

Minutes

KEOTA CITY COUNCIL

225 E. BROADWAY AVE.

March 17th, 2025

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

Roll call: Councilmen McDonald, Greiner, Conrad, Burroughs and Bender were present. City employees present were Administrator Horras, PW Director Harmsen, Clerk assistant Clarke and Librarian Greiner. Public present was Rich Klein, Chad McCleary from ION and Casey Jarmes from Sigourney New-Review.

Consent Agenda: Motion to Amend the agenda to add Ordinance 2025-308 made by Burroughs, 2nd by Conrad and all were in favor.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Conrad, including Agenda, previous meeting minutes from March 3rd Council Meeting - Budget review and payment of Bills. Burroughs 2nd the motion, all were in favor.

Bills Paid March 3rd thru March 17th,2025

Checks		Payroll			
Mid American Publishing	199.12	All American Pest Con	70.00	Clarke, Kristen	462.86
Cox Sanitation	2551.00	FCA	608.05	Fisher, Tabitha C	73.88
Misc on Main	29.99	County Line Mart	41.85	GREINER, ASHLEY	168.89
IA Assoc of Municipal Util	786.00	US Cellular	120.79	Greiner, Bridget M.	167.81
Windstream	255.47	Semco Landfill	256.60	GREINER, TONIA	1,264.92
Menards	114.90	Alliant Energy	5891.90	HARMSSEN, MICAH	1,836.66
H & M	4.41	LINO	425.00	Horras, Alycia A	1,944.66
Sun and Fun	565.96	Post Office	220.00	SLAUBAUGH, KEVIN L.	1,818.45
Mid American Publish	924.40		\$13,369.19		
Impressions Computers	303.75				

Public Forum: None

Department Reports:

Public Works –Harmsen reported that with the nicer weather we have started to do some landscaping and Spring work down at the pool and park areas. Lots of tree trimming continues to be done around town which has made the dump extremely busy. Kevin has stayed busy keeping up with that. The sewer project at County Line Mart will start this week and hopefully this will fixe their issues. We brought the ranger up to Sun N Fun last week when we pulled it out of the cold storage building to have the warranty work done on it. Jerry Smithhart is lined up to do the seeding on Carpenter St water main project and work around the drive thru lane at the pool. That work will start as soon as we are safe from another frost. We have quite a bit of work to do on the railroad right of way with the recent wind. Hope to have that done before we start up mowing. We have been getting items together for shutting down the road between the pool/park are and ball field. We plan to shut that down from Mid-April to about Mid-September. Also, with that in the process of ordering new signage to reroute traffic in that area. Water Plant-The sump pump in the water plant is on the same circuit as the brine pump. It started to trip the breaker late last week which caused some issues with the regeneration on the softener. We have it isolated now. Sump pumps aren't expensive so we'll get a replacement and put everything back to normal. Lagoons-We're working with Iowa Rural Water to get that aerator fixed. Hoping to get that done this in April. Councilman Burroughs shared that a resident had some testing done on water both at their residence and at their Farm to look at water quality. There were some areas that seemed "high or out of limits" according to the parameters that were listed on the testing forms from Midwest Laboratories. Chad from ION shared details on each data point and expressed that in several of these, he was unaware of where they were getting their parameters from. The limits didn't correlate to the "caution levels" or requirements that are in place for city water programs such as the DNR. The items that seemed to need attention were all items that would affect the cosmetics or aesthetics of the water, but not the safety of it. Some of the items could cause more cleaning needed due to staining and/or deposits, but does not affect the overall water safety and/or quality. The one area that would be an area to monitor closely due to health concerns, would be the Nitrates and that area was so low that it registered as "not detected".

Library – Librarian Greiner shared that we had a HUGE turnout for the princess party, we had at least 54 girls. I have been working on donations and programs for the summer reading program. We are quilting this morning and have sent 7 more twin size comforters to the Sleep in Heavenly peace project and 5 more to nursing homes. Emily with Keokuk Co. Ext. will be here today for the after-school program. The next Library Board meeting is Monday the 24th at 6 pm.

Clerk – Horras shared that we will have the proposed property tax hearing and the proposed FY26 budget hearings on April 7th and April 21st, with the date for the budget hearing being set tonight. The LL Pelling proposal for work came in last week and appears to have the concern areas addressed as Harmsen and Slaubaugh would have ridden around and gotten them acclimated with what needed to be focused on this year for road work. Horras has signed the proposal and gotten all documentation into Pelling to ensure that we are set for the Spring work in town. There is a request that we will look at later in the meeting to approve a change in the roadside sign and placement for Vision Ag. We have had 2 fans and a sump pump go out at the Sewer and Water plants. Horras has been working with Grainger supplies to renew our account and with Josh from ION to get parts ordered for replacement. Josh will also be ordering the chemical safety shower from Grainger as well to be installed at the water plant per our audit finding last year. We did receive an email from Lisa Breneman about the Day Care proposal and the previous meeting follow up. Horras shared information on this and stated that the next meeting is scheduled to happen the week of the 25th.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Resolution 2025-14 Approval for Proposed Budget Hearing Date. Motion to approve made by Conrad, 2nd by Greiner, and all were in favor.
Resolution 2025-15 Approval of Liquor License Renewal – Lagos Acres. Motion to approve made by Bender, 2nd by Conrad and all were in favor.

Resolution 2025-16 Approval of Financial Support of the Keota Fire Department for FY26. Motion to approve made by Bender, 2nd by McDonald, and all were in favor.

Ordinance 2025-308 Amendment to City of Keota, Iowa 2017 Codebook of Ord. – Offenses

- a. First reading of Title III, Chapter 1, Section 5, Public Safety and Health
- b. Potential Waiving of 2nd and 3rd Readings of Title III, Chapter 1, Section 5, Public Safety and Health
Motion to approve by Burroughs, 2nd by Conrad and all were in favor.
- c. Approval of Title III, Chapter 1, Section 5, Public Safety and Health – Motion to approve Ordinance with the change to of wording to reflect “the code enforcer and any designee of the code enforcer or Mayor of Keota, shall be exempt from this ordinance in order to put down or euthanize any animal that is causing physical harm to other people’s property, animals for to any person, within city limit”, made by Burroughs, 2nd by Bender and all were in favor.

New Business

Discussion/Possible Action – Sidewalk replacement & support of sidewalk work at the new Keota Clinic –Motion to approve the tear out of the old concrete in the affected area by the city staff and the cost to replace the 2 ADA compliance pads, made by Bender, 2nd by Greiner, and all were in favor.

Discussion/Possible Action – Sign movement/placement for Vision AG – Horras shared an email from Iowa Sign Company showing the new sign and requesting approval to move the current placement of the old sign in to the property by 2’. Motion to approve by Burroughs, 2nd by Greiner and all were in favor.

Discussion/Possible Action – Update on actions to be taken from dog incident from 3/2/25 –, Mayor Cansler shared what the city was working on following the incident on 3/2/25, with the dogs being taken out of Keokuk County. He then shared the new incident that happened on 3/15/25 where the dogs attacked and fatally wounded 2 additional animals outside of city limits. The dogs were put down by residents as they were showing vicious and dangerous behavior to them as well. Washington County Sheriff’s department was called out and is following up with an investigation and charges from their side. With the dogs no longer living or a threat, the discussion was made to move on with fining Joel Ackerman for the actions of the 3/2/25 incident that was made within city limits and having that paperwork served to him by Keokuk County Sheriff’s department. A motion to approve the fine of \$7500.00 for the incident, 30 days to pay the fine or to be levied against his residence at 204 N Hamilton St and to move forward with the letter being served versus just certified with him not signing for and picking up the certified letters now, made by McDonald, 2nd by Greiner and all were in favor.

Discussion/Possible Action - For Public Works to cap a Sewer and Water location – The discussion continued due to the use of sewer service at locations like 204 N Hamilton St. even with water services being turned off. The question was brought up since the resident has stated that they do not intend to pay their past due bill amount, to then have the city cap the sewer access to ensure that it is not continued to be used. The cost of doing this would be substantial with having to go out to the alleyway and dig several feet to cap that service. The council discussed that there are other residences that also utilize putting water down the sewer even without water services being halted, so it was decided to look at our current Ordinance to reflect that when water service is shut off, all other services continue to be charged at a minimum due to access of service and usage. A motion not to cap the sewer service at 204 N Hamilton was made by Burroughs, 2nd was made by Conrad and all were in favor.

Mayor Comments: Mayor Cansler stated that he really appreciates everyone’s extra time and work put in on the situation with the dangerous dogs. He stated that we have to take this opportunity to ensure that we are enforcing the ordinance with all residents and following up to ensure that safety of our community!

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn meeting by Burroughs, 2nd by Conrad, and all were in favor. Time 8:35pm.

Next regular meeting, April 7th, 2025 at 7:00 pm, with the Proposed Property Tax Hearing occurring at 6:30pm that evening.

Attest:

Mayor Anthony Cansler

City Administrator Alycia A Horras