

CJ COUNCIL

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had raised made sense and he also recalled how many ash had once lined city streets.

“I know people like trees down there, but there is a lot of disease. Why not (harvest) them while you can get some money out of them. I don’t like the mess either; and if we weren’t going to put trees back, I guess it would be different,” he said.

Prior said when he had come to the meeting his vote probably would have been not to harvest the trees. He said a lot of people had talked to him, including many who claimed they knew nothing about the harvesting plan, even though it had been frequently discussed at council meetings and reported in local papers and other sites.

“(Pavey) changed my mind,” Prior said.

Harris remained unconvinced.

“I say let them die,” he said, continuing to stress a point he had made in the past that people would be able to enjoy the mature timber for an extended time.

Buckman used a similar argument to support the harvest, alluding to the faster recovery the area will experience with the harvest and replanting.

“The reality is that park is going to be there long after anyone sitting at this table is going to be here. What’s it going to be like for them?” he asked.

The final tally on the resolution to approve the harvest was Todd, Mapel, Prior and Buckman in support, while Harris continued to oppose the plan.

No date to begin the harvest has been set, but the contract for the logging will expire May 1, 2026. The replanting plan also identifies replanting to begin in the fall of 2025, if the harvest is complete.

In another action related to vegetation management by the city, the council approved a resolution to support the development of an integrated roadside vegetation management plan for the city.

Todd explained the plan is a requirement for the city to seek funding for equipment and material through Iowa’s Living Roadway Trust Fund.

In other action, the council formally approved a set of salary increases for several city staff members. The increases were actually approved by a motion at the last meeting, but a resolution was needed to formally adopt the increases.

The council also approved a resolution recognizing Kristie Cummings Subdivision west of the city. Although the subdivision is outside of the city limits, council approval was needed because it is within two miles of the city limits.

In final action, the council approved the city’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget, following a public hearing that drew no public comments.

Mayor Mark Huston summarized the budget, which includes an estimated tax rate on regular property of slightly over \$12.18 per \$1000 taxable valuation.

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he had contacted Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) officials about the issue, including an email exchange which Iowa House Representative Taylor Collins had joined.

One question Maine asked the DOT to consider was if the county could drop the driver’s potion of the service, which has created the most stress for the local staff; and only offer the license renewal service.

“They politely said no. It’s all or nothing. You are not picking and choosing,” he reported to the rest of the board and about a dozen audience members who attended the meeting in person or on Zoom.

Maine said Collins tried to convince the DOT representative to make an accommodation for the county, but do not avail.

He also reported the state agency would not operate a mobile station in the county if the service was not offered through the treasurer’s office.

“I have another email drafted – I haven’t sent it yet – because I’m not sure they understand ... what’s going on,” Maine continued.

As the discussion continued; and it become more apparent the May 30 termination date would stand, several audience members offered their perspective.

“It’s a great service for the county and you are making money for the county,” Bill Poggemiller, rural Wapello, said, prompting Hardin to disagree.

Hardin said the county was not making money because comparing what the service cost and what it brought in created a \$25,000 shortfall.

He asked Poggemiller to compare the situation to a leaking propane tank.

“If you were losing fifty dollars a month in propane and you fixed that leak, then you are going to make so much money over the year. How much are you going to save over the year? (It’s) the same thing here. We’re leaking money over there and if we stop that, then we save that money,” Hardin argued.

“Do you judge every department that way? If they make money or not; or how they make money?” Morning Sun rural resident Randy Foor asked Hardin.

“We need to look at

them. I haven’t looked at every department yet,” Hardin replied.

Hunt steered the conversation back to the state.

“I went over and talked to the (treasurer’s office staff) too; and listening to them, a lot of the issue is the state does not provide them the training; is not providing them the background services they need; and I mean there is more to it than that, I believe,” he told the group.

After Foor suggested other counties needed to be contacted, Frank said she had been talking to other county treasurers around the state.

“This discussion is happening at those counties as well because of lot of them say (they) may be next. We’ve just gotten to this point faster than some of them,” she said, adding she expected other counties would soon be taking the same steps Louisa County has started.

“I don’t look for it to be far off for some of them because there’s been quite a few counties said to me, well you know, you’re just the first one to fall because we’re getting there,” Frank explained.

“It could be the

tipping point that makes the state do something,” Maine interjected.

“Yes, because I think it will be coming because there is a lot of frustration. A lot of counties are having these things and it hasn’t come to a head,” Frank agreed.

Maine eventually decided to summarize the discussion, explaining “as it sets now, (the office) (will be) closed (on May 30);” adding however, he planned to continue discussing the issue “behind the scenes” and possibly find an option that has not yet been considered.

In other action during the April 8 meeting, the board:

- Approved Sean Allworth to the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission’s Loan Review Committee;
- Reviewed ambulance reports from Morning Sun, Wapello and Columbus Junction;
- Reviewed third quarter reports from the sheriff, recorder and auditor’s offices;
- Appointed Leanne Black to fill a vacant term on the County Judicial Magistrate Commission ending Dec. 31, 2026;
- Agreed to a

suggestion by Foor to recognize former Louisa County Sheriff Curt Braby at the April 15 meeting. Braby died April 3. Before retiring in 2010, he had served in the Louisa County Sheriff’s Office for 30 years, including as county sheriff for the 10 years before his retirement.

The board also met with county engineer Adam Shutt for his weekly secondary roads department update.

Shutt told the board that paving and other work in and around Grandview had started the day before and would eventually include work on old Highway 61 and 160th Street (Grandview Bypass). Other work has either started or will begin on County Roads X14 and G28.

In final action, Maine read a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Arin Jones, a representative for Quad County CPPC (Community Partnership for Protecting Children), who attended the meeting by Zoom, reported a movie on preventing child abuse would be held at 2 p.m. on April 11 at the Capitol Theater, Burlington.

Louisa County Clubs, Meetings and Chapter News

CJ LIONS CLUB

After dessert provided by Lions Bill and Cassie Hingst at 6:00 PM, the regular meeting of the Columbus Junction Lions Club was called to order April 7, 2025 by President Mike Pavey. The meeting was held at the Columbus Community Senior Center. 14 members attended. Lion Roger gave the prayer prior to the meal.

President Mike called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

President Mike thanked Lions Bill and Cassie Hingst for providing the dessert and welcomed back Lion Roger returning from a Winter in Florida.

Secretaries Report Secretary Lamoyne read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved as corrected.

Treasurer’s Report Treasurer Cassie reported the current balances in the Activity and Administrative Funds. Her report was approved as presented.

Lion Jim Howell reported that a total \$238.00 was earned from the recent Club’s fundraiser with the Pizza Ranch at Washington and thanked all members who worked. September 22nd has been tentatively reserved for the next fundraiser with the Pizza Ranch.

Old Business President Mike reported on his attendance at the recent KidSight Open House. He read a book titled “So Much to See” which is designed for young

children to help them understand the benefits of KidSight vision screenings. It is available for a cost of \$10.00 and was recommended to be a source for the local School Nurse.

He learned that a new KidSight screening camera is or will soon be available for screeners. Use of it promises to be more user friendly and result in less retakes. Mike also reminded members that an on-line course is available for screener training as preparation for certification from a qualified trainer.

Finally he reported \$1,000 donations from Clubs or individuals receive special recognition with plaques at KidSight headquarters. The Club determined not to pursue this opportunity at this time.

After discussion, the Club picked April 28th to propose a tour of the Tysons plant. 9 members expressed interest in participating. President Mike will work with Tyson’s Frances Ayala to complete arrangements.

Lion Lamoyne reported that the Columbus track coach recommended May 3rd as the preferred date for the track athletes to participate in our Club’s Adopt-A-Highway ditch trash pickup service project. Members concurred with this date.

Lion Lamoyne reported that the Scholarship Committee has selected the Club’s Annual College Scholarships winners. President Mike will present the awards at the High School Awards night April 16th. The

Scholarship Committee members, Lions Kris, Ben and Lamoyne recommended changes to determine winners should be considered for discussion prior to next year’s awards.

President Mike reported that Lions Nancy, Aggatha, Ben, and Brittany are registered to attend the 9SE District Convention in Mount Pleasant April 11th and 12th.

New Business

Per Lion Nancy’s request to assist the Club Secretary in submitting Club service activities to the Lions International Portal, Lion Aggatha moved to elect Lion Nancy as Club Administrator. The motion was seconded by Lion Bill and after a brief discussion was passed unanimously.

Ther 9SE District Governor will be the guest speaker at our meeting May 7th.

Members applauded Lion Aggatha for taking over the Club’s Information Technology role from long time position holder Lion Kris.

Per Lion Dorothy’s suggestion, Secretary Lamoyne will send a sympathy card from our Club to the family of recently deceased Club member Jim Bloomquist.

Tail Twister

Lion Verl asked for prayers for Lion Earlene who is continuing with cancer treatments.

He then regaled the members with a potpourri of amusing stories about dirty dishes, Biblical riddles, and kid’s Sunday School stories.

There being no further business, President Mike adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lamoyne Buser
Club Secretary

CHAPTER CX PEO

Jane Thomann hosted Chapter CX PEO members at her home on

April 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm. President Anna Huston opened the meeting. Secretary Eileen Heck read the minutes and Susan Pretz gave the treasurer’s report and called the roll, which was answered by 10 members.

Jill Masonholder, corresponding secretary, read information on state PEO convention to be held in Des Moines for two days. The information included the schedule for this event and amendments to be voted upon. Discussion was held on these matters. Linda Pierce will probably attend and be a voting delegate.

Committees reported that applications have been received for the senior scholarship. Also the P.E.O Salad Luncheon, which raises the funds for the scholarship, will be held on May 5, 2025 at the American Legion Building in Columbus Junction between 11 am until 1 pm. Members are selling tickets to anyone who desires them and also both CJ banks and Special Effects will have tickets ahead of time. The theme this year will be Cinco de Mayo and members will decorate the Legion on Sunday night, May 4, starting at 5:00 pm.

The program committee reported that the next meeting will be at the home of Melinda Rees. One of the activities that evening will be signing up for next year’s program. President Anna Huston

mentioned the possibility of having some guest speakers.

The meeting was adjourned and Jane served delicious refreshments of angel food cake with fresh strawberries and whipped cream.

CHAPTER R T.T.T.

Chapter R TTT met at the Columbus Junction Civic Center on April 19, 2025. Susie Edwards was the hostess and co-hostess.

Calling the meeting to order was President Susie Edwards. Treasurer’s report and secretary minutes were read. Discussion was then held on state convention which will be held on April 11 and 12th in Burlington at the Pzazz. Jacque Chaney and Susie will be attending. Anyone else who would like to go need to let Susie know soon, and workers are needed to help at the banquet Saturday night.

Two fourth grade girls will be sent to TTT camp this year. The camp will be held June 8-13. Plans are being made for the TTT shower for the camp girls. Discussion was also held on the TTT fundraiser which is selling Christmas greenery.

The next meeting will be held at the Columbus Junction Civic Center on May 8th. Susie served a delicious lemon dessert with an Easter decorated table theme and members then visited.

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