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## **COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** September 9, 2025

**Time:** 6:03pm

**:Location:** Chalmers Town Hall 205 E. Walnut St.

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### **Attendance**

- Council Members Present: (CVP) Amy LaOrange, (CP) Pam Brown, (CM) Lee Trippett, and (CM) Fred Schrader. Absent Council Members: (CM) Josh Rinehart
  - Staff Present: (CT) Rene'e Collier, (S&U Superintendent) Doug Reed, Full Time Street & Utility Worker Frank Galvin, Town Marshal Jim Bolen, Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Ward, and Town Attorney Rebecca Trent
  - Guests/Public Attendees: Josh Bowsher (Bowsher IT Solutions), Ashley White, Pam Hiner, and Marcus King.
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### **Call to Order**

- Time: 6:03pm
- Presiding Officer: (CP) Pam Brown
- Agenda Check: Added Letters from Residents

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Date of Previous Meeting Minutes: August 26, 2025
- Approved: Vote 4 Ayes to 0 Nays Motion: (CVP) LaOrange Second: (CM) Trippett

### **Letters to Council**

First letter to council was reporting to council that the storm drain at the corner of N 2<sup>nd</sup> and Franklin Street needs to be cleaned out. (S&U) Superintendent is to go to resident and let him know Accu-dig will be coming to clean out storm drains. The second letter to council was thanking them for taking the steps to reduce the lead contamination in our water system.

### **IT Solutions**

Josh Bowsher of Bowsher IT Solutions spoke to council about the security systems updates and fiber rebuilds that are needed. He will have the quotes for the updates to the council and/or

Police Department next week. The council will be submitting these quotes in hopes of securing grant money for these improvements.

### **Chalmers Fall Festival**

Reminder, The Chalmers Fall Festival will be held this coming Saturday September 13, 2025. This year's festival will have vendors, food trucks, bake sale, games, face painting, disc jockey, beer and wine tent, and a car cruise in during the day. There will also be golf cart poker run and live music in the evening. The fire department will be serving breakfast at the fire station from 6:30am to 10:30am. Main Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from 7:00am and 10:00pm. Main Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Main and Walnut Street from 7:00am to 3:30pm. (CP) Brown informed the council that there was no insurance on the Legion and asked if the information was sent to get the insurance policy. (CT) Collier assured her that the information was sent at the same time the information was sent for the Wessel Building and will follow up on what happened with the insurance for the Legion Building.

### **Fire Department Contract**

Council revisited talks on fire department contract for 2026. The department is asking for \$22,500.00. This is an increase of \$2,500.00 above the current contract. The council decided not to decide on this at this time. Council asked (CT) Collier to look at the budget for next year to find the extra funds.

### **Budget Meeting**

The Council discussed and set a date for Budget Meeting. It was decided the meeting will take place on Tuesday September 16, 2025, at the town hall at 5:30pm. (CT) Collier is to post the additional Public Meeting on door of the Town Hall 48 business hours ahead of the meeting.

### **Wessell Building**

(CM) Schrader updated the council that he is still in the process of getting quotes to get the roof shingled and new siding put on the building.

### **Town Garage Heating**

(CM) Shrader also informed the council that he is currently waiting for Nipsco to give him a quote for the costs associated with running natural gas lines into the town garage so we could install a gas furnace in the building. Once we have all quotes the council will compare the cost of switching to natural gas or propane to the cost of heating with electric heaters which has been used since the building was constructed. They also discussed insulating the middle section of the garage.

## **Town Attorney Report**

Rebecca discussed the need to set a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Board meeting, and it was decided by all members of the TIF board to have it at 5:30pm on October 14, 2025, before the Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget which will start at 6:00 pm. After the Public Hearing the regularly scheduled council meeting will commence.

## **Engineer's Report**

(TE) Ken Smith was not present so (CP) Brown spoke on his behalf. He is currently still working on getting ballast for WWTP and F & K Construction is supposed to be here later in the week to inspect Walnut Street for repairs.

## **Street and Utility Superintendent Report**

(S&U) Superintendent Reed's reported that the department has been busy mowing, painting parking lines and cleaning for the festival. He also asked if the picnic tables from the pavilion at the park were going to be able to be used uptown for the festival. He has been working on the list of streets that need repaired for the application for the Community Crossings Matching Grant. Council was informed of the need for new toilets at the Legion building. The county highway will be here on Friday morning to sweep part of Main Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for the festival. A resident of the apartments on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street asked where they were to park during the sweeping and festival. It was decided to cover the no parking signs on Walnut Street so the residents could park during the two events. There is a need for the replacement of tires of the Dump Truck, he will call to get the truck in for replacement of tires.

## **Clerk's Report**

Claims were submitted to council for review and approval. Claims presented were for August 26, 2025, Bank 1. Motion to approve was given by (CVP) LaOrange and seconded by (CM) Trippett. Motion to approve claims passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays. Miscellaneous Receipts for August 2025 were reviewed and signed by council. Council was also given a copy of the Fund Report w/ Investments for the month of August. (CT) Collier also reported that she has estimated that the town has \$57,283.59 to use for mating funds for the Community Crossings Matching Grant to pave street. Also discussed was the amount of trash allowed by each household in town on fall clean up day. Deputy Clerk Linda Herget emailed Aric Van Wheeldon owner of On Point Waste, for clarification on the quantity that was allowed to be set out and his response was that he would like for us to state 3 Large Items plus a limit of 5 trash bags.

## **Police Report**

Town Marshal Bolen reported that the department has been busy with day-to-day police business and fielding complaints from residents. They are continuing to clean up the town and are ready for the festival on Saturday. He questioned the council on if they were going to allow four wheelers and UTV's on the streets for the festival and council decided that UTV's with state tags and golf carts would be allowed but no four wheelers.

## **Area Plan and Advisory Council on Small Town Affairs**

Due to (CP) Brown resigning her position on White County Area Plan Advisory Council on Small Town Affairs (CM) Schrader has been appointed to take over as the representative for Chalmers.

## **Park Board Report**

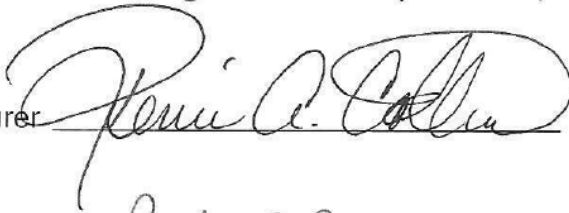
Park Board President David Kurth could not attend the meeting but brought in a report for the council. Updates on the park included the expiration of the contract with Frontier Summer Recreation League expiring this month and the fact that what they are paying for rental fees for the year does not cover the cost of the electricity they are using requires refiguring the price of rental fees for next year's contract. Also questioned was if the league was required to pay for damage that they have caused to a building at the park. The park board also asked if Trick or Treat/Trunk or Treat was going to be held on October 31<sup>st</sup> like has been in the past and what will the hours for the event be. It was decided that October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00pm would be the tentative schedule as Frontier High School may have the honor of hosting Football Sectionals on that date. The walking path at the park was resealed but there is disagreement within the park board on the quality of the work that was performed so the park board is looking to get the work redone. The board is considering using some of the money granted to them by the Township Trustee for a basketball court at the park. The board asked (S&U) Superintendent Reed to get some quotes on the cost of this project. The Summer Rec. League is currently using the fields for fall league but will not open concessions for these games. The address sign has been installed on the Splash Pad Pavilion. Also discussed was drawing up and passing an ordinance prohibiting motorized vehicles of any kind other than those needed for park maintenance on the walking path. (TA) Rebecca Trent will get the Ordinance drawn up and sent to council for adoption.

## **Adjournment**

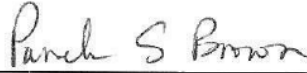
Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm. The motion to adjourn was given by (CVP) LaOrange and seconded by (CM) Schrader. Motion to adjourn was passed by a vote of 4 Ayes to 0 Nays.

Common Council Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2025

Clerk Treasurer

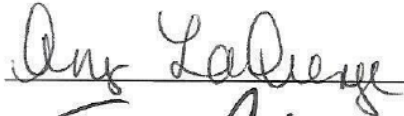


Council President



☒ Yay or ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain

Council Vice President



☐ Yay or ☒ Nay ☐ Abstain

Council Member



☐ Yay or ☒ Nay ☐ Abstain

Council Member

☐ Yay or ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain

Council Member

☐ Yay or ☐ Nay ☐ Abstain

Signed this 23rd day of September, 2025