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## **COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** August 12, 2025

**Time:** 6:01pm

**: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, (CM) Josh Rinehart and (CM) Fred Schrader
  - Staff Present: (DCT) Linda Herget, (S&U Superintendent) Doug Reed, Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Ward, and Town Attorney Rebecca Trent
  - Guests/Public Attendees: Jenilynne Kyburz (Area Plan), Brianna Rasmussen (Area Plan), Pam Hiner, David Kurth, and Ashley White.
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### **Call to Order**

- Time: 6:01pm
- Presiding Officer: (CP) Pam Brown
- Agenda Check: Added Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance and Golf Cart Ordinance

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Date of Previous Meeting Minutes: June 24, 2025 and July 8, 2025
- Approved: Vote 5 Ayes to 0 Nays Motion: (CVP) LaOrange Second: (CM) Rinehart

### **Area Plan**

Jenilynne Kyburz and Brianna Rasmussen from Area Plan were here to present two Amendments. Amendment to Zoning Ordinance A83 and Amendment to Zoning Ordinance A84 for the Councils approval and vote. Town of Chalmers Ordinance 2025-11 (Amendment to Zoning Ordinance A83) was approved by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays and Town of Chalmers Ordinance 2025-12 (Amendment to Zoning Ordinance A84) was approved by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays. The motion for both ordinances was given by (CVP) LaOrange and seconded by (CM) Rinehart.

### **Ordinance 2025-10**

Ordinance 2025-10 Ordinance Replacing Regulations on Abandoned Vehicles was discussed and the motion to approve was given by (CVP) LaOrange and seconded by (CM) Schrader. Motion carried by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays.

## **Ordinance 2025-13**

Ordinance 2025-13 Ordinance Amending Regulations on use of Golf Carts was presented and approved by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays with the motion to approve coming from (CVP) LaOrange and the second coming from (CM) Schrader.

## **Chalmers Fall Festival Update**

The Chalmers Fall Festival planning has been going well. The festival will be held on Saturday September 13, 2025, on Main Street and Second Street. 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. The festival Committee (CP) Brown and (CVP) LaOrange asked for permission to shut down 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. Motion to approve was given by (CVP) LaOrange, seconded by (CM) Schrader and approved by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays.

## **Fire Department Contract**

(CP) Brown presented the fire department contract for 2026 to the council for review. The department is asking for \$22,500.00 for 2026. This is an increase of \$2,500.00 above the current contract. The council decided not to decide on this at this time. Town Attorney Rebecca Trent will be emailing all council members a draft copy for their review.

## **Mural Painting**

Business Owner Andy Funk contacted (CP) Brown to ask if the town would be interested in putting a mural on the West side of his building on the South side of Main Street. David Kurth mentioned checking with the Town of Wolcott to see who they contracted to paint their buildings. (CP) Brown is also checking to see if there are any art grants that the town could apply for.

## **Wessell Building**

The condition of the Wessell Building was discussed, and it was decided to have (CM) Schrader to call around and get some quotes on getting the roof and siding replaced.

## **Fall Clean Up**

The Council discussed setting a date for fall trash clean up and decided that October 11, 2025 is the best date for the town. (S&U) Superintendent Reed will be checking with On-Point to see if that date will work for them.

## **INDOT Meeting**

(CP) Brown informed everyone that INDOT is holding a meeting in Monticello pertaining to the paving of SR43 that is to start in the spring if anyone would like to go.

## **CCMG Paving Grant**

The council discussed the next round of the CCMG paving grants. The application process opens October 1, 2025, and closes October 28, 2025. Town Employees and the council will work on a list of streets that need repaved so they can get an idea of the cost so (CT) Collier can work on finding the monies to meet the 20% match requirement.

## **Town Attorney Report**

Rebecca informed the council that there is a State Statute for how much the town is allowed to charge for Accident Reports. The council decided that we will charge \$8.00 per report. She also informed the council that we are not allowed to charge for case reports. She is working on compliance reporting for Title 9.

## **Street and Utility Superintendent Report**

(S&U) Superintendent Reed's reported that the WW Plant is running smoothly and is ready for inspection. He has also found the UV Lights needed and the company is sending quotes. The water plant is functioning fine. They have been busy mowing, painting parking lines and asked if they are responsible for in front of the church and apartments on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Had a guy come today to look at the walking path at the park to give us a quote for resealing it. Milestone told him if we name the Street around the town hall, we would be able to put that in one of the paving grants to be paid. CWREMC has got the streetlights fixed on the West side of town and they have replaced the bulbs at the ballfield. He mentioned that the insurance company requested information on the scoreboard that was damaged, but he did not know where it was to get the information. (CP) Brown said the Softball Recreation league disposed of it.

## **Clerk's Report**

Claims were submitted to council for review and Approval. Claims presented were for July 8, 2025, Bank 1, July 8, 2025, Bank 12, July 22, 2025, Bank 1, and August 12, 2025, Bank 1. Motion to approve Claims was given by (CVP) LaOrange and seconded by (CM) Schrader. Motion to approve claims passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays. Miscellaneous Receipts for July 2025 were reviewed and signed by council. Council also requested for now on they would like totals only for delinquent utilities instead of the actual delinquent report which includes names and addresses.

## **Police Report**

Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Ward reported that the department has been busy with traffic stops, trespass orders, abandoned vehicles and warned everyone of some troublemakers in town to avoid and if we should have any problems when an officer is not on duty to call the White County Sheriff's Department. It was also asked by the council to investigate adopting a local noise ordinance that is stricter than the county ordinance. New, no parking signs have been posted along SR 43, and they are working on getting more of the flashing school zone signs installed on Walnut Street. The county is paying for and installing new and additional Frontier High School signs on the highway and on Chalmers Blacktop. He has communicated with Brightspeed about the knocked down pillars and they are sending someone to come out and fix them. They will be ordering more abandoned vehicle stickers as they have used the last one. In talking with the railroad, he has been informed that due to the small number of wrecks at the Main Street crossing the railroad will not install crossing arms but if the town purchases the arms or receives them through CRISI Grant funding the railroad will maintain them. The department has warned two residents of abandoned vehicles on town property that will be towed if not moved in 72 hours. One vehicle was parked at the town garage that belongs to a town employee was plated but is still on town property because it cannot be moved. The other that was parked at the Legion Building has been moved to private property.

## **Park Board Report**

Park Board President David Kurth reported the park has been appropriated \$45,000.00 from the township trustee for improvements to the park. The board is considering using the money for a basketball court, pickleball court, resealing of the walking path and a small shelter house. These ideas will be discussed further at next week's Park Board meeting. The board has also replaced two park benches and repainted a third bench at the memorial gazebo uptown. Pam Hiner reported that the Splash Pad will remain open until after Labor Day and the Park Pavilions can still be rented.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. The motion to adjourn was given by (CVP) LaOrange and seconded by (CM) Schrader. Motion to adjourn was passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays.

Common Council Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2025

Clerk Treasurer

[Signature]

Council President

Phonela S Brown

Yay or Nay Abstain

Council Vice President

[Signature]

Yay or Nay Abstain

Council Member

[Signature]

Yay or Nay Abstain

Council Member

[Signature]

Yay or Nay Abstain

Council Member

[Signature]

Yay or Nay Abstain

Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025