

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI
TUESDAY – DECEMBER 16, 2025 – 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: Lance Thurman. Police Chief present: Doug Shelton.

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

Citizens participation: Dan Eidson stated that in recent council meetings the park and recreation board was disbanded with a reason of term limits and asked Thurman if he read the code of dismissal. Thurman replied that he had. Eidson stated that he was under the impression that he was finishing a term that ended the first Monday in May and that with two new people appointed there is a full park and recreation board. Thurman stated that was incorrect and that the board voted to disband the current board and to restart to get correct staggered terms as the ordinance stated to remove it takes a majority vote. Thurman stated that it had been done with the tourism board in the past also because of unclear terms. Eidson asked how many for the tourism board were reappointed. Thurman believed three. Eidson asked the reason Faye Howard was appointed back to the park and recreation board as she had served the longest and didn't give time to the board. Eidson asked if there was any reason the members couldn't have been reappointed. Thurman stated that the appointments are by the Mayor and voted on. Eidson stated that he was taking it as personal vendetta and that the State of Missouri would probably like to know of the issue. Lesesne stated that majority of aldermen did not vote in favor and Thurman clarified that the Mayor counts as a majority of the board.

Jackie Hunt stated that the board would have them all believe that some stuff fell in the cracks but there are some reasons to be skeptical. Hunt gave some statistics on some of the park and recreation members as to their appointment by the Mayor. Hunt stated that the reason of term limits was incorrect and should have meant the date of terms expiring. Hunt stated that the city should be responsible for keeping the records of terms. Hunt agreed with something Bouse said in a prior meeting asking the Mayor for the real reason the park and recreation board was disbanded and things all should ask him why.

Cyndi Mercer stated that previously the Mayor called her numerous times stating how good they were doing as a board and then something happened about September causing this issue. Mercer stated that it had nothing to do with term limits as they could have just all been appointed back. Mercer stated that they took away civil duties and took from the community because city employees couldn't do their jobs and felt it was wrong and abusing power. Mercer asked the Mayor why the board was disbanded. Mercer stated that they are the community and the citizens and they will see how elections go.

Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 18, 2025. Vote: All ayes.

Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the special meeting minutes of December 5, 2025. Vote: All ayes.

Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the special meeting minutes of December 9, 2025. Vote: All ayes.

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

Citizens participation – proposal to increase time from 2 minutes to 3 minutes: Lesesne stated that it was brought to him and he would like to give the public more time to speak during citizens participation with three minutes versus two minutes. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Mortimeyer, to amend the citizens participation speaking policy to three minutes. Vote: All ayes.**

100 Acre Wood Rally: Curt Faigle presented the return of the 100 Acre Wood Rally event in Crawford County and would like to bring a car show event to Cuba at Hood Park. The car show event would take place on March 12th or 13th in Hood Park and could host up to sixty cars that would be open to the public, free of charge and possibly food trucks. Lesesne thought it would be good for the community. All sports programs were asked if it would cause any interference and was replied no. **Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the use of Hood Park for a 100 Acre Wood Rally car show event. Vote: All ayes.**

Electric department:

Tree trimming bids: Andy Simpson, electric supervisor, presented tree trimming bids to trim powerline in Meadows Subdivision.

Brown’s Tree & Bucket Service	\$8500.00
AAA Tree Service	\$27,500.00

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the tree trimming bid from Brown’s Tree & Bucket Service for \$8500.00. Vote: All ayes.

Transformer bids: Simpson presented transformer bids for a 1000 KVA three phase pad mounts.

Sunbelt Solomon	\$26,495.00
DSI	\$45,000.00
Fletcher-Reinhardt Co.	\$37,570.00

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the bid from Sunbelt Solomon for \$26, 495.00. Vote: All ayes.

Jacob Bouse pay for certification: Simpson stated that Jacob Bouse went from a third year apprentice to a fourth year apprentice earning a merit raise. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the fourth year apprentice merit raise. Vote: All ayes. Bouse abstain.**

Audit bid advertisement: Jennifer Basham stated that the current audit firm contract is only to fiscal year 2024 and asked to advertise bids for fiscal year 2025 – 2027. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Lesesne, to approve advertising audit bids for fiscal year 2025 – 2027. Vote: All ayes.**

NW Main, McLeod, & Highway ZZ water main project change order approval: Cameron Schweiss presented the change order that reflected some items of the scope of work removed to allow the water department to do some of the work to cut costs of \$115,683.13. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the deductive change order of \$115,683.13 for the NW Main, McLeod, & Highway ZZ water main project. Vote: All ayes.**

Capital Improvement funding approval for NW main water project: Basham asked the council to utilize capital improvement funds of \$228,155.38 for the NW Main, McLeod & Highway ZZ water main project. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve utilizing capital improvement funding of \$228,155.38 for the NW Main, McLeod, & Highway ZZ water main project. Vote: All ayes.**

HSA/FSA employee contribution for 2026: Garbo stated that for the last few years the city has approved an employee contribution of \$1200/employee to help offset a medical copay as the plan that was switched to is a self-funded health insurance and was still cost effective with the contribution. As of this date, the insurance plan will not increase for the upcoming year and would receive a credit back. The contribution is effective January 1, 2026. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the \$1200/employee HSA/FSA contribution. Vote: All ayes.**

Mayor's appointments – Park and Recreation Board – appointment of members: Mayor Copling appointed Kris Kight, Christine Young, and Stacey Romo to the park and recreation board with their term expiring May 3, 2027. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the appointments of Kris Kight, Christine Young, and Stacey Romo with their term expiring May 3, 2027. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-no, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-no.**

Mayor Copling stated that there were appointments made to the park and recreation board at the last meeting and the expiration dates were not clarified. Karen Groom, Beth Kight, and Faye Howard were appointed, and their term expiration date is May 4, 2026. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the expiration date of May 4, 2026 to the park and recreation members Karen Groom, Beth Kight, and Faye Howard. Roll call vote: Bouse-no, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-no, Hartzell-yes.**

Police Chief report:

Furnace bid: PC Shelton stated that their small furnace system is not working and there is one bid to replace but is still looking for a second bid. PC Shelton stated it would be roughly \$7000.00 to replace and Lesesne asked if it was in the budget. Basham stated there was money in the budget. PC Shelton will present bids when received.

Employee sponsorship hiring and tuition clarification: PC Shelton clarified the tuition program that was previously presented and stated that the tuition was not a budgeted item and would have to come up with the money for the schooling. The applicant applied for a scholarship and will not know until after the program starts if it is received. If not, then it would be in the contract that the employee would have to reimburse. PC Shelton will get the contract to the attorney. Lesesne asked Basham if the money was in the budget. Basham stated there was only \$3200.00 and would need to look at future cuts in the budget. Mortimeyer asked how much the program was, it was replied \$5000.00 but PC Shelton is still working on getting the exact numbers. Lesesne stated that he would personally as a private citizen sponsor the employee to attend the police academy. Lesesne asked if the person had been accepted to the academy, PC Shelton replied yes. PC Shelton stated the applicant is Brenyn Cyr and he would be hired as an employee while attending the academy. Lesesne asked if the full-time employee was in the budget. Basham again stated that they really need to look at the numbers in that department and make some budget cuts and may not be able to replace as other departments have not replaced employees. PC Shelton stated that they are law enforcement and keep the citizens safe and if they decide not to replace employees then they will be in a hole. PC Shelton stated that he understood the position Basham is in with money. Lesesne stated that when the Public Works Director was not replaced it bit them in the butt and the same thing would happen again if not filled. Lesesne stated that there should be money as they are replacing an employee. Mortimeyer asked the budget of the police department, Basham replied \$1.6 million. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Lesesne, to hire Brenyn Cyr for the police academy training program. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

PC Shelton asked if the city was paying the tuition until the scholarship was decided. Lesesne again stated that he as a private citizen would make the donation of the tuition. PC Shelton recommended waiting until the scholarship was decided. Bouse asked if the money could be moved from the repairs fund. Basham stated that she would look at the budget. Lesesne stated to take the city funding out as he would privately sponsor the employee for the police academy.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2198 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Thurman read Bill No. 2198 – An ordinance approving a bid for pickleball court improvements and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri on behalf of the city of Cuba, Missouri to enter into an agreement execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said agreement. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2198. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes.** **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2198. Vote: All ayes.** Thurman read Bill No. 2198 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2198. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2198 becomes Special Ordinance No. 952 on this 16th day of December 2025.

Motion by Halbert, seconded by Hartzell, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2199 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Thurman read Bill No. 2199 – 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 Northland Securities, Inc. for financial planning services. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2199. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes. Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Halbert, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2199. Vote: All ayes.** Thurman read Bill No. 2199 a second time. **Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Lesesne, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2199. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2199 becomes Special Ordinance No. 953 on this 16th day of December 2025.

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to have the reading of Bill No. 2200 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Discussion: Basham stated this was a resolution for capital expenditures and they haven't gotten the funding yet but if the utility departments start ordering materials they can get reimbursed when the funding is in place. Basham stated that the municipal advisor advised this resolution to start ordering materials. Lesesne asked the attending supervisors if they knew what was needed. Basham stated it would be for materials ordered from this time moving forward. Lesesne asked how they would purchase if don't have the money. Basham stated they would have to work with the municipal advisor as some departments need to order materials soon because of ordering times. Thurman read Bill No. 2200 – A resolution determining the intent of the City of Cuba, Missouri to reimburse itself for certain capital expenditures. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Mortimeyer, to approve the reading of Bill No. 2200. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2200 becomes Resolution No. 12-16 on this 16th day of December 2025.

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

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

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

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

Motion by Lesesne, seconded by Halbert, to adjourn. Vote: All ayes. Bouse absent.



Lainie Garbo, City Clerk