

## CITY OF CHULA COUNCIL MEETING

January 5, 2026

The Chula Board of Alderman met on January 5, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Chula City Hall.

Those present were Mayor Cody Ireland, Aldermen Benny Simpson, Jeremy Bru, Andy Harbert, Kyle Gramenz, and City Clerk Dawn Boyles. There was a quorum present.

Also present was Fred Oertwig, Kerri Brenner, Val Sanfillipo, Letha Graves, Kati Westcott, Adam Cooksey, Amanda Hicks, Remington Gillespie, Cathy Gillespie, and Dan Murphy.

Mayor Cody Ireland called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Kati Westcott – Community Center.

Used 63 times for community service (church, 4H), 35 times local residents, 2 times out-of-town residents, and 3 funeral dinners. Kati would like to readdress reinstatement of Community Center Board. Kati has a copy of bylaws which were given to Cody. She has the reinstatement packet from the state. Board of Directors in 2021 was Benny Simpson, John Graves, Ann Hamilton, and Katie Westcott. Paperwork will be sent to attorney to be reviewed and decision made.

Electric upgrades at Community Center will require 3 bids.

Kati will be ordering tables, black commercial-grade, 2000 pound max, six 6-foot tables and twelve 8-foot tables. A motion was made by Andy Harbert to approve purchase of tables, seconded by Geremu Bru, approved 4-0.

Taco bar at the Community Center is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Kerri Brenner – Questioned the idea of a community facebook page. She will make a page to provide general information such as lost dogs, current events, etc., Kerri asked regarding ProServ and was informed remote work has been done and ProServ will be here on Wednesday morning to proceed with setup.

Kerri mentioned Lawrence Allen may be able to help with ideas for the city and may be a good contact person in the future.

Questioned gator lease or finance and it was explained that financing the gator was the better deal.

Cathy Gillespie – Are 3- and 4-wheelers allowed on gravel roads. There is no ordinance stating that they cannot be on gravel roads. Cathy also questioned the water bills and it was explained that revised water bills should be in the mail by Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Dan Murphy – Railroad is moving lots of rock and now has authorization to go 60-mph on the tracks. Dan would encourage us to reach out to railroad and complain because there is money available for this situation. The rail crossing will be shut down for 4 days when they close the crossing to pour new concrete. Some cities lobby complaints with the railroad due to the changes caused by the railroad changes and are compensated monetarily. It is thought they will put in stop arms.

Grain storage – Dan has met with Evergy, Grand River Mutual, MODOT regarding widening out Cherry Street. As soon as Evergy gets authorization from the railroad they will be able to move forward.

Corresponded regarding sidewalk in front of post office and explained that this was going to have to wait awhile due to current weather conditions. May need to contact State of Missouri to see if this is the city's responsibility or the state's responsibility. We have a 30-day extension to resolve the issue or have significant amount of repairs made.

Discussed low-interest loans based on efficiency. Possibly smart meters, new storm/sewer, solar panels. Dan will get us information on these loans.

Amanda Hicks – Complaint form box needs to be adhered to building so citizens can voice any concerns they have regarding functioning of the city. Amanda asked where she could help within the city; and, trash clean-up, lawn maintenance, etc., was suggested. City is not responsible for accidents.

Asked about spraying of fields and was referred to call state of Missouri – Department of Ag to complain about overspray. Our ordinance is for our easement and planting passed the easement. Street widths play a role in easements and ditches.

Valarie asked regarding estimated bills and it was discussed that they are estimated when it is below 32 degrees because manholes are not opened. The

water bill issue was addressed and explained again until Valarie had a better understanding.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Jeremy Bru and Benny Simpson seconded, approved 4-0.

### **REPORTS**

Fred Oertwig: Nothing to report other than that he did read the water meters so we can get accurate bills out.

Adam Cooksey: Paperwork is up-to-date. He asked for contact info for JCI because pumps are not running equally and are like 30 hours difference.

Dawn Boyles: Need a motion to go to State Bank and check interest rate on CD and compare rates with Southern Bank. Jeremy Bru, seconded by Benny Simpson, approved 4-0.

Motion for sewer credit for Chula Community Church in the amount of \$422.10 by Jeremy Bru, seconded by Benny Simpson, approved 4-0.

Motion for sewer credit for Tom and Sandy Rowland #71 in the amount of \$42.70 by Jeremy Bru, seconded by Benny Simpson, approved 4-0.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for December 1, 2025, was made by Benny Simpson, seconded by Andy Harbert, approved 4-0.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 1, 2026, was made by Jeremy Bru, seconded by Kyle Gramenz, approved 4-0.

A motion to pay bills for the Chula Community Center was made by Jeremy Bru, seconded by Benny Simpson, approved 4-0.

A motion to pay bills for the City was made by Kyle Gramenz, seconded by Andy Harbert, approved 4-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Will void 4 missing checks with bank. Discussion of employee wages has to be done under closed session.

Status on audit – no update, we haven't received an email or phone call regarding a followup meeting.

Sale of city equipment – Cody will pick check up tomorrow morning (January 6, 2026). Dan should be meeting on January 12, 2026, to discuss the pickup with snow plow and possibility of sale to the City. The township can come in and get roads ready for gravel but they won't be readily available. We will need a source to spread gravel.

Tom Weitzel wants to get something established around the water tower. Will need to have property surveyed and appraised so we can offer fair market value. McGee Surveyors in Carrollton would be an option for a survey.

Kyle will not be at February meeting due to a military training course.

Discussed that we have new street signs but still need hardware for installation.

**NEW BUSINESS**


Discussed Nathan Hamilton's property line and storm water system problems through that area. Cannot do anything with ditch at Beth Klein's because it is a natural waterway.


Discussion was held regarding turning over Community Center and it was indicated that there would need to be a clause that would prevent Ann Hamilton from being involved. If we hand it over we don't want it to come back to us. Lease expired on Community Center land and has not been renewed. This will be addressed further after the paperwork is reviewed by the attorney.

Multiple signed uncashed checks for the City of Chula were voided included check numbers 1167, 1168, 1173, 1179, 1181, 1188, 1192, 1200, 1201, 1203, 1204, 1209, 1213, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1285, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290. Also voided was City of Chula Street Fund check number 1483. Checks will be filed in the safe.

No further business.

Motion was made by Andy Harbert to adjourn meeting at 6:41 p.m., seconded by Kyle Gramenz, approved 4-0.

  
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Cody Ireland, Mayor

  
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Dawn M. Boyles, City Clerk