

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY – MAY 6, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.  
CUBA CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM**

Mayor Kevin Copling called the meeting to order. Aldermen present: Joyce Hartzell, Pitts Lesesne, Ray Mortimeyer, Tony Hutson, Harold Halbert, and Jeff Bouse. Police Chief present: Doug Shelton. City Attorney present: Emily Guffey.

**Motion by Hutson, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the agenda. Vote: All ayes.**

**Citizens participation:**

Jackie Hunt, citizen of Ward 2, stated that it is hard to hear in the council room during the meetings and asked if the microphones could be checked for use and asked the ladies to talk louder. Clerk Garbo stated that in the past the microphones caused a bad echo but will check them out.

Hunt stated that it is the normal custom of the council to pass one motion at a time and asked to please stick to that to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.

Hunt stated that she thinks a Public Works Director is needed and could be valuable and encouraged the council to hire one.

**Motion by Halbert, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 15, 2025. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer abstained.**

**Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the special meeting minutes of April 24, 2025. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer abstained.**

Hutson stated that on the special meeting minutes of April 30, 2025 a motion was incorrect and made be a different council member and asked for it to be amended. Motion by Hutson, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the planning and zoning board recommendation of moving forward with the rezoning request of R1 Residential to R1 Planned Overlay District and pending the approval of the development agreement by the council is incorrect and will be amended to **Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell.** Motion by Hutson, seconded by Halbert, to approve the special meeting minutes of April 30, 2025 with the amendment. Vote: All ayes.

**Motion by Halbert, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the bills to be paid.** Hutson stated that he would like to sit with Jennifer Basham to go over the bills as they don't know that the charges are. Mortimeyer agreed that he wished there could be a better description. Basham stated that only so much is allowed for a description and all understood. **Vote: All ayes.**

**Supervisors reports:**

Bill Dotson, Street Supervisor; Randy Williams, Electric Dept; Glen Shockley, Water Supervisor; Jimmy Happel, Natural Gas Supervisor; Jerry Montgomery, Grounds/Property Management Supervisor; David Minardi, Treatment Plant Operator; AJ Harman, Sewer Supervisor; Adam Staples, Pretreatment Coordinator were all present and gave the council updates on their departments. Happle noted that all departments help one another when needed as they are all city employees. The council thanked them.

**The Crawford County Chiefs – Hood Park use for training:** Michelle Hatton on behalf of Brad England stated that the Crawford County Chiefs is made up of the counties chiefs and command staff that meet to plan projects and training. Currently they are planning a mock mass casualty incident with tornado destruction and deceased people and are asking for the use of entire Hood Park on May 31, 2025 with the gates closed as of midnight. The training will include all agencies, mutual aid agencies, dispatch teams, and will be the first time using a portable tower to focus on good communications. Mayor Copling asked if the whole park would be closed to the public. PC Shelton asked if all citizens were to be kept out of the park. Darren Dake stated that citizens in the park could cause issues and wouldn't want to work around them with the equipment set up. Guffey stated that it is a public park and need to indicate that the park is in use for training. PC Shelton asked if there would be signs placed before the entrance of the park stating it's in use for training. Dake stated that their organization will be responsible for advertising that the park is in use for training by flyers and social media. Hutson stated it is a public safety training. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Mortimeyer, to allow the use of Hood Park from midnight to midnight on May 31, 2025 and advertise the training for The Crawford County Chiefs mock mass casualty training. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes.**

**FY 2022 audit report:** Basham stated that there were no issued with the audit report and no significant findings. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the FY 2022 audit report. Vote: All ayes.**

**Task Work Order #10 – Water & Sewer Rate Analysis and Growth Projection Proposal:** Cameron Schweiss presented the task work order requested from the previous meeting for a water/sewer rate study. Schweiss explained that this study is beyond a regular rate study showing future growth projections, projected revenue, and potential projects and improvements. Hartzell asked if they will look for some grants and Schweiss replied yes. Mayor Copling asked if there is money budgeted. Basham stated there is flexibility in this current budget. Schweiss stated that they can proceed immediately if needed. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Lesesne, to start the water and sewer system rate analysis immediately in FY 25. Vote: All ayes.**

**NW Main, McLeod & Highway ZZ Water Main Extension Project Bids:** Schweiss stated this is a large water main replacement project and there are two bids, one for the materials and one for the labor.

Schweiss presented the recommendation letter for materials. The bid is for \$226,536.10 but the recommendation is to approve a total material budget with a contingency allowance for \$247,000.00.

Basham stated that \$200,000.00 was budgeted. There was discussion of budgeting and if the materials are purchased in this current year then the labor cost would be in the next budget year. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the material bid from Core & Main for \$226,536.10. Vote: All ayes.**

Schweiss presented the recommendation letter for the labor contractors bid. There was discussion on budgeting and costs and if city workers can perform some of the labor. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting to provide time to discuss negotiations of the labor work.

**Playground equipment – Tangle Creek Park:** Cameron Schweiss stated that he does have a site plan for the new playground equipment and also have designed an accessible sidewalk that ties from the existing sidewalk into the playground area. Currently, the site plan has been agreed on as far as a location. Schweiss stated that their assignment was to design a concept for the entire park with pickleball and basketball courts, sidewalks, and the playground equipment and he has a preliminary plan to present. Hartzell asked if the playground installation company is ready to install. Bouse stated that the city needs to move forward with installing the equipment. Lesesne stated that the accessibility for the park starts at the parking lot by the pool and one can't get to the park from the parking lot as there are no handrails on the sidewalks and now is the time to work on that so the equipment will be accessible once completed. Guffey stated that a compliant playground must be accessible via a ramp, and/or paved barrier free travel routes. Schweiss stated that to move forward, the installation can be scheduled and then work on a play to make compliant while the equipment is being assembled. Schweiss stated that the parking lot can be looked at and there could be an easy solution. Lesesne stated that there needs to be certain signage stating age restriction, hours of use, and any restriction of the park itself and that certain maintenance has to be done daily to open and keep open. Hutson stated that he doesn't want the park open to the public until the sidewalks are addressed and all is ADA compliant, and all correct signage is installed. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve scheduling the installation of the playground equipment, making sure all signage is installed, and making sure ADA compliant before opening the playground equipment. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

**Park and Recreation recommendations:** Hutson stated it had been requested to remove the trees at Hood Park along the south end of the poultry/goat barn to allow an addition on the building. Hutson stated that he is not in favor of the tree removal and had asked if there was another way to add on with removing trees, it was replied no. Bouse would like to look at the trees first as there are not many trees left for shade. No motion was made.

Hutson stated that the fair board asked for permission to get bids for extending the roofing on the main stage. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Bouse, to approve the fair board to get bids for extending the roof on the main stage. Vote: All ayes.**

Dan Eidson, park and recreation committee member, gave an update on the Demolition Derby held at Hood Park on May 3, 2025 stating it was a huge success. Eidson stated that despite the rain and mud,

there is very minimal damage to the park and all did good cleaning the grounds. Eidson stated that there are some recommendations to be made for future improvements of another possible event in September.

Hutson asked about the rules and regulations of a social media page. It was discussed that promoting of local events is fine, just to not open the pages for comments and discussions.

**Discussion of hiring a Public Works Director (PWD):** Mayor Copling stated that he does not think the city should hire one at this time and would like to see what is affordable the next budget year. The supervisors are all doing a good job and would like to look at Jennifer Basham's recommendation that it is not affordable this year. Basham stated that nothing is currently budgeted for a PWD in FY 26 and would have to discuss and make adjustments at the budget talk. Lesesne stated that he has talked to every surrounding city and tow going through a development process and without one it will really tax the supervisors putting a huge strain on them. Bouse stated that the supervisors are all doing a great job and thy city has capable employees. Lesesne agreed that the supervisors do a great job but stated that the city had a PWD and the money for one but then never rehired and it needs to be considered from a budget and manpower perspective. Hartzell stated that Sullivan does not have a PWD. Mortimeyer stated that the development will be done in phases and won't start for a couple months and the supervisors say a PWD isn't needed at this time. Mayor Copling stated that the supervisors have support and are good. Mayor Copling recommended to table the discussion until the budget meeting. Hutson agreed with Lesesne that a PWD is needed. Hutson also agreed that the supervisors do a great job and that the PWD would be to direct and handle a lot of different stuff so supervisors aren't taken from the field. Huston stated that the Mayor isn't in the capacity to be the director. Halbert stated that if it isn't affordable, then can't do it. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Mortimeyer, to table the Public Works Director position until the budget meeting. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes.**

**Discussion of communication processes:** Mayor Copling recommended a liaison person for all the offices and supervisors. Bouse recommended waiting until the budget meeting. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Mortimeyer, to table the discussion until the budget meeting. Vote: All ayes.**

**Grounds maintenance part-time laborer position:** Mayor Copling recommended to wait until the budget meeting discussion to hir the position. Jerry Montgomery, grounds supervisor, stated it would only be for two months. Mayor Copling stated the budget is tight. Basham stated her opinion is to not hire the position as it is not affordable. It was stated that any Public Works employee with extra time can help. Mayor Copling to discuss with Public Works. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Lesesne, to not hire the part time laborer position at this time. Roll call vote: Bouse-no, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

**Police Chief report:**

PC Shelton stated that the officers are trying to work on nuisance reports.

Mayor Copling asked PC Shelton how many police cars are down. PC Shelton replied two cars.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Hutson, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2171 by caption only.**

**Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2171 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with Sparklight Advertising for website development and maintenance. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Halbert, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2171. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes.** **Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2171. Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2171 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2171. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2171 becomes Special Ordinance 933 on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2172 by caption only.**

**Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2172 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with CM aRcher Group, P.C. for consulting services for electrical engineering to make improvements and expansion of city's electric distribution system. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2172. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes.** **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2172. Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2172 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Bouse, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2172. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2172 becomes Special Ordinance No. 934 on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

Clerk Garbo stated that there is not a Bill No. 2173 as some clarification was needed. The last motion made at the April 1, 2025 meeting was to remove the no parking on Green Street. It was asked if that was to mean remove all parking restrictions or to go back to the original parking regulations before it was addressed. It was clarified that the council removed the no parking on Green Street.

Mortimeyer thanked the Mayor and the council for his appointment.

Halbert asked PC Shelton to look into a derelict vehicle on West Myrtle Street.

Halbert asked PC Shelton about the house on Springfield/Washington as it is in bad condition and needs cleaned up. PC Shelton stated that the owners are working slowly to tear it down.

Bouse stated that he had been talking about the parking at Robert-Judsons with PC Shelton and asked if anyone had looked into the problem. PC Shelton made the recommendation of two hour parking on the east side of Hickory Street between Washington Street and Spencer Street and designating a handicap spot closest to Washington Street. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the recommendation of two hour parking and a designated handicap spot. Vote: All ayes.**

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Basham asked to schedule the next budget meeting. The council decided on May 15, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Copling stated that he spoke with Bob Baldwin and he will inspect the properties and will still help out.

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Lesesne, to go into closed executive session – closed to the public pursuant RSMo 610.021 – Section 1) Attorney-client communications. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes.**

Mayor Copling called a three minute recess.

**Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hutson, to go back into regular open session. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

Guffey stated that the Board of Aldermen met in closed session for attorney-client communications and no final actions were taken.

PC Shelton stated that He Cuba High School requested closing Fair Street from Bond Street to South Hickory for a district track meet. It will provide extra room with many schools attending. The school will notify all residents. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the street closure. Vote: All ayes.**

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to adjourn. Vote: All ayes.**

Lainie Garbo, City Clerk