

Keota City Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2025 – 7:00 pm
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Keota City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cansler.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Cansler; M. Greiner; H. McDonald; K. Conrad; M. Bender

Staff Present: Hunter Bruns, City Clerk; Kristen Clarke, Assistant City Clerk; Micah Harmsen, Public Works; Janie Westendorf, Library

Public Present: Casey Jarmes (News-Review); Doug and Angela Conrad; John Mather; Mike and Sue McDonald; Diana and Brett Mather; John and Angie Carr; Brian Murphy; Chad Greiner; Brandon and Danielle Imhoff; Lucas Bender; Nicole Strand; Josh (ION)

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.

Resolutions

- **Resolution 2025-74:** FY 2025 Street Finance Report Motion to approve by Conrad, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-75:** Motion to approve a 3.5% wage increase for Micah Harmsen by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-76:** Motion to approve a 7% wage increase for Kevin Slaubaugh by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-77:** Motion to approve Kristen Clarke wage increase to \$20.00/hour by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-78:** Motion to approve a 3.5% wage increase for Hunter Bruns by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-79:** Quote from Delta Industries — motion to approve by Greiner, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-80:** Motion to approve by Conrad, seconded by Bender, with correction of quote. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-81:** Motion to approve by Conrad, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2025-82:** Motion to approve by Bender, seconded by Greiner. Motion carried.
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New Business

- Budget Workshops:
 - Revenue workshop scheduled for January 12, 2026
 - Expenditures workshop scheduled for January 26, 2026
 - Sidewalk Snow Removal: Motion to table and place on next agenda by Conrad, seconded by Bender. Motion carried.
 - Approval of November Timesheets and Comp Time: Motion by Bender, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried.
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Discussion

Doug Conrad – Law Enforcement (State v. Allen, 1997): Former Keota police officer Doug Conrad expressed concerns regarding the lack of law enforcement coverage in Keota. He stated it is the City's responsibility to provide law enforcement services and not rely solely on the County. Mr. Conrad stated he would not let the issue rest.

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Council Comments

- **K. Conrad:** Thanked Bender, Tinnes, and Cansler for their service to Keota; congratulated the new Council and Mayor; expressed looking forward to the new year and working together.
 - **M. Greiner:** Thanked all Council members and expressed appreciation for their care and dedication to the community.
 - **H. McDonald:** Stated he has enjoyed working with the current Council and noted the new members are joining at an important time with the upcoming budget.
 - **M. Bender:** Expressed gratitude for eight years of service, the friendships made, and appreciation for the support shown to new members.
 - **P. Tinnes:** Expressed gratitude for the past six months, opportunities, knowledge gained, and friendships formed; thanked the Council and Mayor; stated plans to continue attending meetings and wished everyone well.
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Public Forum

- **Danielle Imhoff:** Complimented the City Facebook page and communication; questioned wage increases prior to budget approval; expressed concerns about lack of law enforcement and public safety priorities.
 - **Diana Mather:** Thanked those involved in *Christmas in Keota*; noted heavy library attendance and limited parking during the event.
 - **Ryan Carr:** Thanked the Council for their passion and sacrifice; suggested exploring opportunities with the school for students needing Silver Cord hours to assist with sidewalk snow removal.
 - **Sue McDonald:** Thanked all Council members and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
 - **Brandon Imhoff:** Stated concerns that if residents are required to clear sidewalks, the City should also lead by example; noted City sidewalks were not cleared after the last snowfall.
 - **John Mather:** Thanked the current Council and stated he looks forward to working together.
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Swearing-In

Mayor Cansler administered the oath of office to Ryan Carr, Mayor, and new Council Members Keith Conrad, John Mather, and Chad Greiner.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Cansler credited the Council for the positive changes made in Keota over the past ten years. He noted that decision-making can be difficult and takes time. The new pool project was highlighted as a major success, with strong community support and fundraising by residents. Mayor Cansler praised Micah Harmsen for his work taking over Public Works and thanked Kristen Clarke for helping keep the City operating during critical times. He stated that serving as Mayor for 22 years was a significant accomplishment and thanked the community for the opportunity, expressing his love for Keota and appreciation for the community that makes it what it is.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Conrad, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.