

LEGAL NOTICE

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026, 6:00 P.M.
CHEROKEE CITY HALL**

A regular meeting was called to order on this date by Mayor Puffett. Roll call: Present: Councilpersons Loughlin, Nitz, Patterson, Pingel-by phone, Ulrich, City Administrator Pudenz, City Attorney Hines and City Clerk-Treasurer Lucas. Absent None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Nitz to approve the agenda. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Isaac Cruz, Cruz Electric reviewed the Lighting Assessment he conducted on City-owned properties through the Small Business Express Program. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Nitz to approve the City's participation in the Small Business Express Program. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Kyle Basten, Beck Engineering presented several options for the N. 11th St. project: full reconstruction estimated at \$1.85 million, full depth reclamation estimated at \$1.7 million and return to gravel surface estimated at roughly \$1 million. Pudenz will meet with Todd Larsen, Street Superintendent, regarding the current cost to maintain the road. Basten will also speak with the SIMPCO team about how project funding may be affected if the scope of the project is changed.

At 6:25 p.m. Mayor Puffett opened a public hearing on the Adoption of Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract and Estimate of Costs of Construction for the 2026 City of Cherokee West Bluff Street Road Reconstruction Project. Jeff & Patty Brown, 812 W. Bluff St. and Josh Douglas, 518 N. 9th St., questioned the scope of work to be completed. Michael Richards of Beck Engineering stated that the project will include reconstruction of W. Bluff St. from 9th Street to the High School entrance. Brown and Douglas expressed concerns regarding parking and access for residents along Bluff Street during construction. Pudenz stated that the city will be in contact with the contractor to determine what arrangements can be made to accommodate residents. The hearing was closed at 6:49 p.m.

Motion by Patterson, seconded by Ulrich, to award the contract for the 2026 City of Cherokee West Bluff Street Road Reconstruction Project to Schmillen Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$683,722.42. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

At 6:52 p.m. Mayor Puffett opened a public hearing on the Adoption on

Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract and Estimate of Costs of Construction for the 2026 City of Cherokee West Main Street Resurfacing Project. As there were no oral or written comments, the hearing was closed at 6:53 p.m.

Motion by Nitz, seconded by Loughlin, to award the contract for the 2026 City of Cherokee West Main Street Resurfacing Project to Blacktop Service Co. & Subsidiary, in the amount of \$573,272.38.

Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Nitz to approve Resolution 2026-04, a Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the Debt Service Fund for the use on two Box Culvert Construction Projects. Roll call: AYES: Loughlin, Nitz, Patterson, Pingel, Ulrich. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Patterson to approve Resolution 2026-05, a Resolution Approving a Service Agreement between the City of Cherokee and Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. Roll call: AYES: Loughlin, Nitz, Patterson, Pingel, Ulrich. NAYES: None.

Motion by Patterson, seconded by Loughlin, the following was approved under Consent Agenda. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Approve City Council Minutes of February 17, 2026.

New Appointment to Board of Adjutant-Ramona Nitz.

Approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for Cherokee Country Club.

Bills totaling \$1,348,517.34.

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING COPY CONTRACTS \$365.46

AHLERS & COONEY P.C. URBAN RENEWAL \$252.00

ALEX AIR APPARATUS, INC. 1" TUBULAR \$179.00

ALISSA LADENTHIN INDOOR SOCCER REFUND \$25.00

ALLIANT ENERGY NATURAL GAS \$5,406.13

AUDIOSTONE EINTERTAINMENT FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE \$500.00

BOMGAARS OPERATING SUPPLIES \$1,355.72

CASEY CARPENTER 3/26 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT \$35.00

CENGAGE LEARNING INC/GALE BOOKS \$486.15

CHAMPION ELECTRIC, INC. W. ELM ST. TRAFFIC SIGNAL \$85,585.00

CHEM-SULT, INC. PHOSPHATE & POTASSIUM \$1,961.35

CHEROKEE AVIATION AUTHORITY PROPERTY TAX DRAW \$160.72

CHEROKEE CHRONICLE TIMES LEGAL PUBLICATIONS \$62.46

CHEROKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER FIREMAN PAYROLL \$1,310.00

CHEROKEE NAPA OIL & AIR FILTER \$108.33

CHRIS HORTON 3/26 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT \$35.00

CONNOR BEECK WINDOW CLEANING CLEAN WINDOWS \$115.00

COUNTRY TIRE & SERVICE TIRE & BRAKE REPAIRS \$363.63

DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP PLOW BLADES \$825.90

DEMCO, INC. OFFICE SUPPLIES \$116.25

DENNY'S SERVICE FURNACE FILTERS \$64.00

DIXON CONSTRUCTION CO. EUCLID AVE. BOX CULVERT \$389,638.35

FAREWAY STORES, INC. OPERATING SUPPLIES \$217.46

FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB WATER & WASTEWATER SAMPLES \$904.75

HAWKINS, INC. LAB SUPPLIES \$1,746.05

HEIDI ELLIS VOLLEYBALL REF 2/18 & 2/25 \$100.00

HOTSY EQUIPMENT CO. WATER VALVE KIT & FLOAT \$696.34

HY-VEE, INC. OPERATING SUPPLIES \$66.85

IOWA HISTORY JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL \$19.95

JSS, LLC JET SEWER LINE-PARK AVE. \$306.25

KRISTI EBEL VOLLEYBALL REF & TIMEKEEPER \$200.00

LUKE KLASCHEN 3/26 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT \$35.00

MADELINE GRIFFIN VOLLEYBALL REF 2/18 \$50.00

MATT BECKMAN 3/26 CELL PHONE

REIMBURSEMENT \$35.00

MEDIACOM LLC INTERNET \$406.90

MENARDS-SPENCER DEER FENCE \$109.96

MID AMERICAN ENERGY ELECTRICITY \$192.56

MID-AMERICAN BENEFITS, LLC 2/26 HRA ADMIN FEES & CLAIMS \$4,725.68

NAICOPTINS CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE REPORT \$157.50

NATE JAMES 3/26 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT \$50.00

NATIONAL SIGN COMPANY, LLC SIGNS \$196.93

NORTHSIDE TIRE OIL CHANGE & TIRE ROTATION \$106.03

O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES BACKUP ALARM, OIL, FILTER \$96.34

PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FIN. SERVICE POSTAGE MACHINE LEASE \$159.57

PROGRESSIVE STRUCTURES, LLC UNION/WILLOW BOX CULVERT \$830,772.74

REHAB SYSTEMS, INC. ROUTINE JET VAC CLEANING \$7,828.00

SARA LUCAS 3/26 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT \$35.00

SCE, LLC DIG GRAVE \$969.00

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, INC. 12/25 SNOW REMOVAL \$8,580.00

SERVANDO LUNA INCOME OFFSET REIMBURSEMENT \$226.00

SHASTELIN REYES VOLLEYBALL REF 2/25 \$50.00

THE ACCURATE COURT REPORTER QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION \$42.00

THERESA PUDENZ 3/26 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT \$50.00

TODD LARSEN 3/26 CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT \$35.00

TYLER EBEL VOLLEYBALL REF & TIMEKEEPER \$280.00

VERIZON WIRELESS HOT SPOT \$120.03

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Pingel, to approve the quote from Reborn Technologies in the amount of \$3,939.65 for a Conferencing System for Council Chambers. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Paul Hurley of Sensus, along with Chad Hanson and Charles Bausch of Core & Main presented a quote to upgrade the City's Automatic Reader System used for water meters. The proposed FlexNet Tower System offers several benefits, including allowing water meters to be read every two hours, remote shut off capability and immediate notifications of high water usage. Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Pingel to approve the quote from Core & Main in the amount of \$106,867.54. Roll call: AYES: Loughlin, Pingel, Ulrich. NAYES: Nitz. Abstained: Patterson due to not providing financial figures.

Motion by Nitz, seconded by Loughlin to approve a Property Tax Abatement Application and Minimum Assessment Agreement for 2 W. Bow Dr. owned by Nicky & Dana Sleezer. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Nitz, seconded by Patterson to approve a Property Tax Abatement for 942 Riverview Dr.- Pioneer Apartments, LLC. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Patterson, to approve a Treatment Agreement with Lopez Foods.

Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Nitz, to approve Pay Application #5 for the Euclid Avenue Box Culvert Project. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Nitz, seconded by Patterson, to approve Pay Application #4 for

the Union/Willow Box Culvert Project. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Loughlin, seconded by Ulrich, to go into Closed Session at 8:18 p.m. pursuant to Iowa Code 215(9)(i) to discuss the possible sale of real estate. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None.

Motion by Patterson, seconded by Loughlin, to move out of Closed Session at 8:33 p.m. Roll call: AYES: All. NAYES: None. No action was taken following closed session.

Mayor Puffett reported that he has been working on updating the City's water and sewer rates. Per City Code, the water and sewer funds must remain self-sufficient. Mayor Puffett proposes the following rate adjustments: Water Rates: Base rate \$9.14 to \$9.60, Commodity rate \$3.35 per 100 cubic feet to \$3.68 per 100 cubic feet. Sewer Rates: Sewer base \$13.00 to \$13.39 and Commodity rate \$7.50 per 100 cubic feet to \$7.72 per 100 cubic feet. Pudenz will prepare an ordinance amendment reflecting these changes to be presented to Council for consideration.

Camping rates at Spring Lake Park were discussed. Current rates are as follows: \$20 per night, \$500 per month, and \$10 per night for tent camping. Jeremiah Mullins, Park Director, suggested increasing rates to: \$25 per night, \$550 per month. Council will be reviewing campground policies regarding permanent campers.

Motion by Nitz, seconded by Loughlin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Media Present: None
Tony Puffett, Mayor
ATTEST: Sara Lucas
City Clerk-Treasurer
(CT03-06/L#308)

LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING — PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
CHEROKEE COUNTY AG EXTENSION**

The Extension Council of the above named County will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed fiscal year 2026/2027 budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 3/19/2026 Meeting Time: 07:00 PM Meeting Location: Cherokee County Extension Office, 209 Centennial Drive, Cherokee, IA
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present their objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the Extension Council Secretary. Copies of the Supplemental Budget Detail (Schedule 674-A) will be furnished upon request.

Contact Name: Jen Gaydo Contact Telephone Number: (712) 225-6196

FUND	FYE June 30, 2025 Actual Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2026 Re-estimated Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2027 Budget Expenditures	Estimated Ending Fund Balance FY 2027	Estimated FY 2027 Beg. Balance	Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Taxation	Estimated Utility Tax Replacement and Property Tax Dollars	
1. County Agricultural Extension Education	263,295	283,882	366,065	255,827	259,042	281,668	291,000	
2. Unemployment Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3. Tort Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4. TOTAL	263,295	283,882	366,065	255,827	259,042	281,668	291,000	
Proposed taxation rate per \$1,000 valuation: \$								0.23228

Virtual Meeting Information:

(CT03-06/10.15ci)

LEGAL NOTICE

**CHEROKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION –
EGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

The Board of Education of the Cherokee Community School District held a regular meeting on February 16, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held in the WHS Library, 600 W. Bluff St., Cherokee, IA.

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the Mission Statement were recited.

Moved by Mullins, seconded by Riggert, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll call was taken. Present: Brian Freed, Jodi Thomas, Jared Barkley, Ray E. Mullins II, and Jocelyn Riggert.

Visitors were welcomed. President Thomas referenced Board Policy 213, Public Participation in Board Meetings.

Moved by Freed, seconded by Riggert, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Barkley, seconded by Mullins, to approve the following Board Policies:

*409.03.R(1) – Licensed Employee Family and Medical Leave – Regulation

*409.04 – Licensed Employee Bereavement Leave

*409.05 – Licensed Employee Political Leave

*409.06 – Licensed Employee Jury Duty Leave

*409.07 – Licensed Employee Military Service Leave

*409.08 – Licensed Employee Unpaid Leave

*410.01 – Substitute Teachers (paid according to the prevailing salary schedule)

*410.02 – Summer School Licensed Employee

*410.04 – Education Associate

*411.01 – Classified Employee Defined Motion carried unanimously.

Kathy Jochims shared information regarding the intern program she has implemented at the elementary and middle school levels.

Moved by Freed, seconded by Mullins, to approve Board Policy 506.3 – Student Photographs. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Freed, seconded by Riggert, to approve Board Policy 506.3.R1 – Student Photographs Regulation. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Freed, seconded by Barkley, to approve a property tax levy for fiscal year 2026–2027 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under Section 257.14 of the Code of Iowa. Motion carried unanimously.

Drafts of the 2026–2027 school calendar were presented for review. The Board will take action at a future meeting.

Moved by Freed, seconded by Barkley, to approve up to \$500,000 for the construction of tennis/pickleball courts in collaboration with CRMC and through the collection of grants and private donations. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mullins, seconded by Riggert, to approve the proposal from BEI for services related to the CWHS construction projects.

Ayes: Mullins, Freed, Thomas, Riggert

Abstain: Barkley
Motion carried.

The Board entered into exempt session at 6:29 P.M. to discuss collective bargaining strategies and issues.

The Board returned to open session at 7:30 P.M.

Moved by Riggert, seconded by Barkley, to enter into closed session at 7:30 P.M. to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation as provided in Section 21.5(1)(i) of the Open Meetings Law. The individual requested a closed session. Roll call vote:

Ayes: Barkley, Riggert, Thomas, Freed, Mullins

The Board returned to open session at 8:19 P.M.

Moved by Mullins, seconded by Barkley, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting – March 16, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.

President, Board of Education Cherokee Community School District Secretary, Board of Education Cherokee Community School District

Cherokee Community School GENERAL FUND

360 Custom Designs, 1,275.40, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES

Advanced Network Professionals, 213.60, TECH. SERVICES

AGParts Worldwide, Inc., 4,406.75, Chromebook parts

Ahlers and Cooney, PC, 1,439.12, LEGAL SERVICE

All for KIDZ Inc dba The NED Shows, 2,688.00, CES INSTRUCTIONAL

Alta-Aurelia Comm School District, 107,231.37, Open Enrollment

Ascendance Trucks Midwest, LLC, 8,233.55, OUTSIDE LABOR REPAIRS

Barkley, Natalie, 33.32, REIMBURSE FOOD

Barnes, Pam, 1,204.54, REIMBURSEMENT (GAS + FOOD)

Benson's Sanitation, LLC, 260.00, GARBAGE COLLECTION

Blaine's Culligan, 427.80, NURSE SUPPLIES

Bomgaars Supply, 1,874.37, SUPPLIES

Book Vine, The, 379.63, LIBRARY BOOKS

Brad's Tire Service, 1,186.00, TIRES

Bringle, Dan, 19.00, REIMBURSEMENT

Builder's Sharpening and Service, 562.39, PARTS

C-M-L Telephone Cooperative Assoc, 1,084.01, TELEPHONE

CALVERT ENTERPRISES, LLC, 3,300.00, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES

CAM Community School District, 4,267.63, OE 1st SEMESTER

Capital Sanitary Supply CO, INC, 9,085.66, MAINT. SUPPLIES

Carolina Biological Supply Co, 162.35, INSTR SUPPLIES

Carrie Stoelting, O.D., P.C., 155.00, STUDENT HELP ACCT.

Carver, Angela, 82.38, MEAL REIMBURSEMENT

CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE SCHOOLS, INC, 6,870.00, PROF. TRAINING

Champion Electric, 5,726.95, OUTSIDE LABOR

Cherokee Chronicle Times, 675.56, PUBLICATION EXPENSE

Chesterman Company, 253.44, CWHS VENDING SUPPLIES

CITY OF CHEROKEE, 50,914.09, SRO

City of Cherokee, 2,236.80, SRO

Cornwall, Avery, Bjornstad & Scott, 150.00, LEGAL SERVICE

Country Tire and Service Inc., 34.67, OUTSIDE LABOR REPAIRS

Creative Services, 288.98, ACT. DIRECTOR SUPPLIES

Dave's Piano Service, 592.30, BAND EQUIP. REPAIR

Department of Education, 950.00, BUS INSPECTIONS

Document Depot and Destruction, Inc., 49.00, PURCHASED SERVICES

Ebert's, 1,229.88, CMS DRYER

Ebert, Steve, 30.00, GAS REIMBURSEMENT

Elan Financial Services, 3,791.38, Registration

EPS Operations, LLC, 711.62, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES

Fareway Stores, Inc., 312.36, SUPPLIES

FELD SECURITY, 629.00, EQUIP. REPAIR

FOUR OAKS FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES, 6,000.00, PROF. LEARNING

Galva Holstein CSD, 4,363.49, Open Enrollment

Heartland Tire, 4,827.44, TIRES

High Country Auto, 175.00, TOWING SERVICE

Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc, 243.10, Supplies

INTERSTATE OFFICE PRODUCTS, INC, 12,952.62, PTA EQUIP.

Iowa Association of School Boards, 995.00, Registration

Iowa Department of Human Services, 23,568.49, Medicaid