

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI**  
**TUESDAY – MAY 5, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**CUBA CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM**

Mayor Pitts Lesesne called the meeting to order. Aldermen present: Joyce Hartzell, Russell Crocker, Ray Mortimeyer, Louis Raineri, Jeremy Rosemann, and 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:** Jim Ealer with 100 Acre Wood Rally stated that the car show event held at Hood Park with their last rally was very successful. Ealer stated that they would like the rally to come back to Crawford County and would like to find some roads in Cuba to utilize and could use some volunteers assisting with asking permission from home owners. Ealer stated that there are some options to work with regarding a rally and car show in July but require permission from home owners before proceeding and asked that anyone interested in helping, please contact him at 636-288-1803. Mayor Lesesne asked if the rally and car show would be coming back in March and Ealer replied yes, but have the get a small rally approved before the big one. Mayor Lesesne stated that for the first year hosting the car show event it was great with many in attendance and food trucks present with many selling out. Mayor Lesesne stated for anyone that could support or assist to reach out.

Dan Eidson stated that him and his wife have been Mr. and Mrs. Claus for the past twelve years for many organizations and have never had to endure allegations of misconduct with children. It wasn't until recent that a group of people wanted to attempt tarnishing his reputation. In spite of never being accused, investigated to prove the allegations or having criminal evidence to support it they are still circulating today. Eidson stated that there were social media comments calling him a pedophile and commenting on him attending Shop-With-A Cop functions. Eidson stated that Cuba, Steelville and Owensville's Police Departments all feel safe with him around children and doesn't know how to prove his innocence any better. Eidson had not seen any comments like these until running for a political position and thinks it is no coincidence the allegations were made to harm a mans reputation. Eidson stated that the last place to endure these allegations would have been from the local city government. Eidson stated that he was aware of an executive session meting ran by Kevin Copling and was made aware by one who was in attendance and left because of it not being a reason for closed session as he was not personnel or a volunteer, nothing with real estate and not in litigation with the city and advisors of the city have advised him it was not a legal meeting. Eidson stated that he had volunteered many hours and his equipment and services to functions to help and make it fun and offered those services at the last park and recreation meeting and they seemed interested taking his contact information and then when leaving a comment was made from Karen Groom that of course he wants to help with the pool to be around all the kids. Eidson has had enough and will no longer allow accusations to be made without a proper response. Eidson expects a written apology to be read in open session from the following: Kevin Copling who called the executive session, Lainie Garbo who knew what was

appropriate conversation in executive session and said nothing, Karen Groom who said what she said at a sanctioned city meeting, and Karina Rice who heard what was said and thought it was funny. Only after the apologies are received will the city not be involved in litigation and will feel the situation to be dealt with understanding it should be a warning against any further allegations without probable cause and investigation. Eidson looks forward to the next council meeting.

Cyndi Mercer stated that the allegations against Eidson all stem from a teen night at the pool when it was felt that the lifeguard on stand was not watching waters so Eidson took a video of them not doing their job properly and then things were turned into something it wasn't. Mercer stated that Eidson has not been under investigation and asked the council to put themselves in Eidson's position asking what they would do if there were rumors spreading and being called a pedophile. Mercer stated that these things should never happen and it should not be continually happening. People need to be appointed to committees that are willing to help with the community and work together, not lie to be hurtful.

Amy Hendrix suggested to the council putting Eidson and Mercer back on the park and recreation board as they stand up for the community. Hendrix stated that things were said by the current board president about not serving on the board with certain people and said very inappropriate things and that is not what should be representing our parks and recreation board.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Rosemann, to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 21, 2026. Vote: All ayes.**

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the closed executive session meeting minutes from April 21, 2026. Vote: All ayes.**

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

**Discussion of food trucks in city limits:** Hartzell provided the council with a handout with a response from eight restaurant owners regarding food trucks and none had response of not wanting them in Cuba. Mayor Lesesne stated that he ran an informal poll on Facebook asking the public if they wanted food trucks/trailers to be allowed to operate on private property inside the city limits and results were 526 yes votes and 7 no votes. Mayor Lesesne stated that they will work on a policy for food trucks in city parks as they need guidelines and have reached out to many for discussion to begin working on trying to get it completed quick as there are many events coming up. There was discussion of the upcoming Demolition Derby having food trucks and where they would park. It was asked that the food trucks park off of the grass to prevent damage and Jerry Montgomery stated that the prior year they did a good job and cleaned up good. It was agreed that things would be left as are for this event as there were no policies in place.

Laura Wallace, owner of Cuba Bakery and Deli, stated that at the previous meeting she was not personally attacking food trucks and that Mayor Lesesne did not address it correctly to the public. Wallace stated that she did not have a problem with food trucks being present at events as they bring

people to the city and that is a good thing, her concern was that there are not enough people in Cuba to support the amount of eateries during the week and to set some parameters with restrictions instead of eliminating. Mayor Lesesne stated that the other restaurants didn't have any problems with the food trucks and they did the research and the people want the food trucks. Wallace presented some research of other towns and restrictions and stated that the council asked her to bring them but they don't want to do anything. Wallace stated again, she had no problems with food trucks just asked for some parameter restrictions.

**Discussion and approval of the park tax on August 4, 2026 ballot:** Mayor Lesesne stated that the current park tax expires in 2027 and to be on the August ballot it has to be approved and certified to the county office by May 26, 2026. If the tax does not make the August ballot then there would be a time lapse of collecting the tax. Mayor Lesesne stated they are not asking to change anything within the tax as they have had it for 10 years and those traveling help the city maintain our parks and equipment. If the tax is lost, then the city still has to provide the same services and the citizens will have to provide. Mayor Lesesne hopes that the tax passes or it will effect the parks and proposed to put it on the August ballot just as it is and hopefully in 10 years the city will be in great shape. Raineri clarified that the tax is not an increase and just another 10 years continuing what is in place. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Crocker, to approve the park tax on the August 4, 2026 ballot. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes, Bouse-yes.**

**Hiring of a Public Works Supervisor:** Mayor Lesesne stated that there was one internal applicant, Michael Montgomery and a resume was submitted and feels would be a good fit for the position. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Crocker, to approve Michael Montgomery for the Public Works Supervisor position. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

**Electric department – hiring of a Journeyman/Apprentice position:** Tabled, pending interviews

**Natural gas department – hiring of a natural gas laborer/technician:** Mayor Lesesne stated that interviews were held and it was recommended to hire Tony Hutson. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Crocker, to approve hiring Tony Hutson for the natural gas laborer/technician position. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes, Bouse-yes.**

**Animal Control/Police Committee:**

**Hiring of Animal Care Attendant:** PC Shelton stated that they pulled from previous applications for an emergency hire and recommend Anastyn Hiatt and that she could start the following day and the pay would be \$15/hour. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve hiring Anastyn Hiatt for the Animal Care Attendant position. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

**Discuss and advertise an Animal Control Officer:** PC Shelton stated that the animal shelter is closed and by appointment only and would like to advertise the position as part time of 30 hours/week at

\$15/hour. **Motion by Raineri, seconded by Bouse, to approve advertising the position for 2 weeks or until filled. Roll call vote: All ayes.**

**Hiring of a police officer:** PC Shelton stated that there is an open police officer position open and there aren't applications coming in like they used to have and would like to commit to hire one from the police academy that could start immediately after graduation in July and recommended Madison Courtwright. PC Shelton stated that he is aware of the issues of saving money and this position is already budgeted and needed as all other officers are working for ample coverage as well as the Captain and the Lieutenant stepping up when necessary. PC Shelton stated that the position needs to be filled for officer safety as they can't work by themselves and don't want Cuba to be a statistic for something bad to happen and there is another subdivision being built with 500 homes that needs patrolled. PC Shelton stated that if the position is not filled many are tired of working with no uniformity and they can go somewhere else that they wouldn't have to wait for the county to help respond. PC Shelton stated that he got a second SRO as that was promised to the citizens. Mayor Lesesne asked if PC Shelton could reach out to the school and try to negotiate them paying for one SRO. Hartzell does not think they should short the town an officer. PC Shelton stated that the school is one of the largest gathered places during the day, needing the SRO's. Raineri stated that with the budget crunch, if the school could help pay for an SRO that would be great. Basham stated that she gave the wage statistics of the department and asked the council to look at and consider. PC Shelton stated that the open position is still budgeted and they would be moving forward and can't fault the police department for the \$6000 raise in the past as it was increasing the starting salary to get and keep the officers. Mortimeyer stated that the need for an officer is there but there is no money to hire. Mayor Lesesne recommended going to the school and checking with them paying for an SRO, and with it being summer time one stay at the school and one will patrol helping with the open position until something is worked out. Mayor Lesesne stated that the auditor said they need to have budget talks and this will get them through the summer allowing time to work on the new budget. Basham stated the position was budgeted but it is time for attrition and then rebudget. Hartzell stated the officer is for the safety for the citizens. Rosemann asked if there were any crime statistics and if the crime is getting worse or better. PC Shelton didn't know off the top of his head, but could get some reports of the calls received. Hartzell asked if they are short police and something happens, would the city be liable for voting no to hire. Guffey stated no that the liability is determined on the scenario. Bouse asked if they could hold off until the next meeting. Crocker stated they could put it off, but take the chance of the graduate possibly going somewhere else. Bouse stated that he would hate to hire and then have to lay off. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to commit to hiring Madison Courtwright once graduated from the police academy. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-no, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-no, Bouse-yes.**

**Nuisance:** PC Shelton stated that they have a report of tall grass but have not had a chance to take care of.

**Park and Recreation committee:**

**Park and Recreation board appointments:** Mayor Lesesne clarified some appointment terms from the last council meeting. Ashley Wells replaced Michael Dowdy-Benivamonde and that term expires May 1, 2028 and Roslind Reiner replaced Christine Young and that term expires May 3, 2027. There are three seats that expired and Mayor Lesesne appointed. Beth Kight was appointed with the term expiring May 7, 2029. Dian Cooper replaced Karen Groom and that seat expires May 7, 2029. Monica Harris replaced Faye Howard and that term expires May 7, 2029. Josh Hepperman replaced Maurie Smith and that term expires May 1, 2028. Ximena DeLuna replaced Stacy Romo and that term expires May 3, 2027. **Motion by Raineri, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the appointments to the park are recreation committee. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

**\*\*\*Bouse left the meeting during the park and recreation board appointments**

**Hiring of pool employees:**

The park are recreation committee made the recommendation to hire the following:

Assistant Manager/certified lifeguard     Micah Volner

Certified lifeguards                             Caroline Fancher, Trishelle Damo, Aaleigha Decker

Front desk/concessions                         Takyrah Horsefield and Izabella Robertson

**Motion by Crocker, seconded by Raineri, to approve the recommended hires for the pool. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

**Approval of selling pool passes to Cuba School:** The park and recreation board made the recommendation to sell 17 pool passes to the School for a discounted price of \$600. It was stated that the previous year a discount was not granted because of legal advice. The recommendation was not granted.

**Surplus bid – old Tangle Creek pavilion:** Mayor Lesesne stated that the council agreed to tear down the pavilion and could sell as surplus putting it out for bid with a time limit of removal from the park.

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to advertise the surplus Tangle Creek pavilion bidding one week, allowing one week of removal time to the highest bidder. Roll call vote: Rosemann-yes, Raineri-no, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Bouse absent.**

**Treatment plant – Discussion and approval of hydrant parts purchase:** David Minardi, Treatment Plant Operator, stated with a recent budget revision would like to use for hydrants and parts and presented a bid from Schulte Supply for \$8278.74. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the bid from Schulte Supply for \$7278.74. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

**Discussion and approval of bid for lift station maintenance materials:** Minardi stated because of the budget crunch would like to table.

**David Minardi – website update:** Minardi stated that the website is ready as can be and to be worked with and will hopefully go live sometime the end of May, they just need to finish up some loose ends. They are waiting on an official date and then the old site will be gone and they will fully operate from

the new one. Minardi asked to let him know if they missed anything on the new page and they will fix the issue. Raineri asked about the old page and will it say page not found or redirect to the new one. Minardi stated that the URL is the same and so is the website.

**Water department: Accept the resignation of water laborer Bryce Mounce:** Bryce Mounce submitted his resignation. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Crocker, to accept the resignation of Bryce Mounce.**  
**Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

**Hiring of water laborer position:** Tabled.

**Discussion and approval to advertise bidding a copier lease at City Hall:** Basham stated it is a budgeted item for this year and would like to get bids for a new copier lease approaching two companies. There was discussion of purchasing and leasing and maintenance programs. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to approve advertising copier lease bids. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.**

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2212 by caption only.**  
**Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2212 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri on behalf of the City of Cuba, Missouri to enter into an agreement with Cuba Ball Program for the use of facilities located at Cuba Sports Complex. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Crocker, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2212. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes. Bouse absent. Motion by Raineri, seconded by Crocker, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2212. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2212 a second time. **Motion by Rosemann, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2212. Roll call vote: Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Bouse absent.** Mayor Lesesne declared that Bill No. 2212 becomes Special Ordinance 959 on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

**Motion by Raineri, seconded by Rosemann, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2213 by caption only.**  
**Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2213 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri on behalf of the City of Cuba, Missouri to enter into an agreement with Cuba Soccer Association for the use of facilities located at Cuba Hood Park. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2213. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes. Bouse absent. Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Crocker, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2213. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2213 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2213. Roll call vote: Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Bouse absent.** Mayor Lesesne declared that Bill No. 2213 becomes Special Ordinance 960 on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Rosemann, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2214 by caption only.**  
**Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2214 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with Utility Safety & Design, Inc (USDI) for engineering and training services required for the operation of the natural gas system.

**Motion by Rosemann, seconded by Crocker, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2214. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes. Bouse absent. Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2214. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2214 a second time. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Crocker, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2214. Roll call vote: Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Bouse absent.** Mayor Lesesne declared that Bill No. 2214 becomes Special Ordinance 961 on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

**Motion by Rosemann, seconded by Hartzell, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2215 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2215 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with Missouri Public Utility Alliance (MPUA) for natural gas operator qualification evaluations. **Motion by Crocker, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2215. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes. Bouse absent. Motion by Rosemann, seconded by Hartzell, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2215. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2215 a second time. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Crocker, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2215. Roll call vote: Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Bouse absent.** Mayor Lesesne declared that Bill No. 2215 becomes Special Ordinance 962 on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2216 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2216 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with Charles Schroyer for hay cutting services at the Cuba Municipal Airport, Barnett Industrial Park and Treatment Plant. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Crocker, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2216. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes. Bouse absent. Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Rosemann, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2216. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.** Guffey read Bill No. 2216 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Crocker, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2216. Roll call vote: Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Bouse absent.**

## **5 MINUTE RECESS**

Emily presented the council with a 30 minute Sunshine Law training.

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Crocker, to enter into closed executive session – closed to the public pursuant RSMO 610.021 – Section 1) legal advice – litigation. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes. Bouse absent.**

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Raineri, to go back into regular open session. Roll call vote: Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Bouse absent.**

Guffey stated that the Board of Aldermen met in closed executive session to discuss legal advice-litigation with no final actions taken.

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

**Lainie Garbo, City Clerk**

