

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI
TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 3, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
CUBA CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM

Mayor Kevin Copling called the meeting to order. Aldermen present: Joyce Hartzell, Pitts Lesesne, Harold Halbert, Richard Hewkin, Jeff Bouse. Alderman absent: Ray Mortimeyer. Attorney present: Emily Guffey. Police Chief present: Doug Shelton.

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

Citizens participation:

Deb Schwalenberg stated that she made an appeal to the council regarding an issue with chemicals in the pool and was following up. Schwalenberg stated that she received an email from MOPERM requesting more information and that in the past once the information was sent there was silence and asked the city's intentions. Guffey stated that the issue is with the city's insurance company MOPERM and there is no further action until they are heard from. Guffey instructed Schwalenberg to contact the city clerk if communication stops.

Dan Eidson asked about an agenda item, Patti Jo's Playground – bid approval to seal bike trail and how it would be paid for. Garbo stated that per Jennifer Basham, there was \$10,000 budgeted for the bike trail and benches in Patti Jo's Playground. Eidson didn't think it needed sealed and there were other things to be done.

Eidson asked about the EOC office and why they wanted to move and established location. Mayor Copling referred to Greg Hubbel, EOC Director. Hubbel stated that the building is being turned into a Route 66 tourist center and if an emergency should happen he would have to have a space big enough for a command center that fits all emergency personnel. Ryan Meiser, in audience, stated that the location was going to be used for a visitor center along Route 66. Meiser asked why the EOC office couldn't go to either the coroners office or the public works building. Meiser stated that the visitor center by the interstate pulls traffic from the interstate and the other one would pull from Route 66 that draws a large crowd every year. Eidson felt the current visitor center should promote all tourism in Cuba and if it does not then that needs addressed. Meiser stated that they can make something work.

Ciara Kitchen stated that she received the football park use agreement and was disappointed as it had the wrong organization name on it and the agreement was identical as the old one with one line changed within. Kitchen understood that the attorney was out for a while with the agreements not being addressed but felt it concerning that the attorneys office did not do it correctly. Kitchen stated that they are in registrations and will be starting soon and need access to the facilities. Kitchen did state that a new agreement was received with the correct information. Mayor Copling questioned if the facilities were emptied and when keys could be given. There was discussion of the keys and the locks

being changed. Bouse asked for the locks on the facilities to be changed and Montgomery stated they would be the following day. Kitchen asked when the agreements would be signed.

Cyndi Mercer asked about an ordinance that changed the citizens participation time from two minutes to three minutes at a past meeting and if there were any other changes. Garbo stated that it was verified the only change was the time to speak and it will be approved at the next meeting.

Mercer asked about Patti Jo's Playground, sealing the bike trail and stated that it was not budgeted to do that project and thinks the money could be reallocated for a different project like a basketball court that the community would like. Mercer stated they were told that there would be room in the park to expand the basketball court and that has not been done or talked about. Mayor Copling stated that they did not put that in their budget but did put a pickleball court for \$30,000 and the bid came back for \$200,000 so a 501c3 was put together and after being told there was not a donor a donation of \$150,000 was received for the project and that was misleading to the citizens. Mercer stated that there were many conversations with Mayor Copling stating that if the donation money wasn't received then it could come from capital improvement and that they did not mislead anyone. Mercer stated that the social media posting asked what the citizens wanted and the location. It revealed that they wanted a basketball court but Mayor Copling stated there was donation money for a pickleball court and nothing has been done with a basketball court. There was discussion of the budget and if there was a donation when it was set.

Rena Martin stated that she agreed with Mercer and that Mayor Copling told her that there was a donor to cover the remaining cost of a pickleball court.

Meiser asked if all these discussions are from the large piece of playground equipment that was purchased and installed. Mayor Copling stated yes, the equipment was put in a the park and recreation board put a plan together to work around it. Mayor Copling stated that he broke the tie for the playground equipment and that was what got the donation for the pickleball court.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2026. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.

Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the executive session meeting minutes of January 20, 2026. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the bills to be paid. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.

EOC Director – warming center update: Greg Hubbell thanked council members that donated time and items at the warming center and the police department for checking and making sure all was safe and secure. Hubbell thanked James Woods for the use of the VFW building as the Recklein Auditorium was booked. Hubbell gave an update of the warming center totaling close to 130 people with a lot of new

faces and serving approximately 600 meals. Hubbell thanked the citizens and businesses for the donations as they couldn't operate without them. Hubbell stated that the center will be open periodically depending on the weather.

Eidson asked Hubbell how long it would take to move all the equipment from the EOC office. Hubbell thinks about two days. It was asked about the storm system and Hubbell stated that the sirens can be set off manually if needed.

Mayor's appointments – Park and recreation board – appointment of members: Mayor Copling appointed Karina Rice to the park and recreation board with an expiration date of May 1, 2028. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the appointment of Karina Rice with an expiration date of May 1, 2028. Vote: All ayes. Bouse and Lesesne nay. Mortimeyer absent.**

David Minardi – new website update: Minardi stated that last July the council approved a new city website as the old system is not user friendly. Minardi and Jessica Baker have been working on the new website and in September they said it would take about nine months to complete. They have recently heard from the new website and it is all but done with a layout that is user friendly and looks good. There will be some training in March with two sessions totaling three hours so they will be able to update the site themselves. Anything from the old site that is outdated will be updated before going live. Minardi will keep the council updated.

Treatment Plant:

Propane bids: Minardi stated that when the temperature drops below twenty degrees there has to be a blow torch and it currently runs off of cylinders that could run out on the weekend. Minardi would like to bid a 200 gallon propane tank to be set to run the plant correctly. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve going for bids for a 200 gallon propane tank. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.**

UV System bid: Minardi stated that pending an expansion for the McBride subdivision, it is better to fix the current UV System and the manufacturer checked the system and provided a list of parts required to fix. Xylem parts for UV System totals \$31,708.00. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the parts from Xylem for \$31,708.00. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.**

Patti Jo's Playground – bid approval to seal bike trail: Hartzell stated there is a bid from Diamond L Sealing for \$2575.00. Mayor Copling stated it is to fill the cracks on the bike trail and seal it. Montgomery stated it has not been done since installed. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Hewkin, to approve the bid from Diamond L Sealing for \$2575.00. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes. Mortimeyer absent.**

Lesesne questioned the service being done in cold weather and the timeframe of the bid. Montgomery will check the timeframe of the bid. Guffey stated that there was already a vote.

Natural gas department:

Material bids for Silo Ridge development: Bids were submitted for materials for the Silo Ridge development. Materials are needed from two different companies.

Groebner materials needed total \$14,955.48.

Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the bid from Groebner for \$14,955.48. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.

Koons Gas Measurement materials needed total \$30,695.50. **Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the bid from Koons Gas Measurement for \$30,695.50. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.**

Approval to advertise bids to move EOC equipment: Hubbell stated that the computer is acting up for the EOC system. Hubbell stated that he talked with the system company and the sirens can still be set off manually and they are checking to see if the computer is under warranty but do not have a cost at this time. Hubbell stated that with the Silo ridge development coming they need to have a sound test done to see if another siren is needed and has requested a siren map. Hubbell stated he has asked for a bid for the system. Hubbell stated that the antenna and dish will need to be moved and need a bid for the cost. Mayor Copling asked about the generator being moved and the possibility of the electric department doing that. Bouse asked if they will have to wait until budget time and recommended holding off until they find out about the cost of the system. Mayor Copling stated if they gets bids now they can have it for budget time. Hubbell stated that if his phone does not alert him then he can't set the alarms. Lesesne asked if he had talked to the county EOC to see if they can help alert him, Hubbell stated that they are new also. Hubbell just wanted to make all aware and that they need to be prepared. Lesesne asked PC Shelton about officers being trained as weather spotters and PC Shelton stated that they can, but the weather channels contact them. Hubbell doesn't want to put the issue off and then be in flood and storm season. Bouse recommended cleaning up the EOC side of the building so that he can operate and hold off on a bid for moving the equipment until they know more about the computer system. Bouse stated that everything works at the current location so instead of bidding to move the equipment, leave it there and address the computer system. Hubbell asked about a cost of the system and if the money isn't budgeted and it was stated that they would address that with Basham when necessary. Hubbell asked about the location with the visitor center and Meiser stated that the EOC is very important and they can work with it. Mayor Copling does not want to drag their feet and would like to get the bids. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Hewkin, to get bids to move the EOC equipment. Roll call vote: Bouse-no, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Lesesne-no, Hartzell-yes. Mortimeyer absent.** Lesesne stated his no vote was because of too many unknowns.

Tourism committee – Hood park – Bicycles across Missouri event for route 66 100th Anniversary - \$5000 sponsorship: Garbo explained that in the original request of this event the sponsorship was not approved. The council approved the event at Hood Park. Tourism had sponsored in the past years and per Basham, there is money in their budget. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the Bicycles Across Missouri \$5000 sponsorship. Vote: All ayes.**

Electric department:

Material bids for Silo ridge development: Andy Simpson submitted additional wire material needed that was not included in the original bid.

Wesco – Anixter \$12,625.00

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the bid from Wesco-Anixter for \$1,625.00. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.

Reclosure controls bid: Simpson submitted bids for reclosure controls.

Fletcher-Reinhardt Company \$18,01000

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the bid from Fletcher-Reinhardt Company for \$18,010.00. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.

Police Chief report: None

Nuisance report: PC Shelton stated that they are aware of the location on Route 66 and are taking care of it as the weather had been a issue.

Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to have the first reading of Bill No 2207 by caption only.

Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent. Garbo read Bill No. 2207 – An ordinance approving a bid by Brown’s Tree & Bucket Service for tree trimming in the city of Cuba’s powerlines off Park Street. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2207. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes. Mortimeyer absent. Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hartzell, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2207. Vote: All ayes. Mortimeyer absent.** Garbo read Bill No. 2207 a second time. **Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2207. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes. Mortimeyer absent.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2207 becomes Speial Ordinance No. 956 this 3rd day of February 2026.

Bouse urged all citizens to register and get out and vote in April to get rid of the mad house.

Garbo stated that the park and recreation meeting is February 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

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



Lainie Garbo, City Clerk