

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI
TUESDAY – JULY 7, 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 Captain present: Ben Scharfenberg.

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

Citizens participation:

Jackie Hunt stated that she had been using the new city website and that it was excellent, understanding that they are still building but still great. Hunt thanked David Minardi and Jessica Baker for their work on the website.

Amy Hendrix, Cuba Soccer, asked the council for approval to install a mini-split air conditioner in the soccer concession stand building. They received a bid from Juergens Heating and Cooling to install and there would be no cost to the city with only permission needed. There was discussion regarding the location of the unit. Mayor Lesesne stated that once the unit is installed it becomes city property and Michael Montgomery will supervise, Hendrix agreed. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to approve the installation of a mini-split air conditioner in the soccer concession stand building. Vote: All ayes.**

Dan Eidson, stated that the Mayor recommended he use his aldermen for questions and answers and he spoke with Raineri with no response. Eidson asked if the city requires an accounting degree for the comptroller position, Mayor Lesesne replied no. Eidson stated that many positions have to have a degree and the one they entrust with millions of dollars does not require an accounting degree. Eidson stated that the city is in financial distress and hoped that the Mayor will look into and make a different decision at some point. Mayor Lesesne stated there are ordinances in place and job descriptions in place and Basham was brought to the council and they made the decision to hire. Bouse does not agree with the interviewing process and Mayor Lesesne stated that he has served on the board for a while and could have addressed it. Mayor Lesesne stated that he can only do so much in the three months he has been Mayor and they are working and doing what can be done and the audits are being worked on.

Eidson stated that the December 16, 2025 executive session meeting minutes were voted to not be released and asked if they were every council approved, it was replied no but that they were still executive and a legal process according to legal representation. Bouse stated they were not legal according to the ethics commission. Mayor Lesesne stated that there was a closed executive session meeting that discussed the matter and Bouse was absent.

Alan Cape presented a sign that shows the directions of Route 66 and Highway 19 and other landmarks and asked for approval for two signs to be installed, one on the property of Wallis Oil and one in the Viva Cuba Garden and for assistance from the street department so they are installed properly. Monda stated that they would work with him and do what they can. Monda clarified that the sign was approved to be put in Viva Cuba Gardens as signs are not permitted and Cape stated that they received approval. The council approved the signs and for the street department to assist with the install. The council thanked Cape for the signs.

Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 16, 2026. Vote: All ayes. Bouse abstained.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Rosemann, to approve the executive session meeting minutes of June 16, 2026. Vote: All ayes. Bouse abstained.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Rosemann, to approve the special meeting minutes of June 23, 2026. Vote: All ayes.

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

Alan Cape – Route 66 signage at 4-way identifying Route 66 and Highway 19 discussion/approval: Item was addressed during citizens participation.

David Minardi – website update: Minardi stated that the new website went live July 1, 2026 and the only thing live on the old site is the payment portion. Minardi stated that it didn't go as smooth as hoped in the beginning and took longer to finally get going, but all is now up and good. Minardi stated that the new website is now .gov. Minardi stated that the website is supposed to be fully ADA compliant and asked all to please notify the city if something is not and also of any events as there is a community calendar that can be utilized. Minardi asked the public to please notify with any suggestions.

David Minardi, Treatment Plant Operator salary increase discussion/approval: Mortimeyer stated that Minardi received one of the best treatment plant operators license and should get a raise for the obtained license. Mortimeyer stated that Minardi had talked to himself and then Mayor Kevin Copling about a raise but the seven percent raise was not available at the time and was discussed it would be looked into with hopes that the finances would be better, but promises were made and because of integrity feels a raise should be honored. It was discussed to raise Minardi's pay to a level 26 instead of the seven percent, and it was budgeted as it was discussed prior to the final budget. Bouse asked if the budget allows, will Minardi receive the full seven percent and Mayor Lesesne stated no he would stay at level 26. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve David Minardi pay move to level 26. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes, Bouse-yes.**

Employee hiring freeze policy discussion/approval: Mayor Lesesne stated that himself and Basham met with the supervisors regarding minimum staff department numbers and an employee hiring freeze and are asking the council for approval. It was clarified that if a department fell below the minimum, then one could be hired. Mayor Lesesne stated that it would be temporary and revisited in six months. Mayor Lesesne stated that as of then, the general fund is short \$2.1 million and that funds manpower and is worse than normal. Mayor Lesesne stated that the past years are all catching up with overspending and the utility rates needing increased. Mayor Lesesne stated that the city can't overcome it overnight and the current increases are small and incremental to not overwhelm the citizens. Mayor Lesesne stated that the auditor had some technical problems, but should have FY25 completed to report on in a couple of weeks and once received then they can move forward with electric rate increases as well as other studies. Mayor Lesesne stated that the process is starting to work but will take time and this is where the city is at with their hiring and spending but with a new process in place they are getting away from the old ways and quarterly the supervisors will be more aware of their budget. Hartzell asked who set the minimum of employees and Mayor Lesesne stated that himself and Basham based it off of history and as to what each department could man. Hartzell asked if the supervisors were consulted and stated that they each had more in the past. Mayor Lesesne asked Hartzell how to fix the problems and Hartzell was unsure. Mayor Lesesne stated that the freezes were temporary and that it would take a while for the increases to be effective and to have a fund transfer policy. Bouse stated that a lot could be cut from the budget by going through the bills to be paid and Mayor Lesesne asked the aldermen to study the bills and present cuts. **Motion by Raineri, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve a hiring freeze to be reviewed every six months. Roll call vote: Bouse-no, Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-no.**

FY25 audit status: Basham gave an update on the FY25.

Street department: Capital improvement funds for streets discussion/approval: Allan Monda, Street Supervisor, asked the council for additional funding from capital improvement funds to catch up on street repairs. The amount requested was \$147,500. The requested amount plus the budgeted amount would be enough to repair Myrtle, Prairie, Parkdale, Max, Wall, Filmore, Buchanon, N. Hickory, Green, and Treece Streets. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve \$147,500 from capital improvement funds for street repairs. Vote: All ayes.**

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to approve going for bid for the entire street repair job. Vote: All ayes.

Natural gas department: Mapping system discussion/approval: Colton Johnson, Natural Gas Supervisor, presented a mapping and compliance system with Utility Safety & Design, Inc. The system assists in mapping, storing information and system compliance. Start up cost is \$6400. Hartzell asked if this was budgeted, and it was replied yes. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the mapping and compliance system with Utility Safety & Design, Inc. Vote: All ayes.**

Mayor Lesesne thanked Johnson for all of his hard work on the natural gas department. Michael Montgomery also thanked Johnson and stated that all of Public Works is doing good and working together.

Johnson stated that the natural gas department is doing good and that they are all certified.

Pickleball court monument sign bids discussion/approval: Mayor Lesesne stated that one bid was received in time and reviewed the bid and requirements. The bid did not meet the requirements and was not accepted. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to rebid the monument project. Vote: All ayes.** The project can be bid by the process and reach out to the three that had previously bid. Bouse asked that they all have the requirements.

Proposed law enforcement tax on the November 3, 2026 ballot: Raineri stated that the last meeting came to a tie-breaking vote to hire a police officer and that was a hard decision to make, but according to Basham, the money is not there. Raineri stated that he did some research on a law enforcement tax as the police department is not a revenue making department and proposed a ¼ cent tax increase on the November 3, 2026 ballot allowing the tax payers to make the decision. That tax could generate approximately \$220,000. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve a ¼ cent law enforcement tax on the November 3, 2026 ballot.** Bouse asked if that was enough and Raineri stated it was a start. Crocker stated the city is paying for the election and for any changes in the future would require another election. Captain Scharfenberg stated that Steelville passed a one cent tax. ****motion rescinded.**

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve a ½ cent law enforcement tax on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes, Bouse-yes. Guffey stated that they would have to approve an expiration date and put on the next agenda for approval and ordinance. **Motion by Crocker, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve a 5 year expiration date on the law enforcement tax. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

City Hall building tuck and point bids discussion/approval: Tabled.

Auction surplus items discussion/approval: M. Montgomery stated that there are 16 items that haven't been used in 15-20 years and would like to bid them out. M. Montgomery presented the options of a live auction by Joe Cason, list the items on Purple Wave and online auction, Gov deals another online auction or advertise the items and submit written bids. There was discussion of the pros and cons of each. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Raineri, to advertise in newspaper and city website and social media. Vote: All ayes. Rosemann opposed, as would prefer online bidding.** The list of items will be advertised and they can be viewed at Public Works for additional information.

Police Chief report: Nuisance report: None

ACA resignation: Anastyn Hiatt – Motion by Bouse, seconded by Crocker, to accept the resignation of Anastyn Hiatt. Vote: All ayes.

ACA position advertisement discussion/approval: Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Bouse, to approve advertising the ACA position. Vote: All ayes.

ACA Sara Butler promotion to supervisor discussion/approval: it was recommended to promote Butler to supervisor of the shelter with a raise from \$15/hour to \$18/hour. Raineri asked if it was budgeted and Basham stated that it was not predetermined. Hartzell stated that the contractor supervisor retired and then Butler would be supervisor with a raise. Crocker stated that it had been discussed. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve Sarah Butler to shelter supervisor at \$18/hour. Vote: All ayes.**

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Crocker, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2227 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Guffey read Bill No. 2227 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with Williams Robinson Wiggins P.C. for legal services. **Motion by Raineri, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2227. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes, Bouse-yes.** **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2227. Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2227 a second time. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2227. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Lesesne declared that Bill No. 2227 becomes Special Ordinance 968 on this 7th of July 2026.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Raineri, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2228 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Guffey read Bill No. 2228 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to execute a contract with the Cuba Public Schools for providing a School Resource Officer. **Motion by Crocker, seconded by Rosemann, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2228. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes, Bouse-yes.** **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Crocker, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2228. Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2228 a second time. **Motion by Raineri, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2228. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Lesesne declared that Bill No. 2228 becomes Special Ordinance 969 on this 7th day of July 2026.

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2229 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Guffey read Bill No. 2229 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to enter into an agreement with Busch, Mathews & Associates, CPA for consulting services. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Raineri, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2229. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Crocker-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Raineri-yes, Rosemann-yes, Bouse-yes.** **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Bouse, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2229. Vote: All ayes.** Guffey read Bill No. 2229 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to**

approve the second reading of Bill No. 2229. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Rosemann-yes, Raineri-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Crocker-yes, Hartzell-yes. Mayor Lesesne declared that Bill No. 2229 becomes Special Ordinance 970 this 7th day of July 2026.

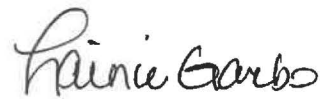
Hartzell did ask why Christy Mathews is doing the help for free. Bouse stated that this is her hometown and cares about it. Hartzell asked if Mathews was affiliated with any other business or banks in town and it was replied no.

Hartzell stated that there have been some complaints about finding drug paraphernalia at Hood Park, and asked if the police would look into the issue.

Mortimeyer stated that someone was sleeping in the grass area at the Historical Museum and asked the police to look into. Captain Scharfenberg stated that they had been removed.

Bouse stated that he was informed of a former employee that was asked to return their work boots back to the city and in all of his time at the city had never heard of a request. Mayor Lesesne stated that there was more to the situation and should of just called him to discuss.

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


Lainie Garbo, City Clerk