLER RENT, SOFTENER SALT, WATER | \$347.75 |
| BOJI PORTABLE TOILETS | SPOT-A-POT PURCHASE | \$3,545.34 |
| BOKF, NA | BOND PAYMENTS | \$72,370.00 |
| BOMGAARS | OPERATING SUPPLIES | \$467.74 |
| BUGH WELDING | METAL FABRICATION | \$166.80 |
| BUILDERS SHARP. & SERVICE | EQUIPMENT REPAIR & MAINT. | \$2,798.51 |
| C-M-L TELEPHONE | TELEPHONE & INTERNET | \$1,017.07 |
| CASEY CARPENTER | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$35.00 |
| CENTRAL IOWA DIST. INC. | CLEANING SUPPLIES | \$217.00 |
| CERTIFIED TESTING SERVICES | WESTOTT PARK RE-LOCATION | \$255.00 |
| CHAMPION ELECTRIC, INC. | LIGHT MAINTENANCE | \$318.48 |
| CHEROKEE CHRONICLE TIMES | LEGAL PUBLICATION & TRUCK AD | \$783.84 |
| CHEROKEE CO. SOLID WASTE | 11/23 ASSESSMENT | \$29,688.51 |
| CHEROKEE COUNTY RECORDER | RECORD EASEMENT | \$27.00 |
| CHEROKEE NAPA | VEHICLE MAINTENANCE | \$21.93 |
| CHRIS HORTON | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$35.00 |
| CRAIG SCHMIDT | SIMPCO MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT & AUCTION ITEM | \$300.13 |
| DUANE MUMMERT | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$35.00 |
| EMERGENCY APPARATUS MAINT. | PUMP TESTING ON TRUCKS | \$1,914.48 |
| FAREWAY STORES, INC. | OFFICE SUPPLIES | \$19.92 |
| FELD FIRE | OPERATING SUPPLIES | \$122.11 |
| FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB | WASTEWATER SAMPLES & WELL TESTING | \$1,836.00 |
| GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL | COPY CONTRACT | \$244.21 |
| HEIMAN FIRE EQUIPMENT | OPERATING SUPPLIES | \$167.35 |
| HOTSY EQUIPMENT CO. | POWERSHINE | \$620.00 |
| I.M.W.C.A. | 22-23 AUDIT PREMIUM ADJ. | \$6,216.00 |
| IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY | SRF LOAN INTEREST/FEEES | \$8,565.86 |
| IOWA ONE CALL | LOCATES | \$63.90 |
| IPERS | S. THILL WAGE ADJUSTMENT | \$560.07 |
| JOHN MEIS | SIMPCO ZOOM MEETINGS | \$207.75 |
| K & M TREE SERVICE | ASH BORER TREE REMOVAL | \$8,830.00 |
| LUKE GRAVENISH | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$50.00 |
| MAGUIRE IRON, INC. | WATER TOWER MAINTENANCE | \$66,398.96 |
| MID AMERICAN ENERGY | ELECTRICITY | \$534.47 |
| MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, INC | 12/23 HRA ADMIN FEE & CLAIMS | \$1,665.37 |
| MODERN HEATING & COOLING | REPLACE WATER HEATER | \$951.15 |
| MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS | RADIO MAINTNENACE | \$137.00 |

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| MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC. | WATER SUPPLIES | \$4,962.55 |
| NATE JAMES | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$50.00 |
| NORTHSIDE TIRE | STREET CLEANER MAINTENANCE | \$450.35 |
| ONE OFFICE SOLUTION | OFFICE SUPPLIES | \$94.70 |
| PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FIN. SVS | POSTAGE MACHINE LEASE | \$159.57 |
| PITNEY BOWES INC. | POSTAGE INK | \$182.58 |
| REHAB SYSTEMS, INC. | JET VAC USAGE | \$590.00 |
| ROB STINES | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$35.00 |
| ROGER DAVIS | SOUTH ROOM REFUND | \$50.00 |
| SANITARY SERVICES | 11/23 GARBAGE PICK UP | \$29,226.40 |
| SARA LUCAS | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$35.00 |
| SHELLY HAHN | CLEANING SUPPLIES | \$12.29 |
| SIOUX COMMERCIAL SWEEPING | CRACK SEALING CITY STREETS | \$15,000.00 |
| SIOUX SALES COMPANY | EMPLOYEE CLOTHING | \$93.85 |
| STEVE'S WINDOW SERVICE | CLEAN WINDOWS | \$141.00 |
| TACTICAL ENERGETIC ENTRY SYSTEMS | CONTINUING EDUCATION | \$1,025.00 |
| THE ACCURATE COURT REPORTER | SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL | \$39.00 |
| THE BOOK VINE | BOOKS | \$740.27 |
| TODD LARSEN | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$35.00 |
| TODD MILLER | 12/23 CELL PHONE & CONFERENCE REIMBURSEMENT | \$810.80 |
| TOM LETSCHE | 12/23 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT | \$50.00 |
| TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA | 11/23 SALES & EXCISE TAX | \$4,665.35 |
| USPS | UTILITY BILL POSTAGE | \$455.01 |
| VERIZON WIRELESS | CELL PHONES & HOT SPOTS | \$535.76 |
| VISUAL EDGE IT | COPY OVERAGE | \$135.41 |
| WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING | COPIER LEASE | \$63.00 |
| WEX BANK | FUEL | \$3,244.93 |

Rhonda Thompson and Audrey Pitts, Hopkins Insurance advised that they will be sending the ICAP property insurance renewals to the department heads to review for the upcoming year. ICAP is forecasting a 30% increase in insurance premiums for next year. The increase is primarily due to storms, liability claims, social inflation and the cost of goods.

Mick Samsel, Cherokee Historic Preservation requested the cities approval to repair and preserve the pillars of the old Fountain House on the corner of Park and Saratoga Avenues. Historic Preservation has money in their budget for this project and they will also be applying for several grants. Loughlin questioned Herbold how we move forward without an agreement between the City and the Historic Preservation Committee. Herbold will be working on an agreement with the Historic Preservation Committee. Consensus of the council was to hold off on the cities participation in the project until there is a clearer understanding of what type of agreement is needed.

On a motion by Loughlin, seconded by Wilberding the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Media Present: *Erin Rydgren, Cherokee Chronicle Times.*

Craig Schmidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Lucas, City Clerk-Treasurer