

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI**  
**TUESDAY – JANUARY 20, 2026 – 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, Harold Halbert, Richard Hewkin, Jeff Bouse. Attorney present: Emily Guffey. Police Chief present: Doug Shelton.

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

**Citizens participation:**

It was requested to approve a rain out alternate date for the Demolition Derby for May 23, 2026.

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

Stephen Bridgeman approached the council regarding the September 11<sup>th</sup> 25 year anniversary and stated that they are trying to plan an event at Hood Park with possible food trucks and fireworks to show emergency personnel how important they are. Not all details are ironed as of yet, but wanted to ask for approval of Hood Park before moving forward. The event would be on Friday, September 11, 2026 and open to all. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the use of Hood Park on September 11, 2026 for an event. Vote: All ayes.**

Greg Hubbel, EOC Director, stated that they have been opening Recklein Auditorium for a warming center. Hubbel stated he tried reaching out to the alderman committee with no luck regarding another location for the warming shelter when the Recklein Auditorium is not available and asked if there were any suggestions for another location. Hubbel stated they are trying to keep up with helping the less fortunate and are also trying to provide meals and shower vouchers. Mayor Copling recommended the Hood Park 4H building. Hubbel stated he was told the big area is not heated. Hubbell stated they need to work on getting a reliable location. Mayor Copling thanked him and all the volunteers.

Dan Eidson stated that some repairs at the pool had been previously discussed and asked if they had been scheduled yet. Mayor Copling stated that the repairs have been scheduled for the spring.

Cyndi Mercer stated that the votes at the last park and recreation board meeting were not correct and would have to be voted on again as they are not the appropriate records.

Mercer stated that at the last park and recreation board meeting Karen Groom cussed at a person inside the building and felt it was inappropriate. Mercer stated that there was targeting to get some off the board and that was also inappropriate. Mayor Copling stated he did not hear any of it. Mercer requested that Groom not be on the park and recreation board. Mayor Coping stated he is keeping her on the board.

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 6, 2026. Vote: All ayes.**

Executive session meeting minutes of December 16, 2025 were tabled.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the executive session meeting minutes of January 6, 2026. Vote: All ayes.**

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Halbert, so approve the special meeting minutes of January 14, 2026. Vote: All ayes.**

**Motion by Lesesne seconded Hartzell, to approve the bills to be paid. Vote: All ayes.**

**Budget revisions as of 12/31/25:** Jennifer Basham presented budget revisions. See attached. Lesesne asked about the increase in water testing and David Minardi stated that the cost of testing has increased and they are doing some extra testing. Lesesne asked about the funds utilizing reserved funds and Basham stated it was natural gas and transportation funds. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the budget revisions as of 12/31/25. Vote: All ayes.**

**Planning and zoning:**

Mayor Copling stated that Anna Lee Williams submitted her resignation from the planning and zoning board. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the resignation of Anna Lee Williams. Vote: All ayes.**

Mayor Copling appointed Tony Hutson to the planning and zoning committee. **Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the appointment of Tony Hutson to planning and zoning committee. Vote: All ayes.**

**Tourism committee:**

**Route 66 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary update:** Kim Roedemeier and Lori Malcolm gave an update of the Route 66 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as there a number of things planned for the celebration. It was stated that most of the celebration will stat in April when tourists are coming thru and they will have banners across the highway and on the poles along Route 66. Roedemeier stated that there are some older large celebration “cakes” that need refurbishing from Glen Tutterow and Merry Cloer and asked if they could some space In the old firehouse. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve using some space in the old firehouse to refurbish the “cakes”. Vote: All ayes.**

Roedemeier stated that June 27, 2026 is national mural day that will be a main event of the anniversary celebration. An exhibit will be set up from May 2026 to September 2026.. This will be a great tourist draw and there are other organizations that are helping. Roedemeier asked if they could use the new tourist/visitor center also known as the rock building for the exhibit. Lesesne asked if that is also the EOC building and Roedemeier stated that it could be blocked off. Hubbell stated that he had to have

access to the computer/system area and if there was an emergency that they would all have to meet there as a command center. Hubbel stated it had been discussed to move him to the old Mepco building. Basham stated that there is about \$1500 left in the budget to move the antennas and the original bid was \$1800 when Rodney Neff was going to move the equipment. Item was tabled until the next meeting.

Approval to get bids to move the EOC antenna equipment to be on the next agenda.

Bouse stated that the Hot Rod Power Tour will be coming through Cuba on June 11, 2026. Roedemeier stated they were aware and are working on getting some banners and welcome signs.

**Hood Park – Bicycles Across Missouri (BAM) event:** Roedemeier stated that tourism has sponsored this event in years prior and it is a bicycle route from Joplin to St. Louis and they use Hood Park as a hosting spot for an overnight stay. Those utilizing the park will bring their tents or trailers to stay the night and then a breakfast is provided for them the following morning. This is an opportunity to utilize our local businesses including motels, restaurants, fuel and shopping. The date requested is Thursday, September 10, 2026. Bouse asked if it would interfere with the set-up for the September 11<sup>th</sup> event. Roedemeier stated that if there were areas that needed blocked off that would not be a problem.

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the use of Hood Park for Bicycles Across Missouri on September 10, 2026. Vote: All ayes.**

**Advertise positions for Visitor Center:** Roedemeier asked to advertise to hire at the Visitor Centers as they will be expanding the hours for the summer and two employees is not enough. Basham stated it was not in the budget. Bouse stated it will have to wait until the new budget starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. Budget talk will start soon and the request for more employees can be discussed.

Mayor Copling asked if the city could help with anything for the Route 66 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and if so, let them know.

**Sewer department – bids for lift station:** AJ Harman, sewer supervisor, presented bids for lift station pumps from ESA, Inc.

Pump for Paul Bryan lift station \$7186.68

Pump for the school lift station \$5302.54

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve both bids from ESA, Inc for lift station pumps.**

**Vote: All ayes.**

**Electric department:**

**Tree trimming bids:** Andy Simpson, electric supervisor, presented a bid for tree trimming of power lines off Park street behind Wayde's Equipment.

Brown's Tree & Bucket Service \$17,975.00

**Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the bid from Brown's Tree & Bucket Service for \$17, 975.00. Vote: All ayes.**

**Material bids for Silo Ridge development:**

Simpson presented a bid for utility poles.

Bridgewell Resources \$17,630.00

**Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the bid from Bridgewell Resources for \$17,630.00. Vote: All ayes.**

Simpson presented bids for transformers.

Sunbelt-Solomon \$29,600.00

DSI \$37,110.00

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the bid from Sunbelt-Solomon for \$29,600.00. Vote: All ayes.**

Lesesne asked where the money was coming from to pay for the materials. Basham is asking and recommending to use capital improvement and then once there is a total and the money is available it can be reimbursed from the project funding if that is what is decided on.

Simpson presented bids for a wire trailer.

Reelstrong, LLC \$24,514.87

Lesesne asked if this was budgeted for the project. It was stated that it was unknown what was needed at the time, but will be an additional revision for the McBride project. Lesesne asked if the other trailer that is already owned is still needed and Simpson stated it was a different trailer. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the bid from Reelstrong, LLC for \$24,514.87. Vote: All ayes.**

Simpson presented bids from Wesco/Anixter and Fletcher-Reinhardt Company for wire bids and line material bids. Simpson stated that some items would be ordered from each company.

Wire bids:

Wesco/Anixter \$110,572.10

Fletcher-Reinhardt Co. \$116,185.04

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the wire bid from Wesco/Anixter for \$110,572.10. Vote: All ayes.**

Line material bids:

Wesco/Anixter \$115,767.59

Fletcher-Reinhardt Co. \$91,648.55

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the line material bid from Fletcher-Reinhardt Co. for \$91,648.55. Vote: All ayes.**

**Change project from replacing Voss circuit reclosure to reclosure control project:** Simpson stated that there is a change in the projects and Basham stated that the council approved it within the budget revisions and they were just making sure the council was informed. Simpson stated it is a system upgrade and will change some of the materials needed. **Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the reclosure control project. Vote: All ayes.**

**Fireworks bid:** Garbo asked for approval to advertise fireworks for three years; 2026, 2027 and 2028.  
**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve advertising firework bids. Vote: All ayes.**

**Police Chief report:**

**Nuisance:** PC Shelton stated one is being worked on Bond Street.

**Furnace bids:** Shelton presented two furnace bids for the police department. Shelton recommended Hartley's as they already do the maintenance on the other system in the police department.

Hartley's Climate Control. LLC                   \$6973.00

EcoPro Heating & Cooling                   \$6949.72

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzel, to approve the bid from Hartley's Climate Control LLC for \$6973.00. Vote: All ayes.**

**Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2202 by caption only.**

**Vote: All ayes.** Lesesne questioned the contract and stated that it's not a performance bid but an open bid with no deadlines of when to be completed. Basham stated that this auditor does like to get them done in a timely manner but it would probably be six months to a year before completed. Lesesne does not like open ended contracts. Basham stated there are reasons the audits are behind like the city couldn't get audit bids at one time because audit standards have changed and many are retiring with not many replacing and a lot of the others have a large clientele already. Mayor Copling agreed that there were problems getting audit bids. Lesesne stated that if bids were put out in 2024 rather than waiting until December 2025 it would be better. Basham stated that they can't start the audit until prior ones are completed and one can't start working on the materials until auditors approve to move forward. Basham stated this firm is a small company and is working on them and doing a good job. Guffey read Bill No. 2202 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with Catlett & Associates, for audit services. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2202. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-no, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes. Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2202. Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2202 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2202. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2202 becomes Special Ordinance 954 on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Lesesne, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2203 by caption only.**

**Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2203 – An ordinance approving a bid by Brown's Tree & bucket Service for tree trimming in the City of Cuba's right of way for powerlines in the Meadows Subdivision.

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2203. Roll call**

**vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes. Motion by**

**Lesesne, seconded by Hartzell, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2203. Vote: All ayes.** Guffey

read Bill No. 2203 a second time **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second**

**reading of Bill No. 2203. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-**

**yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2203 becomes Special Ordinance 955 on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Lesesne, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2204 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Bouse nay.** Guffey read Bill No. 2204 – An ordinance accepting and approving the phase 1 final development plan for The Village at Silo Ridge Subdivision as submitted to the City of Cuba, Missouri, and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, to execute an acceptance and approval of said plan. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2204. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-no. Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2204. Vote: All ayes. Bouse nay.** Guffey read Bill No. 2204 a second time. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2204. Roll call vote: Bouse-no, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2204 becomes General Ordinance 1245 this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2205 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Bouse nay.** Guffey read Bill No. 2205 – An ordinance accepting and approving the final plat of McBride Homes' The Village at Silo Ridge – Plat 1 as submitted to the City of Cuba, Missouri, and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, to execute an acceptance and approval of said plat. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2205. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-no. Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2205. Vote: All ayes. Bouse nay.** Guffey read Bill No. 2205 a second time. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2205. Roll call vote: Bouse-no, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2205 becomes General Ordinance 1246 on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

Bill No. 2206. Lesesne asked if any changes were made from the original ordinance as the only change should have been the citizens participation time from two to three minutes. Guffey stated that to her understanding only the time limit was changed. Lesesne recommended tabling to verify the changes. Mayor Copling stated it would be tabled until the next meeting. **Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Bouse, to table.**

Hartzell stated that she had a bid to seal the bike trail at Patti Jo's Playground. Guffey stated it needs to be on the next agenda for approval.

Hartzell stated that there is a part of the roof of Recklein Auditorium leaking and is going to be torn off and repaired. The cost will be less than \$5000. Guffey stated it needs to be on the next agenda.

Mortimeyer stated that Michael Montgomery was transferred from the grounds department to the natural gas to help train and that is complete so Montgomery will go back to the grounds department.

CITY OF CUBA – BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2026

Halbert stated that he received a call from the EOC Director and they need recommendations of a permanent location for the warming shelter.

Bouse stated that football season will start in February and they don't have any keys to the buildings or a contract and asked the status. Guffey stated that they still have the contracts at their office being worked on. Bouse stated that they needed to be done to move forward.

Garbo notified the council that minimum wage increased to \$15/hour as of January 1, 2026 and part time employees will move to the current wage.

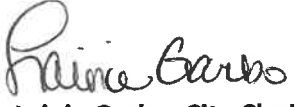
Mayor Copling stated that the magical donor Lesesne said wasn't real came through for them and \$150,000 is in the 501c3 account as of January 12, 2026. Mayor Copling thanked the donor. Lesesne thanked Halbert for finding the money.

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

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

Guffey stated that the Board of Aldermen met in closed session to discuss legal advice and there were no final actions taken.

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

  
Lainie Garbo, City Clerk