

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI
TUESDAY – MARCH 17, 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. Alderman absent: Jeff Bouse. Attorney present: Carolyn Buschjost. Police Chief present: Doug Shelton.

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

Citizens participation: Dan Eidson asked if there were any allegations reported against him at previous meetings for doing something wrong at the pool. Buschjost stated the council will not answer as it is not the place and he would have to find out a different way or get an attorney.

Jackie Hunt asked if bids were solicited for the attorney firm. Buschjost and Garbo stated that yes, bids were solicited and received. Hunt asked when they were solicited and Garbo stated probably January 2025. Hunt asked why the bids were not on the agenda. Hunt referenced ordinance 115-020.

Hunt asked if the FY24 audit was complete and Jennifer replied no it was still in progress. Hunt asked when the FY25 audit will begin and Basham stated it can't start until the FY24 is complete. Hunt stated that the city can't get grants and loans with out current audits and things are being promised.

Cyndi Mercer asked about the status of football scoreboard panel/clicker and if it is being returned or not. Buschjost stated that the city does not have it and has not been returned and is a closed session item. Mercer stated that it is a \$1500 item that is needed and would have been nice to know the status earlier.

Mercer stated that there was a meet the candidate night and some candidates did not show up and asked if they were planning anything on their own for citizens to ask questions. Mayor Copling stated that he did hate to miss and is unsure of the other candidates but he rented a space at the old VFW Hall on April 4th and April 5th and will be available to talk to the community anywhere from 9 am to 12 or 1 pm.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Hewkin, to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 3, 2026. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent. Mortimeyer abstained.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the executive session meeting minutes of March 3, 2026 with an amendment. Vote: All ayes. Boue absent. Mortimeyer abstained.

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

Street department:

Resignation of Jeremy Copling – acceptance: Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the resignation of Jeremy Copling. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.

There was discussion of posting a street laborer position for two weeks, starting pay of \$19.50/hour no CDL and \$20.50/hour with CDL. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve advertising the street laborer position. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

Acceptance of Randy Williams retiremet: Randy Williams submitted his retirement effective May 15, 2026. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the retirement of Randy Williams. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

There was discussion of posting the open electric position for two weeks, unsure of the pay as it depends on the position. It was discussed to hire/advertise either a journeyman lineman or an apprentice lineman. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Hewkin, to advertise both positions of journeyman lineman and apprentice lineman but only hire for one position. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

Park and Recreation recommendations:

Crawford County Fair Board – concrete walkway and pad for goat barn: Hartzell reported that the park and recreation board recommended approving a concrete walkway and pad for the goat barn in Nood Park. Lesesne asked if there was a plan/picture to see. Jerry Montgomery stated that he thought it was a four foot walkway on the right side of the barn the entire length of the building. The labor and material is donated. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the recommendation. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

Demolish the old pavilion at Tangle Creek Park: The park and recreation board recommended to demolish the old pavilion at Tangle Creek Park as it is in bad shape and won't make a move. Lesesne asked if there were any salvageable items and Montgomery stated maybe and they would check. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the recommendation. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

Pickleball court color blue and green: The park and recreation board recommended for the pickleball courts to be blue with green around it. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the recommendation. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

Renew contract with Red Cross at the pool: The park and recreation board recommended renewing the Red Cross contract at the pool. There was discussion that this needed to be done by April 7th or 9th for the pool to operate. Buschjost recommended reviewing the contract before moving forward. This item could be on the special meeting scheduled for March 26, 2026 to meet the deadline.

Brett Bailey to reserve Cuba pool for lifeguard training: The park and recreation board recommended approving Brett Bailey to reserve the pool May 15th, 16th, and 17th for lifeguard training. It was discussed that his usual location for training can not open due to needing repairs. If there are Cuba lifeguards that need training, then they will only be charged cost. Proof of insurance will have to be submitted. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the recommendation. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

Surplus bid – 2001 Ford F-350: The surplus truck was advertised with one bid submitted.

2001 F-350 Ford Truck; VIN 1FDWF37S91EA45584

Brian Mullally \$2652.00

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to accept the bid from Brian Mullally for \$2652.00. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.

Transfer request: Jennifer Basham presented budgeting transfer requests. Attached. \$209,485.55 from capital improvement to electric. \$228,155.38 from capital improvement to water project.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the transfer request. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.

Lesesne thanked Basham for the new budgeting forms to use as it was appreciated and will work better.

Police Chief report:

Nuisance report: None

Acceptance of Joseph Holle resignation: PC Shelton stated that Holle's last day would be 3/26/26.

Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to accept the resignation of Joseph Holle. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve advertising the open police officer position.

Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent. Lesesne asked about the starting salary and it was stated \$20.56.

Basham recommended absorbing through attrition for budgeting purposes and stated that this was brought up with the last employee. PC Shelton stated that they are not wanting to add, just maintain their department.

Road closure approval: Buchanon/Main: PC Shelton stated that there was a request from Lions Club to close Buchanon Street June 26-28, 2026. There was discussion regarding city employees helping put up a tent and Buschjost stated to make sure it is covered by insurance and on city property. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the requested street closure. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

Mayor Copling asked PC Shelton about the destructed home on Washington Street. Lesesne stated the city could possibly remove for a reasonable cost or place a lien on the property. PC Shelton will make contact with the property owners.

Lesesne addressed an issue and stated that sometimes things are done and it comes out differently than it should have happened. Transparency is doing what they do as a city and the people within the city being able to see it. Sometimes things happen and accountability is knowing when, where, why, and who. Only so many people can authorize and it is not about placing blame, but accountability and when there are no answers then it raises questions and gives a public perception. Lesesne, stated the matter with the \$50,000 in grounds and park tax funds is fixed as it was moved back. They will never know who authorized the move and need to stop the blame game and it was nothing about firing anyone, just making sure it did not happen again. Lesesne stated that the budget sheets that Basham presented are great and will fix the problem and that the auditors need a transfer policy and will have now. Lesesne stated again that his intention was never to blame or accuse, but about transparency.

Mortimeyer stated that David Minardi went out on his own and passed his Class A Water License. Mortimeyer thanked and congratulated him. Mortimeyer stated that in the ordinances there is a possibility for an increase in pay as it has been done for others in the past and should honor. This will be on the next meetings agenda.

Garbo read a notice to terminate contract from Williams Robinson Wiggins effective May 31, 2026.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Hewkin, to advertise for new legal representation until the position is filled. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.

Mayor Copling thanked the citizens of Cuba as the next regular meeting will be after the elections and wished Lesesne good luck in the Mayor race and encouraged citizens to vote for what is in their heart.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to enter into executive session – closed to the public pursuant RSMo 610.021 – Section 1) legal advice-litigation; 3) personnel. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes. Bouse absent.

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

Buschjost stated that the Board of Aldermen met in closed session to discuss legal advice-litigation and personnel.

Buschjost stated that in Section 3) personnel there were no final actions taken.

Buschjost stated that in Section 1) legal advice-litigation after discussion there are no litigation matters pending or to be considered with the scoreboard controller with no further actions to be taken.

Resignation of Matt Pigg – acceptance: Matt Pigg, Natural Gas Supervisor, submitted his resignation.

Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hewkin, to accept the resignation of Matt Pigg. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.

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

Lainie Garbo, City Clerk

