

CITY OF CHULA COUNCIL MEETING

May 1, 2024

The Chula Board of Alderman met in regular session on May 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chula Community Center.

Those present were Alderman Benny Simpson, Alderman Randy Hamilton, Alderman Jeremy Bru, Alderman Kyle Gramenz, Mayor John Graves, and City Clerk Ann Hamilton. There was a quorum present. Also, present were Robert Cowherd, Kent Spainhour, Fred Oertwig, Randy Horton, Kati Westcott, Shane Gillespie, Jeff Gillespie, Landon Gillespie, Rick Orona, Larissa Regan, Wanda Graves, Cindy Peterie, Kerry Peterie, Cody Ireland, Letha Graves, Dan Murphy, April Gramenz, Steve Cox, and a Deputy from the Livingston County Sheriff's Office.

Mayor John Graves called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment –

- None.

Approval of Agenda – Benny Simpson made a motion to approve the agenda. Kyle Gramenz seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Hiring of a City Attorney – Randy Hamilton moved to approve Bill Number 2024-03-05-2024 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, approving a legal services agreement for the City of Chula, Missouri. Benny Simpson seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Kyle Gramenz moved to read Bill Number 2024-03-05-2024 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, approving a legal services agreement for the City of Chula, Missouri, by title only. Jeremy Bru seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Jeremy Bru moved to accept Bill Number 2024-03-05-2024 as Ordinance 2024-03 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, approving a legal services agreement for the City of Chula, Missouri. Benny Simpson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Benny Simpson – yes; Randy Hamilton – yes; Jeremy Bru – yes; and Kyle Gramenz – yes. Motion carried 4-0. A copy of the ordinance is attached to the minutes.

Reports –

Kent Spainhour – Kent was present and turned in his paperwork.

- Water – Sample was taken April 1, 2024, and came back good. The lead service line survey is due October 16th.
- Sewer – No discharge in March, but we did discharge in April. There was a mistake with the EDMR, and he gave the City a corrected copy. The pump station is running okay. Had a new handle made for the lagoon.

Fred Oertwig

- Water & Sewer – We have some water meter well that have been broken that need to be replaced.

- **Street** – Fred reported that he has been cleaning out ditches. The city is waiting on gravel.

Ann Hamilton

- **Water & Sewer Report** –
 - Ann reported that we received 4 more lead service line surveys back.
 - Ann found a sample spreadsheet on Missouri Department of Natural Resources website and will get all of the addresses on it by the end of June.
 - There were 10 late fees that were assessed to customers on March 28, 2024.
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- **Water & Sewer Adjustments**
 - Benny Simpson moved to remove the late fees and finance charges in the amount of \$111.71 on Lara Madison bill and Kyle Gramenz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
 - Randy Hamilton made a motion to remove the finance charges on Dezeray Crawford's bill in the amount of \$48.25 and Jeremy Bru seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
 - A question was asked about changing out the water meters. The city replaces the water meters every 10 years.

Community Center – Kati Westcott asked about reinstating the Chula Community Center Board and about having Good Time Slushie at the fair for 2024. There has been a group of people meeting and just need to formally reinstate them. The board tabled this until a later date.

Chula Rural Fire Department – Randy Horton, Shane Gillespie, and Jeff Gillespie were present. The fire department was established in 1964. The city helped with equipment and in return the citizens of Chula would not be charged fire dues. The fire department came to the city in the early 2000's and the city said that if the volunteer fire department wanted to send out letters to residents that they could and they felt like the agreement had been fulfilled and that dues could be collected.

Old Business

Minutes – Randy Hamilton made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Benny Simpson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Treasurers Report – Ann went over checks that were written for the Board to approve for payment. Jeremy Bru moved to approve the bills for payment and Kyle Gramenz seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance Water Tap Fee – Randy Hamilton moved to approve Bill Number 2024-04-05-2024 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, setting the water tap fee to

\$1,500.00 for the City of Chula, Missouri. Kyle Gramenz seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Benny Simpson moved to read Bill Number 2024-04-05-2024 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, setting the water tap fee to \$1,500.00 for the City of Chula, Missouri, by title only. Jeremy Bru seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Kyle Gramenz moved to accept Bill Number 2024-04-05-2024 as Ordinance 2024-04 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, setting the water tap fee to \$1,500.00 for the City of Chula, Missouri. Randy Hamilton seconded. Roll Call Vote: Benny Simpson – yes; Randy Hamilton – yes; Jeremy Bru – yes; and Kyle Gramenz – yes. Motion carried 4-0. A copy of the ordinance is attached to the minutes.

Ordinance Water Tap Fee – Jeremy Bru moved to approve Bill Number 2024-05-05-2024 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, setting the sewer tap fee to \$1,300.00 for the City of Chula, Missouri. Kyle Gramenz seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Kyle Gramenz moved to read Bill Number 2024-05-05-2024 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, setting the sewer tap fee to \$1,300.00 for the City of Chula, Missouri, by title only. Randy Hamilton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Randy Hamilton moved to accept Bill Number 2024-05-05-2024 as Ordinance 2024-05 an Ordinance of the City of Chula, Missouri, setting the sewer tap fee to \$1,300.00 for the City of Chula, Missouri. Kyle Gramenz seconded. Roll Call Vote: Benny Simpson – yes; Randy Hamilton – yes; Jeremy Bru – yes; and Kyle Gramenz – yes. Motion carried 4-0. A copy of the ordinance is attached to the minutes.

Award Fence Bids –

- Ann reported that only one person turned in a bid, even though there were multiple people who called about it. Two of the people were extremely busy and did not have time to do the job. Randy Hamilton moved to accept Polson Farms, LLC bid for \$4549.50. Kyle Gramenz seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Robert will draft a contract, and Ann will meet with him and get the required paperwork.

Update on Tower –

- The paint samples have been sent to the lab for analysis.

Code Enforcement –

- The city hired a code enforcement officer that will be enforcing city ordinances on nuisances. The ordinance states that weeds/grass can be 10 inches before they are in violation.

Other Business –

- Letha asked who the new mayor was going to be. Ann stated that she would swear in the one with the highest votes on the certified election results, which would be Richard Orona. Robert Cowherd mentioned 115.306 RSMo on a qualified candidate.
- There will be a special meeting on May 9th to swear in the newly elected officials at 7 p.m.
- Steve Cox wanted to thank John Graves for his many years of service.

Jeremy Bru moved to enter into CLOSED SESSION for Legal matters in accordance with RSMo 610.021 (1), Legal actions; RSMo. 610. 021 (2) Real Estate and RSMo 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of particular employees at 8:16 p.m. Randy Hamilton seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Benny Simpson – yes; Randy Hamilton – yes; Jeremy Bru – yes; and Kyle Gramenz – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Benny Simpson moved to leave CLOSED SESSION at 9:48 p.m. Randy Hamilton seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Benny Simpson – yes; Randy Hamilton – yes; Jeremy Bru – yes; and Kyle Gramenz – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., for a special meeting and then June 10, 2024, for the regular meeting.

There was no further business. Jeremy Bru made a motion to adjourn at 9:49 p.m. and Kyle Gramenz seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned.

Ann Hamilton
Ann Hamilton, Chula City Clerk