

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024, 6:00 P.M.  
CHEROKEE CITY HALL**

A regular meeting was called to order on this date by Mayor Schmidt. Roll call: Present: Councilpersons Nitz, Pingel, Wilberding, Wych, City Administrator Letsche, and City Clerk-Treasurer Lucas. Absent Loughlin.

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

Cory Turner, 802 W. Main St., would like to see the city ordinance regarding Animal Rescue Operations within city limits remain in place. Turner does not believe changing the ordinance is a benefit to the community, but to an individual. Turner's property has been damaged by raccoons in the past. Turner also questions the cities liability of reversing the ordinance. Turner also knows of several neighbors who are not in support of having wildlife rehabbed in their neighborhood.

Mick Samsel, 745 W. Main St., also does not believe that rehabbing wildlife should be allowed within city limits.

Due to the resignation of current City Attorney Alyssa Herbold, Justin Vondrak of Vondrak Law Firm, LLC has submitted a letter of interest to serve as the City Attorney for the City of Cherokee. Motion by Wilberding, seconded by Wych, to approve a Contract with Justin Vondrak of Vondrak Law Firm, LLC to serve as the City Attorney through June 30, 2025. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Nitz, seconded by Pingel, to approve Resolution 2024-24, a Resolution Establishing Compensation for the City Attorney. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

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

Approve City Council Minutes of May 28, 2024.

May Police Report.

Approve Renewal of Cigarette Permits: Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh, Hy-Vee Food Store, Fareway Store, Sparky's One Stop, Casey's General Store, Liquor on the Corner, Dollar General Store, Cherokee Country Store, Kee Stirs, The Hazy Daizy, World Liquor & Tobacco + Vapors, Family Dollar.

Approve Class E Retail Alcohol License for Liquor on the Corner.

Approve Class B Retail Alcohol License for Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh.

Review Park and Rec Minutes of June 3, 2024.

Approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for VFW Post 2253 KeeStirs, LLC.

Approve Pay App #3 Westcott Park Relocation.

Approve Skatepark invoice #2.

May Treasurer's Report and Receipts as follows: General \$325,013.46; Police Forfeiture \$922.56; County Library \$21.32; Road Use \$59,206.63; Employee Benefits \$85,171.84; Emergency \$4,793.66; Other Street Monies/Local Option Sales Tax \$85,351.61; Hotel/Motel Tax \$9,101.72; Tax Increment Financing \$8,498.82; Wilson School Reserve \$0; Library Memorial \$188.24; Park & Rec Capital Improvement \$234.88; Cemetery Special Care \$7.52; Debt Service \$49,817.31; 2016 Capital Projects \$0; Floods of 2018/19 \$0; Flood Buyout Program \$0; Roosevelt St. Prj. \$19,005.05; Willow St. Bridge \$0; American Rescue Funds \$0; Emergency Set-Aside \$335.53; Oak Hill Perpetual Care

\$320.00; Water Utility \$67,191.14; Water Utility – Industrial \$0; Water Main Project Bond & Interest \$5,032.50; Water System Maintenance \$9,631.46; Sewer \$105,681.08; Sewer Facility Bond & Interest \$5,653.50; Sewer System Maintenance \$8,842.40; Beech St. Lift Relocation \$0; CDBG Sanitary Sewer Euclid/Spruce \$0; Aviation Authority \$2,733.94; Solid Waste \$32,184.73; Landfill \$29,661.90; Storm Sewer Utility \$7,357.51; Self-Insurance \$252.62; Police Dept. Special Acct \$0. Bills totaling \$696,584.11

ACCO	CHEMICALS	\$1,055.60
AGSTATE	GLY STAR	\$127.50
AHLERS & COONEY P.C.	URBAN RENEWAL	\$68.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	NATURAL GAS	\$151.84
AMERICAN TREE SERVICE LLC	TREE REMOVAL	\$2,350.00
ASCENDANCE TRUCKS MIDWEST	AIR LEAK DIAGNOSE	\$93.32
BAKER & TAYLOR INC.	BOOKS	\$835.34
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS	SIGN STAND	\$198.00
BECK ENGINEERING, INC.	CURB & GUTTER IMP.	\$291.75
BECK ENGINEERING, INC.	COUNTRY CLUB EST. 2ND ADDITON	\$556.75
BLAINE'S WATER CONDITIONING	SOFTENER, RENT & WATER	\$149.15
BLOOMING HOUSE	FLOWERS/PLANTS	\$2,275.38
BOKF, NA	BOND PAYMENTS & INTEREST	\$382,370.00
BOMGAARS	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$1,037.54
BRAD'S TIRE SERVICE	BAD BOY MOWER REPAIR	\$1,760.17
BUILDERS SHARP. & SERVICE	CHAINSAW	\$459.99
C-M-L TELEPHONE	INTERNET & TELEPHONE	\$1,220.37
CASEY CARPENTER	CELL PHONE, MEALS, MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	\$308.69
CHAMPION ELECTRIC, INC.	BULBS	\$140.76
CHEROKEE CO. SOLID WASTE	5/24 ASSESSMENTS & DUMPING	\$33,996.36
CHEROKEE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION	EXIBIT RENTAL	\$65.00
CHEROKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT	VOLUNTEER FIREMAN PAYROLL	\$970.00
CHESTERMAN COMPANY	CONCESSION DRINKS	\$928.80
CHRIS HORTON	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$35.00
COMES INVESTMENTS (PIZZA HUT)	PIZZA/STAFF TRAINING	\$76.66
CORE & MAIN LP	CHEMICALS	\$265.34
CORE-MARK MIDCONTINENT, INC	POOL CONCESSIONS	\$4,601.18
COUNTRY TIRE & SERVICE	VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$484.04
CRAIG SCHMIDT	LAPTOP CHARGER REIMBURSEMENT	\$53.49
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	FIRE SUPPLIES	\$1,395.54
DEMCO, INC.	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,255.18
DUANE MUMMERT	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$35.00
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU	CERT. FEES /G. DIAZ/J. SANCHEZ	\$150.00
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	TIF REBATE & WASTEWATER SAMPLES	\$18,898.50
GREAT AMERICA FINANCIAL	COPY CONTRACT	\$199.29
GREGG COMPUTER SERVICE	LAPTOP POWER ADAPTER	\$49.99
GROUND EFFECT LP	MULCH	\$1,800.00
HOLZHAUER MOTORS, LTD.	VEHICLE MAINTENEANCE	\$49.99
I.M.W.C.A.	FY25 W/C PREMIUM	\$62,984.00
IOWA D.O.T.	CALCIUM CHLORIDE	\$5,271.75
IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY	SRF LOAN PAYMENTS & INTEREST	\$55,306.92
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	\$59.40
JORDAN SINGER	UTILITY DEPOSIT REFUND	\$40.68
LOPEZ FOODS, INC.	TIF REBATE	\$44,467.00
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRICITY	\$649.18
MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, LLC	CLAIMS	\$430.00
MIDWEST TECHNOLOGY SERVICE	GILLETTE PARK & POOL 1 YR LICENSE	\$872.00

MODERN HEATING & COOLING	A/C & STOOL MAINTENACE/REPAIR	\$667.86
NATE JAMES	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$50.00
NORTHSIDE TIRE	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$14.59
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$250.03
ROB STINES	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$35.00
SANITARY SERVICES	5/24 GARBAGE PICK UP	\$29,226.40
SARA LUCAS	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$35.00
SCHMILLEN CONSTRUCTION INC	WESTCOTT PARK RELOCATION	\$19,347.22
SECRETARY OF STATE	NOTARY RENEWAL/B. KINNAMAN	\$30.00
SHIELD TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION	SHIELDWARE YEARLY MAINTENANCE	\$1,557.50
SIOUX SALES COMPANY	EMPLOYEE UNIFORM/A. MCQUEEN	\$374.45
THE ACCURATE COURT REPORTER	SUBSRIPTION RENEWAL	\$39.00
THE BOOK VINE	BOOKS	\$667.49
TODD LARSEN	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$35.00
TODD MILLER	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$35.00
TOM LETSCHE	6/24 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$50.00
TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA	5/24 SALES TAX & EXCISE TAX	\$5,962.28
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	TIME & ATTENDANCE PROGRAM	\$384.17
USPS	UTILITY BILL POSTAGE	\$457.48
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONES, HOT SPOT, IPAD	\$611.87
VISUAL EDGE IT	COPY OVERAGE	\$133.64
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEAS	COPIER LEASE	\$207.00
WEX BANK	FUEL	\$4,342.12
WIESE OIL & SUPPLY CO.	NO-LEAD GAS	\$1,230.57

Shawn Foutch, Wilson School Apartments provided a timeline to Letsche for the completion of the apartment complex. Final construction and leasing of the apartments is scheduled for summer 2025.

The cities current website is up for renewal in July 2024, our current provider has updated the process and fee schedule. Clerk Lucas reached out to several website providers and presented a proposal from CivicPlus. Motion by Pingel, seconded by Nitz to approve the proposal from CivicPlus. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Wilberding requested a salary increase for Duane Mummert, Parks Superintendent for the extra duties he has taken on outside of what is included in his job description. Council appreciates the commitment and expertise Duane has given to the city. Motion by Wilberding, seconded by Wych to table the salary increase. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

The Beech Street Lift Station Relocation Bids were tabled until the June 25, 2024 meeting.

Motion by Wilberding, seconded by Wych, to approve a proposal from Blacktop Service for \$249,365.90 to complete milling and overlays as well as seal coats on a variety of city streets and alleys. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Pingel, seconded by Wilberding to set a Public Hearing on a Resolution to Accept Quit Claim Deeds on real estate for June 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Rhonda Thompson, Hopkins Insurance, Inc. reviewed the I.M.W.C.A (work comp) policy renewal with Letsche. Rhonda noted that the FY25 estimated coverage premium has decreased, \$63,394 to \$62,987. Motion by Nitz, seconded by Wych to approve the Workers Comp Insurance renewal. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Wilberding is concerned about the amount of nuisance mowing our Parks Department is doing, he thinks we need to look into hiring a firm to mow nuisances. Wiberding would like to set up a meeting with the Fire and Police Department, Mayor, Administrator, and two Council Members to determine the best way to handle the nuisances in the city. Wilberding would like to invite Hank Hayes to the next council meeting to present his program for people who have fixed up their properties within the city.

On a motion by Wilberding, seconded by Wych, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Media Present: *Allison Moore, Storm Lake Times*

Craig Schmidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Lucas

City Clerk-Treasurer