

# The Cunningham Courier

October 3, 2024  
Volume 34 Number 40  
\$1.50

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Photo by a Courier reader

## Chapter Closing on Steffen's Librarian Story

In "it was bound to happen sometime" news, Kerri Steffen, Cunningham Public Library (CPL) Librarian, has decided to retire. The CPL Board of Trustees officially accepted her resignation at their September 23rd meeting, effective January 31, 2025.

Kerri and husband, Dave, were publishing The Cunningham Courier when Kerri added another part-time job to her resume. She has served in the capacity of librarian for the better part of 18 years. During her tenure, the addition housing the children's collection and meeting room was completed. Countless programs have been enjoyed by patrons over the years. One of many highlights for Kerri was the time a stage was built in the new addition to accommodate a lively program of flamenco dancers, complete with a selection of Mediterranean hors d'oeuvres.

Steffen reflects, "My time spent at the library has been the happiest and most rewarding of all my working years. I am very grateful to have been part of Cunningham Public Library and to have worked alongside a dedicated board of directors to not only provide library resources and services, but also to engage with the community."

Mary Stackhouse, current board chair, shared, "Kerri has been an absolute joy to work with over the years. I have been so impressed with how she jumped in and learned all she could about being a librarian, going above and beyond in her service to the library and community. A huge champion of the South Central Kansas Library System (SCKLS), she caught the eye of SCKLS personnel as well. For the past seven years, she has served on the SCKLS Executive Board, another point of pride for our library."

Paul Hawkins, SCKLS Director, said, "From my 40 year perspective, the librarian, board, and volunteers of the Cunningham Public Library have always been exceptional. Kerri Steffen has been exceptional because of her dedication and service to the community. She's always been willing to learn about and do things to keep the library up-to-date and engaging. She has organized and provided lots of creative programs and events. Kerri wants every person who uses the library to be enriched by the resources the library has to offer. And as with all successful librarians, Kerri is first of all a reader. All of us at SCKLS praise her work and appreciate her contributions in making Cunningham Public Library 'the best small library!'"

Long-time CPL board member,



Kerri Steffen, CPL librarian, with a story time group.

Linda Kerschen, adds, "Kerri has worked tirelessly to make our library an integral part of the Cunningham community. I appreciate the time and dedication she gave to programs and activities that enhanced the library experience for all ages. She was always professional and caring to our many visitors. She will be missed."

There is an ad in this week's Courier seeking a librarian for the Cunningham Public Library. Kerri will be the first to say that she entered the librarianship

without experience. She has gained knowledge and is prepared to help train the next person to take on the job. Once that person is trained and Kerri has taken a well-deserved break, she plans to return as a volunteer. Stackhouse looks forward to that time and hopes that a certain volunteer who happens to love processing books (Dave) will continue to lend his time as well (between travel and grandchildren).

## Minutes from August City Council Meeting

The Cunningham City Council met in a regular session on Monday, August 26, 2024 at City Hall, 119 N. Main St.

Present were Council Members: Jason Ruckle, Bart Ricke, Tanner Newell, Craig Woodard and Tim Schultz; City Attorney, Greg Graffman; City Superintendent, Mesa Sallee; and City Clerk, Molly Morgan.

Guests present: Harold Stark, Fire Chief; Jackie Ruckle, Property Officer; Roberta Thimesch, Cunningham Courier; Emma Harden, Julia Hageman, Trent Schnittker, Dagim Reed, Nate Sterneker, Will Wegerer, Luke Albers, and Keith Neufeld.

Council President Ruckle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Schultz, second by Woodard, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Newell, second by Ruckle, to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2024 meeting as written. Motion carried, 5/0.

Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing – Motion by Ricke, second by Schultz, to open the RNR Hearing at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried, 5/0. There were no pub-

lic comments. Motion by Woodard, second by Ruckle, to approve Resolution 2024-02 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Motion carried, 5/0. Motion by Schultz, second by Ricke, to close the RNR Hearing (6:34 p.m.) Motion carried, 5/0.

Budget Hearing – Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to open the Budget Hearing at 6:34 p.m. Motion carried, 5/0. There were no public comments. Motion by Schultz, second by Ruckle, to approve the 2025 Budget as published. Motion carried, 5/0. Motion by Woodard, second by Ricke, to close the Budget Hearing. (6:35 p.m.) Motion carried, 5/0.

Public Comments – Keith Neufeld asked the Council to fix the holes on Leiter Street. Jackie Ruckle informed the Council that the City could rent a grinder to break up the asphalt millings layer.

Motion by Ruckle, second by Newell, to authorize rental of the grinder (weather permitting) at \$900/week not to exceed two weeks. Motion carried, 5/0.

Fire Department – Chief Stark reported he attended the pressure test at the school as well as sprinkler system map reviews. The fire department assist-

ed with the tinder and two brush trucks on a call in Reno County District 7 for a swather fire. They also responded to a call for a ditch fire on Highway 54 just east of Cunningham. The football team had a car wash fundraiser at the station. Annual inspection of extinguishers by Pye-Barker was completed. The Clerk reported the striping for "No Parking" zone at the station is scheduled for September 12th.

John Reimer, Viking Industrial Painting – Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to table viewing of Viking proposal for water tower due to the Mayor's absence. Motion carried, 5/0.

Burn Pit – Consensus of the Council is to move the pit to the south. Motion by Schultz, second by Woodard, to approve the bid of \$1,000 from T&R Excavating to dig a new pit and fill the old pit. Motion carried, 5/0.

Property Officer Report – Jackie reported that mowing and auto issues have been resolved.

Planning & Zoning – Motion by Woodard, second by Ricke, to approve permit 2024-06 for a pavilion at 106 N Main. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Ricke, second by Ruckle, to approve permit 2024-12 for a lean-to at 105 S Valley. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Ruckle, second by Newell, to approve permit 2024-13 for a fence at 211 W Douglas. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Ricke, second by Woodard, to approve permit 2024-14 for a garage at 404 E First. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by Ruckle, to approve permit 2024-15 for a concrete parking area at 125 W First. Motion carried, 5/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by Ricke, to approve permit 2024-16 for a fence at 205 E Leiter. Motion carried, 5/0.

Maintenance Report – Mesa gave the maintenance report. \*While installing the irrigation system at the football field, CR Landscaping hit the power line to Well No. 3 and ripped out the disconnect. Dig safe markings were off about two-and-a-half feet, so they were not responsible for the damage. \*Amanda Smyth, KDHE inspector, inspected water and sewer records. At Well No. 3 she recommended fixing a small concrete piece. While there is no immediate danger to the public, she recommended improvements to the water tower. Mesa also reported that John

(continued on page 3)

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