

## -City of La Crosse Commission Minutes-

The regular meeting of the La Crosse City Commission was held on January 22, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. Present were Mayor Bill Schroter, Commissioner Kim Peach, Commissioner Alan Sramek, City Manager Lyle Hammerschmidt, City Clerk Kim Jay and Doug Slattery. Commissioner Peach motioned to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2025 meeting, Commissioner Sramek seconded the motion. Motion carried – vote 3-0.

February meeting dates: 5th and 19th.

Commissioner Sramek motioned to approve to pay the bills, Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried – vote 3-0.

Commission discussed the building permit for M2 Contractors, they will wait to approve it after receiving notification from the Rush County Zoning Board that the property has been rezoned.

City Manager's report: water leaks; employee off work due to injury on the job; 518 Main water line; Randy Burton's property on main street; code enforcer; new phones were installed in the office; snow removal; cemetery

Mayor Schroter motioned to end the meeting at 5:47 p.m. Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried – vote 3-0.

## -City of Liebenthal Council Minutes-

The Governing Body of the City of Liebenthal met in public hearing in the city building at 6:00 p.m. on January 13, 2025. Presiding was Mayor Darrell Warner, council members present were Barb Matal, Renee Legleiter, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, Bill Stark, Kathy Herrman, Clerk Beverly Stark, Maintenance Operator Kelly Koerner, and Water/Wastewater Operator Darrell Matal. No residents were present.

Minutes from the previous meeting of December 9, 2024, were read. Kathy Herrman moved to approve the minutes as read, Barb Matal seconded, vote unanimous, the motion carried.

Clerk's Comments: The clerk had no announcements.

Old Business: The old ordinances that were under review were tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

New Business: Mayor Warner had a meeting with Maguire Water to discuss two bids for maintenance on the water tower. Both bids were presented to the council. The proposals included emptying the water tower for complete cleaning, and painting of the interior and exterior. Concerns were raised about providing water for the city during this maintenance. Mayor Warner reported that KS Rural Water Association can provide a free-standing tank to assist with this. After discussing both bids, the council proposed to table the discussion contingent on receiving the grant. Renee Legleiter suggested including in the February mailing a message to residents regarding the proposed sales tax (1.5%) to help with water system maintenance, as well as other infrastructure repairs and maintenance. It was noted that this sales tax must be put to a public vote and may prevent increasing utility costs for Liebenthal residents. Mayor Warner suggested attendance at the upcoming KS Rural Water Expo on Feb. 25-27, 2025, to meet with companies to attain other bids. Also available at the meeting are review sessions for Water Operator certification, as well as a certification test available. Mayor Warner also brought information of granting opportunities for broadband development, and water system repairs. Bill and Beverly Stark met with a group of engineers from Cadmus, KS Municipal Utilities, and an EPA representative Jan. 10, 2025, to gather information regarding the proposed water tower repairs and maintenance. This team focused on the RO units in use currently by the city, replacement options, and other possible solutions for meeting the KDHE water quality requirements. The engineers will develop a cost plan as part of a strategy to secure grants to help with costs.

City Utilities and Maintenance Updates: Darrell Matal will attend a water treatment workshop in St. John on Wednesday, 1-15-25. Darrell Matal has acquired scales for weighing water treatment chemicals. The recent tests sent to KDHE for residual chlorine have been above normal. Rhonda Matal is investigating. Kelly Koerner has received many compliments for clearing roads of the heavy snowfall in a timely manner. Kelly noted that he needs a snow shovel, and diesel can for the tractor. Also, the tires on the tractor will need replacement this spring.

Calendar / City Events: A city-wide garage sale is planned for the first part of May.

Approval and Payment of Bills: Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to approve payment of the bills as presented, Bill Stark seconded, vote unanimous, motion carried.

The next meeting is February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the city building. Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to adjourn the meeting, Kathy Herrman seconded, vote unanimous, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Darrell Warner

City Clerk Beverly Stark

## -Otis City Council Minutes-

Council members Lisa Moeder, Tabbie McVey, Mike Sharkey, Luke Pechanec, Jody Beckham, and Mayor Jenny Landers were present at the City of Otis council meeting held January 8, 2025. Employees present were Myron Wagner, John Landers, Shelly DeWald, and Lori Firebaugh.

Mayor Jenny Landers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum: Scott Knebel thanked the city workers and council members for all their work clearing the roads after the snowstorm. He talked to the council about the citizens of town feeding stray cats and other wildlife. He also asked about the sewer rate increase.

Luke moved to approve the 12-11-24 minutes as printed. Lisa seconded. 3-0-2. Motion carried.

Lori went over the bills. Mike moved to approve the bills. Lisa seconded. 5-0. Motion carried.

Myron went over the water reports, well are up some. Clarke Well should be out soon to fix well 4.

The treasurer's report was gone over.

City Clerk Report: Preparing for the 2024 audit.

Mayor Report: The breaker box in the city shop needs to be updated.

Correspondence: Thank you letter from Chris Rorabaugh Family.

Old Business: Quote for blades for the drag – tabled to spring.

Well #4 pump and motor replacement – Clarke Well – waiting on parts should be out soon.

RWD#3 contract – Jody made a motion for our attorney to add a clause to the agreement that RWD#3 has to pay overages and all consequences. Tabbie seconded. 5-0. Motion carried. Jody made a motion to add to the contract to notify us by official city email within 48 hours after the flushing. Tabbie seconded. 5-0. Motion carried.

P&S camera update – Should start installing.

New Business: Snow removal policy review – No need to update. The council discussed how thankful they were for all the people who helped the city clear roads.

Job description FT/PT – updating job descriptions.

Official newspaper – Luke made a motion to make Rush County News our official newspaper for the City of Otis. Tabbie seconded. 5-0. Motion carried.

Official bank – Jody made a motion to make Peoples Bank and Trust our official bank for the City of Otis. Mike seconded. 5-0. Motion carried.

Copies – Jody made a motion to update our open record requests to comply with KORA fees. Those requests are to be made through the county courthouse unless they are unable to provide the requested documents. For all requests of documents not filed at the county courthouse, there will be a charge of \$1 per side not to exceed 20 sides or 10 pages. Provided within three days of the request. Luke seconded. 5-0. Motion carried.

Sewer improvement fund – Luke made a motion to transfer \$1,200 a month from sewer income to the sewer improvement fund. Jody seconded. 5-0. Motion carried.

Executive Session - Luke made a motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 20 minutes at 8:37 pm. Jody seconded. 5-0. Motion carried. Back in session at 8:57, no action was taken. Jody made a motion to give the city employees a 2.5% cost of living raise. Luke seconded. 5-0. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on February 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Room.

Lisa moved to adjourn. Jody seconded. 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

## From The Home Front... by Linda Kenyon



### Time to brag

I'm a proud grandma these days. Don't get me wrong. I love all of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren and each has their own talents and abilities. I'm proud of all of them. But right now is Ava's time in the spotlight. Ava is a freshman attending Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina on a track scholarship. I state right here that she didn't get any of her speed from me. If you ever see me running, you better run too. Something bad is coming

Ava runs the 600 meter and 4x400 relay. It's indoor track season and the team just competed in the KCAC Championships in Omaha. KWU is building it's track program and they are doing very well this season. The men's team won their first ever KCAC Indoor Track Championship. The women's team finished in a hard fought fifth place and had their highest point total in school history. Ava did her part by running her fastest time ever in the relay, which took fourth place. They also broke the school record for the third

time this season. She also did her personal best in the 600.

Ava loves to run. Her twin, Lela, is fast too, but liked the field part of high school track rather than the track. I don't understand people who run for fun. I tell people I carry scissors all the time so I CAN'T run. But I admire anyone who can, and I'm astonished when I watch Ava run. She has a runner's build and she makes it all look so easy. I run out of breath just watching her!

She was also on the President's List for the first semester, so she's not just excelling at sports but academics, too. As I said, it's her time in the spotlight. I was the first one to hold her after she was born, so I've been cheering for her from the very beginning of her life. i can't wait to see what the future has for her. Best of all, she loves her grandma and tells me so often. That's the best prize of all!

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### The Rush County NEWS

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Official County Paper  
Official City Paper  
Published Weekly On Wednesdays

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OFFICE OF PUBLICATION  
The Rush County News, LLC - 809 Main St  
La Crosse, Rush County, Kansas 67548-0060  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT  
LA CROSSE, KANSAS 67548

  
**Kansas Press Association**  
—Member 2025—

Subscription Rates (per year)  
\$50.00 In Kansas  
\$60.00 Out Of Kansas  
\$1.00 Single Copy

POSTMASTER  
Send address changes to Rush County News  
P.O. Box 60 - La Crosse, KS 67548-0060

## Comments from CC



What do you mean Monday was a holiday? I don't care if the post office, banks and courthouse were closed. We were still working. After all, we had a newspaper to put out. And Presidents' Day? What is that supposed to mean. I've never seen a president visit the News, and we're pretty important. Why don't they have a holiday for me? I'm pretty important. They couldn't get the paper out without me. I can see it now - Carbon Copy Day!

Carbon Copy (CC) is a News office cat who has agreed to give us his opinion on things. He can be emailed at rcn@gbta.net.

## Barbed Wire Beacon

### You Must Receive Him

John 1:12-13 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Picking up where I left off last week writing about the power to become the sons of God through the Gospel, as our text verse talks about. This is important because many have been taught that Salvation comes through church works, but the Bible is clear, faith and repentance are through the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:21 "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" We can also see this in Romans 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." I know that for some it is hard to lay aside the religion or works that you have been taught, but when it comes to the things of God, let us not look to personal opinions, but to God's word. Psalm 19:7-8 "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." No

where in the Bible will you find to do sacraments to be saved or to earn eternal life. In 1 Corinthians 1:18 & 21 we see that preaching is the instrument God has chosen to give people the truth, but preaching does not save you, repentance and faith in the Gospel does, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." 21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." That is why the Apostle Paul goes on to say in verses 23-24 that we preach Christ crucified, "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." Paul also told us that the time would come, and it is upon us, when men would not endure the preaching of the cross, 2 Timothy 4:2-4 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." The truth is, we are in the time when people will believe the lies of Satan and reject the Truth of God!

**Pastor Daniel Lineberry, Independent Baptist, Fundamental, KJV**  
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