

Minutes

KEOTA CITY COUNCIL

225 E. BROADWAY AVE.

March 3rd, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Cansler

Roll call: Councilmen McDonald, Greiner, Conrad, and Bender were present. City employees present were Administrator Horras, PW Director Harmsen, Clerk assistant Clarke and Librarian Greiner. Public present was Taylor Zehr, Cody Davis, Rick Fortney, Ed Wulff, Michael Carl, Ryan Sieren, Lawrence Wulff, Larry Wulff, and Casey Jarmes from Sigourney New-Review.

Consent Agenda: Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Bender, including Agenda, previous meeting minutes from February 18th Council Meeting - Budget review and payment of Bills. McDonald 2nd the motion, Greiner & Conrad in favor and Burroughs absent.

Bills Paid February 19th thru March 3rd, 2025

Checks

ALLIANT ENERGY	3/3/2025	\$2,515.01
BRETT ROMOSER	3/3/2025	\$467.13
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	3/3/2025	\$980.64
GFC LEASING - WI	3/3/2025	\$100.91
IA Downtown Resource Center	3/3/2025	\$175.00
ION ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIO	3/3/2025	\$3,800.00
KEOKUK COUNTY TREASURER	3/3/2025	\$1,203.00
KEVIN MILLER	3/3/2025	\$57,584.22
KEVINS SALES AND SERVICE	3/3/2025	\$180.00
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING COR	3/3/2025	\$107.42
SEMCO LANDFILL	3/3/2025	\$319.05
Total Checks		\$67,432.38

Payroll

Clarke, Kristen	402.44
Fisher, Tabitha C	36.94
GREINER, ASHLEY	77.45
Greiner, Bridget M.	156.63
GREINER, TONIA	1,163.68
HARMSEN, MICAH	1,836.66
Horras, Alycia A	1,944.66
SLAUBAUGH, KEVIN L.	1,818.45

Public Forum: Ed Wulff – 211 n Hamilton St. – On 3/1/25 dogs owned by Joel Ackerman attacked Jackson (their small miniature pincher) and killed the dog, attached the car owned by Lawrence and Larry Wulff, doing significant damage and chased the car through town, down Washington/Keokuk County Road and down to in front of City Hall. This incident was brought to the city council not only due to the death of the dog, but also because there are 6 small children in the area that the 2 Staffordshire terrier dogs reside. Immediately following the incident and before the police arrived, Ackerman took the dogs out to his mother’s residence to keep them from being apprehended or put down. Wulff stated that Ackerman has also been hauling water in from the farm outside of town and funneling the water into the house at 204 N Hamilton Street since his water has been turned off since July of 2024. It was stated that Ackerman has been keeping the dogs in the basement of the house after being asked to remove the dogs from City limits due to being of a banned breed multiple time in 2024.

Lawrence Wulff II – 211 N Hamilton St. – Lawrence was an eye witness to the incident on 3/1/2025. Jackson was let out to potty and when they couldn’t find him, they went to look for him. Getting in the car and driving to the corner of Hamilton St and Keokuk St, the 2 pit bull dogs owned by Ackerman, came at the people in the car that were calling for Jackson. The dogs were trying to come in through the windows, so they rolled them up and the dogs started attacking the car itself. The dogs managed to puncture a tire, bite into the bumper and frame of the car leaving multiple bite marks and punctures along the car frame. The dogs followed and chased the car through town, onto Keokuk – Washington County Road and on Broadway down to the city hall area before breaking off and heading back home.

Kathy Davis – 401 S Hamilton St. – Kathy asked on behalf of the Keokuk County Community Endowment Foundation, that the city donate some of the food that would be served at the Gran Awards banquet in April, here at Keota. She asked if the city would cover the cost of the sandwiches and drinks for the event.

Department Reports:

Public Works –Harmsen reported that he has met with 3 different local building companies in the past 2 weeks to gather more information regarding the new building. Two of the companies drew up plans but didn’t feel comfortable with handing out a price for a 2027 build. The other company is in the process of getting information to him. We were able to get eh street sweeper out last week with the warmer temps and it thawing. That took up most of last week. Last Wednesday Harmsen and Horras met with the Trees Forever rep to look at the RV Park and where we would plant new trees there with funds from the Alliant Energy grant. We also talked about the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Harmsen felt pretty positive about that moving forward. We did start trimming trees on city properties. Snow plow is presently at Mike’s repair in Richland for warranty work and the sander. We will get it back tomorrow. CPO classes are April 28th in Cedar Rapids and Horras got Harmsen signed up and ready to go. City Wide clean up is scheduled for April 18 and 19th. We will only run to 11am on Saturday to allow Cox to get to the landfill before it closes on Saturday. We felt this was the best possible weekend with Cox having dates filling up in May. Harmsen will be out of town March 5th for the Girls State Basketball Tournament.

Library – Librarian Greiner shared that we had a good turnout for the movie last Friday. We will have a full house for the princess party Saturday. Gearing up for the Summer Reading Programs with a meeting in Coralville Friday. Saturday March 29th a matinee at 1 pm showing the movie "Wicked". We were approved for the KCEF grant that we applied for to replace one of the children’s computers.

Clerk – Horras shared that she had SLFRF training on 2/25 to help with filling out the annual report for those relief funds that were given in 2021. Wednesday, the 26th she and Harmsen met with Nick McGrath from Trees Forever to look at plans and species of trees to be planted along the alleyway of the small ball park/RV park area and for trees to be planted around the RV pads as well. Nick also shared information about the Living Roadways program and starting a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan to get us registered with this program. This would allow us to be eligible for additional grant programs and funding for our roadways in Keota. This is something that is on the agenda for approval tonight. Horras went to KHS this afternoon to visit with some of our high school students about opportunities to work at the

Aquatic Center this summer. There was approximately 15 – 18 students in attendance and most took applications with them to fill out as well. Computer Impressions was in this morning to do some work on our new laptop and to clean up the older of the 2 PCs. We will look at options to move forward with replacing this last PC at the next meeting. Horras has been working with collecting overdue bills and has had some good response from residents with tax returns coming in. Training has been going great and Kristin is now helping to get some of our files cleaned out and in order as well. Horras is working with 2 options for our new contract for the library printer and working with Greiner to see what would be the best fit for their needs. City Wide Garage Sales are set for April 11 and 12th with the Clean Up dates the following weekend on the 18 and 19th. Horras will be out for Surgery and recovery Thursday, March 6th to Thursday, March 13th and will plan to return on March 14th. City Hall will be open from 10:00am to 2:00pm during this time with Kristin working the office.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Resolution 2025-09 Approval for Proposed Property Tax Hearing Date. Motion to approve made by Conrad, 2nd by Bender, Greiner & McDonald in favor and Burroughs absent.

Resolution 2025-10 Approval for Liquor License Renewal – County Line Mart. Motion to approve made by Conrad, 2nd by Bender, Greiner & McDonald in favor and Burroughs absent.

Resolution 2025-11 Approval of Building Permit for John and Jackie Morgan. Motion to approve made by Conrad, 2nd by McDonald, Greiner & Bender in favor, and Burroughs absent.

Resolution 2025-12 Support of an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Motion to approve made by Bender, 2nd by McDonald, Greiner & Conrad in favor and Burroughs absent.

Resolution 2025-13 Approval of Address Assignment to 109 S Fulton Street. Motion to approve made by Bender, 2nd by McDonald, Greiner & Conrad in favor and Burroughs absent.

New Business

Discussion – Fire Department Agreement – Fire Chief Sieren asked the Council to consider giving the Fire Dept the additional \$3000.00 to the department for FY26 to help with the replacement of some valves that are deteriorating and leaking that hook in to fill the trucks to ensure readiness when needed. The tankers now are starting to leak. They are stainless steel and shouldn't leak. This will be added for approval at the next council meeting.

Emergency Management/Keokuk County Ambulance also shared some valuable information about their services and wanted to clear up some miscommunication that was shared at a previous meeting. In the past 5 years, they have responded to 991 calls annually, they have 8 staff members currently and 2 trucks in use. They have a fellowship with the University of Iowa and utilize an EMT Physician. They are working with the MAP Stroke Study to develop pre hospital work for stroke patients to expedite care and ensure proper technique. They also shared some information on IA Code Chapter 22D as well. Keota resident – Michael Carl also shared that anything used on calls for the Keota QRS comes from the ambulance team and they have to furnish and replace these items. He stated that there was some communication about the possibility of Keota looking at an ambulance and our current QRS team has no interest in that at this time. Keota currently has 4 certified EMTB or higher members with a 5th person working on that certification as well.

Discussion/Possible Action – Banned, Dangerous and/or Vicious Animals in City Limits – Following the incident on 3/1/25, Mayor Cansler made the order to have the City Administrator start work with our City Attorney to have the 2 American Staffordshire Terrier dogs (Finna and Tyson Thompson) that are owned by Joel Ackerman, to be surrendered to authorities and euthanized.

A motion was made for the City Administrator to work with the City Attorney on the correct fee/fine amount to charge in accordance with the incident and repeated violation of Ordinance by Joel Ackerman, along with vicious actions of the animals, by Conrad, 2nd by Bender, Greiner & McDonald were in favor, and Burroughs was absent.

Discussion/Possible Action – February Employee Benefit Time Approval – Motion to approve by Conrad, 2nd by Bender, Greiner & McDonald in favor, Burroughs absent.

Discussion/Possible Action – Inspection to be ordered for Nuisance Property – With no running water or sewer at the residents on 204 N Hamilton St. since July 2024, and witnesses that the owner and dogs have been living within the residents, the question was asked about forcing an inspection on the home. After further discussion and awareness that there has been water brought in from an outside source and funneled into the house through the basement and into large drums to run through the house. A motion was to have the City Administrator discuss this situation with the City Attorney on how to address this nuisance and what next actions should be, made by Bender, 2nd by McDonald, Conrad & Greiner in Favor and Burroughs absent.

Mayor Comments: Mayor Cansler truly apologized to the Wulff family for the incident that occurred with the dogs on 3/1/25 and shared that we had a lot of things to follow up on with that occurrence. He thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn meeting by Conrad, 2nd by Greiner, McDonald & Bender in favor and Burroughs absent. Time 8:46pm.

Next regular meeting, March 17th, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Attest:

Mayor Anthony Cansler

City Administrator Alycia A Horras