

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI**  
**THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 12, 2026 – 4:00 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. Police Chief present: Doug Shelton.

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

**Discussion of current FY26 budget:** Bouse stated that with the talks of moving the EOC office to turn into a tourism visitor center, when he went to the building when changing the windows Greg Hubbel opened a door to a back closet and they thought there was mold. Bouse asked if they could do a mold test before opening for the visitor center or does it have to wait until the next budget.

Basham would have to see how much a mold test would cost and a bid. Montgomery asked if they are remodeling the walls and stuff on the EOC side. Bouse stated they can't do anything until budget time and they close off the one side until budget and can't let anyone in there until tested.

Basham recommended a bid for a cost.

Mayor Copling stated it would be tabled until the council meeting February 17, 2026.

Lesesne stated that at a Hood Park facility there is a scoreboard controller that is not there and should be a part of the park and asked if there was money in the budget to provide a new controller. Basham stated it was not a budgeted item and would have to look at the budget.

Lesesne asked if it should be put on the agenda for the February 17, 2026 meeting. Garbo stated that the situation and questions had been turned over to the attorney for their recommendation.

**MPUA/MMMPEP electric bill payment plan and approval:** Basham stated that the January usage electric bill was received and the total was \$1,109,074.27. This cost is elevated from Winter Storm Fern. The bill and memo is attached. MPUA is offering to withdraw \$676,572.75 on the due date then the remaining balance of \$432,501.52 will be broke into nine payments with five percent interest rate applied. Natural gas prices are what drove the costs higher so the natural gas bill will also be elevated. Basham spoke with the auditor for advice and he recommended the payment option. Basham stated the interest will be \$17,000 to \$18,000. Basham stated that the customers will pay their porting on the bill and it takes approximately three months for payback. Basham also recommended the payment option to avoid depleting the electric cash flow as they have large projects and transfers at the end of year. Basham stated that payments will allow time to raise the cash flow as the cost is passed through to the customers. Hartzell asked what would happen if they were hit with another high bill and Basham

is unsure and stated that was also discussed at the MMMPEP meeting. Basham stated that they are paying for demand based on natural gas prices and this is the same effect as the last winter storm. Lesesne asked if it was based on our usage, Basham replied yes. Mortimeyer asked if the city peaked in electric and natural gas, Basham replied yes.

Mayor Copling asked if the interest is \$17,000 to \$18,000 per month as he did not want to pay interest. Mayor Copling asked if there was enough in reserves to save the interest money. Basham did not recommend cutting the reserves in half as there are also other projects going on. There was discussion if the interest was \$17,000 to \$18,000 total or per month. It was decided that the interest was total and would be divided by nine months, roughly \$1800 per month. Hartzell asked if it could wait until the next council meeting and it was explained that the payment was an auto draft so a decision was needed.

**Motion by Mortimeyer, seconded by Lesesne, to pay the total bill of \$1,109,074.27 out of the electric cash flow and pay back as received. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-no.**

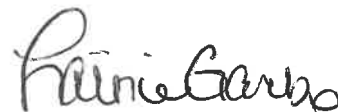
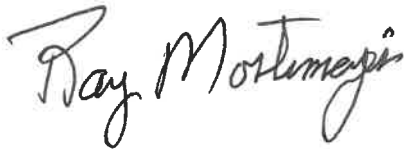
Bouse voted no as it was not Basham's recommendation.

**Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Bouse, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2208 by caption only.**

**Vote: All ayes.** Garbo read Bill No. 2208 – 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 Crawford County Youth Football for the use of facilities located at Cuba Hood Park. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2208. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Hewkin-yes, Halbert-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Lesesne-yes, Hartzell-yes.** **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Lesesne, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2208. Vote: All ayes.** Garbo read Bill No. 2208 a second time. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2208. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Lesesne-yes, Mortimeyer-yes, Halbert-yes, Hewkin-yes, Bouse-yes.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2208 becomes Special Ordinance No. 957 on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

Bouse gave his condolences to the family of Ciara Kitchen for the loss of a family member.

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



Lainie Garbo  
City Clerk