

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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 Conover, Loughlin, Nitz, Pingel by phone, Wych, City Attorney Vondrak and City Clerk-Treasurer Lucas. Absent None.

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

Chuck Stubbe, 700 W. Elm St., expressed concerns over the DOT project to change the scope of the Hwy 59 Bridge and the effects it will have on the flooding in Cherokee. Stubbe wants to make sure the City is involved with the project.

Tyler Large, OC Ramps was gave an update on the Skate Park. The last pour will be completed on Wednesday, September 25. They will be finishing clean up and getting things ready for the grand opening which will be on Saturday, September 28 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Motion by Wych, seconded by Conover to approve Cherokee Skate Park Change Order #1. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

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

Approve City Council Minutes of September 10, 2024.

Approve Class B Retail Alcohol License for Dollar General #2837.

Approve Ownership Change for Dollar General #2837.

Review Park and Rec Minutes from September 9, 2024.

Approve 2021 City of Cherokee Trail Expansion Project-Phase II Pay Application #6 & Final Acceptance.

Approve Application for Tax Abatement for 916 Aster Dr (Lot 26 Doherty 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition) – Homestake Enterprises.

Approve New Class C Retail Alcohol License for Mud on Main, LLC.

Approve Municipal Supply Invoice.

Approve SCE Invoice.

Bills totaling \$744,115.33

AGSTATE	GLY STAR	\$2,150.29
ALLIANT ENERGY	NATURAL GAS	\$559.24
ASCENDANCE TRUCKS MIDWEST	ENGINE CALIBRATION	\$264.55
AURELIA LUMBER COMPANY	LUMBER & SCREWS	\$111.50
BOMGAARS	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$847.46
BUILDERS SHARP. & SERVICE	PARTS & TOOL CAT REPAIRS	\$2,827.61
CHAMBER OF CHEROKEE WOMEN IN BUSINESS	TOURISM GRANT	\$2,000.00
CHAMPION ELECTRIC, INC.	2 GENERATORS, STREET LIGHT REPAIRS	\$231,382.05
CHEM-SULT, INC.	PHOSPHATE	\$1,500.40
CHEROKEE AVIATION AUTHORITY	9/24 PROPERTY TAX DRAW	\$3,057.93
CHEROKEE TRUCK & TRAILER	CAB HEIGHT VALVE	\$235.76
CHESTERMAN COMPANY	POOL CONCESSIONS	\$151.20
CORE & MAIN LP	FLANGE ADAPT	\$882.77
COUNTRY TIRE & SERVICE	OIL CHANGES	\$170.92
DINGES FIRE COMPANY	FIRE GLOVES	\$201.33

ELECTRIC PUMP	PUMP & MOTOR REPAIRS	\$8,777.99
FAREWAY STORES, INC.	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$143.21
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WATER & WASTEWATER SAMPLES	\$726.00
HAWKINS, INC.	LAB SUPPLIES	\$110.00
HY-VEE, INC.	POOL CONCESSIONS	\$38.49
I & S GROUP, INC.	WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS	\$650.00
IOWA LAKES ELECTRIC COOP	ELECTRICITY	\$138.30
IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY	TRAININGS	\$55.00
JAMES MANUFACTURING, LLC	REPAIR PAYLOADER FORK ATTACH.	\$175.00
K & M TREE SERVICE	REMOVE TREES	\$4,620.00
KAPP'S FIRE EXTINGUISHER	RECHARGE KITS & VALVE	\$150.00
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRICITY	\$29,851.40
MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, LLC	CLAIMS THROUGH 9/18/24	\$5,655.67
MILLS & MILLER INC.	DEICING SALT	\$2,232.45
MODERN HEATING & COOLING	UNPLUG SINK	\$112.47
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC.	WATER SUPPLIES	\$27,875.02
N.O.V.A. PRINCIPLES FOUNDATION	ANNUAL LICENSE FEE	\$500.00
NOGGIN WATER	COOLER RENT & WATER	\$37.50
O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES	TRUCK PARTS	\$256.38
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$59.90
R.J. THOMAS MFG. CO., INC.	FLAG FOOTBALL JERSEYS	\$416.50
ROSENBAUER SOUTH DAKOTA	FIRE PUMPER TRUCK	\$366,771.00
SANFORD MUSEUM	HOTEL/MOTEL GRANT	\$3,500.00
SANITARY SERVICES	HAUL TRASH	\$422.10
SCE, LLC	JET SEWER, WASTEWATER LAGOON REPAIR	\$11,698.33
SCHMILLEN CONSTRUCTION INC	BANK REPAIR @ WESCOTT	\$3,834.70
SHELLY HAHN	CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$9.44
SIOUX SALES COMPANY	UNIFORMS	\$1,850.30
SONNY'S LAWN CARE AND TREE	REMOVE TREES	\$4,200.00
T.P. ANDERSON & COMPANY	FY24 AUDIT	\$12,000.00
THE BOOK VINE	BOOKS	\$305.77
THOMPSON PROPANE & SUPPLIES	FUEL	\$1,250.20
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	TIME & ATTENDANCE	\$3,045.00
UNUM LIFE INS. CO OF AMERICA	10/24 LIFE & DISABILITY INS.	\$1,523.14
USPS	UTILITY BILL POSTAGE	\$512.91
UTILITY TECHNOLOGIES LLC	WATER SALESMAN VENDING UNIT	\$3,141.00
VALLEY VETERINARY CENTER	BOARD STRAY DOGS	\$147.00
VISUAL EDGE IT	COPIER CONTRACT	\$55.42
VOLLMAR MOTORS	FIX RADIO CONTROL MODULE	\$580.13
YOUR FLEETCARD PROGRAM	PARK FUEL	\$344.60

Abby Schreck, T.P. Anderson & Co., Humboldt, IA, presented the FY24 Annual Audit. Schreck stated that the city's overall cash position is strong, and considers our position good for a city of our size. She feels the city is doing a good job, and after looking at hundreds of compliance areas only found a few minimal changes to recommend. Total receipts for FY24 were \$9,762,352 and total expenses were \$9,292,207. Schreck mentioned the timing of funding for major projects is a large contributor to the change of cash balance from year to year. Motion by Nitz, seconded by Loughlin to approve the FY24 Annual Audit. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

The Council needs to appoint a committee to recruit and assist in the hiring of the next City Administrator. Historically the council has appointed a 5-member committee which includes 2 council members, the Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk. Nitz would like to make sure the

majority of council is involved in the hiring process. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Conover to keep the committee the same as it has been in the past, which worked well. Nitz does not agree that 2 council members should direct the recommendation to council of who to hire. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Conover to appoint the hiring committee as 2 council members, the Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk and adding 2 different council members to the final interviews. Roll call: AYES: Conover, Loughlin, Nitz, Pingel. NAYES: Wych. Motion by Nitz, seconded by Wych to appoint Wych and Loughlin to the hiring committee. Roll call: AYES: Nitz, Pingel, Wych. NAYES: Conover, Loughlin.

The Parks Director hiring committee interviewed several qualified candidates for the position. Nitz had a question regarding the hiring of a related party to a current city employee. Attorney Vondrak stated that without changing the cities nepotism policy there will have to be a change made to appoint the selected applicant. Loughlin questioned if we move ahead with our second candidate or make a change to your policy. Motion by Nitz, seconded by Loughlin to hire a non-related party and hire Jeremiah Mullins as Park Director. Roll call: AYES: Conover, Loughlin, Nitz, Pingel. NAYES: Wych.

There were three bids submitted to crush the cities concrete stock pile, Schmillen Construction \$32,500, Reding's Gravel & Excavating \$43,250, Cave Crushing \$24,800. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Pingel to accept the low bid from Cave Crushing of \$24,800. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Todd Larsen, Street Superintendent, is requesting to begin working with the Engineers and develop a plan for the next round of curb and gutter replacement. For FY25 this would include 3 blocks on the east side of town. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Pingel to approve the FY25 Curb and Gutter Project. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Conover to approve a Concession/Restroom Building be built at Wescott Park and to use ARPA funds to cover the cost. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

After a recent meeting with FEMA, we are going to need to hire someone with FEMA experience to be in the City Hall and work through the process. This position will be covered through the disaster to some extent. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Nitz to approve hiring a temporary FEMA flood employee. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

During the flood event of 2024, the IDOT used a city street portion to complete a detour of US 59. Since the events occurred in an emergent scenario, the IDOT is processing the Agreement and Gas Tax Payments. Motion by Nitz, seconded by Conover to approve an Agreement with IDOT for DOT-Initiated Detour of Primary Highways onto Local Roads. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Conover to write off a past due utility bill for Jerolyn Ruden at 209 E. Maple St. in the amount of \$974.14. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Conover to write off a past due utility bill for Brian & Amanda Cresap at 400 E. Spruce St. in the amount of \$299.17. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

John Meis, has been representing the city on the SIMPCO TAC board for many years and feels it is time to pass that on to someone else. This is something council will need to take into consideration.

Motion by Nitz, seconded by Loughlin, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Media Present: *Madeline Combs, Cherokee Chronicle Times*

Craig Schmidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Lucas

City Clerk-Treasurer