

# -City of Liebenthal Council Minutes-

The Council of the City of Liebenthal met in public hearing in the city building at 6:00 p.m. on December 8, 2025. Presiding was Mayor Darrell Warner; council members present were Barb Matal, Renee Legleiter, Bill Stark, Kathy Herrman, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, Clerk Beverly Stark, and Water/Wastewater and Maintenance Operator Kelly Koerner. There were no residents present.

The minutes of the meeting held November 10, 2025, were read. Bill Stark moved to approve the minutes as read, Barb Matal seconded, the vote was unanimous, motion passed.

There was no citizen commentary.

**Clerk's Announcements:** The franchise fees for the months of April through September 2025 were reimbursed to all residents with the cooperation of Western Cooperative Electric in the December invoices.

**Old Business:** Darrell Warner spoke with Karst Water Well Drilling and Service about the meter for Well #2 that has failed. Darrell said the meter cost and other requirements will exceed \$1400.00. Kelly Koerner mentioned that contracted water operator Kurt Book-out will be here for a meeting this week, and Kelly will discuss options with him. The meter for Well #2 has been out of commission for approximately a week.

**New Business:** Mayor Warner discussed pay for city clerks with several other communities in our area. The council agreed that the City Clerk wages would be increased to \$1000/month due to the increased hours necessary, and the position also encompasses the treasurer position.

A water tower drain was leaking and has been replaced. The mayor called Viking Industrial Painting (the company that holds the maintenance agreement) and will meet with them this week to further discuss this.

Bill Stark received a cost projection from Reuben Martin at Midwest Assistance Program for water costs vs. income for our system. He tried different rate increases to determine the best scenario for our city and presented his findings to the council. The council discussed this at length, finally determining the best course forward. Bill Stark moved to approve the motion to increase water rates to \$45.00 for water use from zero to 999 gallons, a fee of \$12 for each additional 1000 gallons. The rates for the sewer system were also discussed. Bill Stark moved to approve the new sewer rates at \$35.00 per month for residents and non-residents, the church and school; and \$40.00 for businesses, Renee Legleiter seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed. Both new water and sewer rates are final upon publication of ordinances and will be applied to February invoices. Rates will be reviewed once the new water meters are installed, and again each year after. It is worth noting that the last water rate increase was in 2015, the last for the sewer system in 2019.

**Utilities and Maintenance Updates:** Kelly Koerner has begun doing the chlorine testing and reported that the water is well chlorinated. The sewer pump station is also problem free. Rhonda Matal scheduled the Christmas decorations to be hung. Kelly will be the new contact for Western COOP Electric.

**Calendar / City Events:** No pending events.

**Approval and Payment of Bills:** Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to pay the bills as presented, Bill Stark seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion carried. The next meeting will be held January 12, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the city building. Renee Legleiter moved to adjourn the meeting, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner seconded, the vote was unanimous, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

# -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 December 10, 2025. Employees present were Vernon VanPelt, John Landers, Shelly DeWald, and Lori Firebaugh.

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

Lisa made a motion to approve the November 12, 2025, meeting minutes as corrected. Mike seconded, and the motion carried 4-0-1, with Luke abstaining.

Jody made a motion to approve the December 7, 2025, special meeting minutes as printed. Luke seconded, and the motion carried 4-0-1, with Lisa abstaining.

The bills for November were discussed. Lisa made a motion to approve the November bills. Tabbie seconded the motion. 5-0. Motion carried.

Vernon reviewed the water reports with the council and noted that RWD 3 has been using more water than normal. He also reported that representatives from KRWA recently visited to discuss several items and share their recommendations for improvements. In addition, he informed the council that the tires on the 1999 Chevy will need to be replaced soon, the sewer sprinkler will need to be replaced in the spring, and the tractor is due for servicing.

The treasurer's report was gone over.

**City Clerk Report:** Reminder of next year's Maguire payment schedule. New resolutions are ready to be published.

**Mayor's Report:** none.

**Correspondence:** Christmas and thank-you cards.

**Old Business:** Job description - Council discussed updating the City Maintenance Supervisor job duties and revising the duties of the part-time maintenance employee. Jody made a motion to amend the employee handbook to include updated job descriptions for Appendix D & E and removing Appendix F & G. Luke seconded. The motion carried 5-0. Mike left at 7:27 p.m.

Mike returned at 7:38 p.m.

**New Business:** Grant info - Our attorney is working on a resolution for grants and donations. Appropriations - The council discussed the remaining funds in the appropriation budget. Chicken and Turkey Permit - The council reviewed the returned responses regarding chicken and turkey permit applications. Four notices were sent to properties within 200 feet of the applicant's property, and all four responses indicated they did not approve the permits. Tabbie made a motion to deny the permit request for chickens and turkeys based on the responses from neighboring properties. Mike seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. Adam's Brown engagement letter - Luke made a motion to approve the engagement letter from Adams Brown for the upcoming audit. Jody seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. Sand for the streets - Luke made a motion to purchase sand from the vendor offering the lowest quote per load that works best for us. Lisa seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. 1999 Chevy - Luke made a motion to approve the purchase of new tires for the 1999 Chevy pickup from United Ag. Jody seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. Park bathrooms - A flyer regarding container bathrooms was distributed and discussed by the council.

At 8:25 p.m., Luke made the motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 15 minutes. Mike seconded the motion. 5-0. Motion carried. The council returned to regular session at 8:37 p.m. No action was taken.

Jody made a motion to provide all employees and the mayor with a Christmas bonus and for performance evaluation raises, to take effect on the February 1st payroll. Luke seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

At 8:50 p.m., Jody made a motion to enter executive session for five minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Luke seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. The council returned to regular session at 8:55 p.m. No action was taken.

The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Room. Jody moved to adjourn. Luke seconded. 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

# MCCRACKEN NEWS

by Carolyn and Shirley

**Birthdays:** January 21-Don Schuckman; January 22-Marty Mills, Blake Hornung; January 23-Jessica Shapiro; January 24-Paula North, Fr. Matthew Kumi; January 25-Dana Irvin, Arlene Gilbert, Marlene Funk, Tom McCormick, Paulette Harp, Lennox Albers, Will Rues; January 26-Teresa Wetzel, Jerilyn Stull, Nick Moran, Breonna Showalter; January 27-Bryce Strickland, Martin Higgins.

**Anniversaries:** January 24- Neal and Amy Jacobs.

**Congratulations** to the local Denver Bronco fans. The Broncos will be playing the New England Patriots at home for the AFC Championship on Sunday. Ticket prices are hovering around \$550.

**Final reminder** for the American Legion fish fry this Saturday beginning at 5:30. Support the Legion!

### History Notes

1949: Born to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Irvin, a boy, Dennis Willard on February 23. City elections were held on Tuesday. George Meyer was elected city commissioner. He joins Gerald Anderson and Sylvester Scheideman. Claude Stephens is the out-going commissioner. Twila Jacobs and Wilfrid Higgins were married on March 29. The high school students gave them a chivaree Tuesday evening. McCracken High School has three new typewriters and a new adding machine for business practice classes. Mrs. Joe Warta, Sr. has sold the pool hall to Jack and Dewey Wheeler. Scholarship students who attended the R.E.N. league contest sponsored by Emporia State Teachers College were: LuAnne Scheideman, Gladys Thompson, Catherine Cain, Dixie McMullen, Patricia Walker, Richard Buxton, Wayne Irvin, Wendell Hinman, Robert Thompson, Floyd Thompson, Lynette Pearson, Elaine Pfannenstiel and William Spomer, Jr. Harlon Anderson was elected Sunday School superintendent at the EUB Church. Jobe Swisher and Fay Jennings were chosen trustees. Elsie Showalter, Amelia Start, Kate Marak, Mae Schutte, Grace Colvin and Cynthia Hayes attended the Diamond Jubilee at La Crosse.

### News from Pat Petz

This was definitely a different week! Tuesday was spent preparing for a doctor's appointment, so I was on a liquid diet. That was definitely not too exciting. I had to have someone drive me to and from the testing on Wednesday. Thank goodness my cousins, Debbie and Maurice Haas were willing to help me out.

I was able to sub on Friday. I worked with students in math and social studies along with some study skills. These classes have definitely changed a lot since I was in school.

After school, I visited with Mom for awhile and then headed to Hays. My daughter Angie and her friend Chrstie were celebrating their birthdays at Rock Haven and were planning to eat supper at Guitierrez's later that evening. They asked me to join them and, of course, I had to accept their invitation. We had a nice visit, but we were totally surprised when we were ready to leave. It was snowing! The visibility driving home was very difficult. I only traveled about 40 mph most of the way.

Drake, my grandson from McPherson, was playing against Circle (Wichita) Saturday afternoon, so I decided to take advantage of the nice weather and watch the games. The Junior Varsity McPherson Bullpups won the game, with Drake having made 11 points out of 55. Because of the large score difference on the Varsity team, Drake also got to play some of that game as well.

Sunday morning, I attended Mass at St. Joseph's Church and then afterwards, by a special request from Angie, I found myself making tomato noodles. A double batch takes about two hours to prepare. So, I was busy, while the rest of the family attended the services at Celebration Church. These noodles were a recipe handed down from my mother-in-law, Dolores. Definitely a hit by everyone except Trent. Angie had to make something else for him.

Later in the afternoon, I made a quick stop at Walmart in Great Bend, then visited with Mom a short while and then made it to the farm. I definitely was glad to see this weekend end!

### THE RUSH COUNTY NEWS

#### Letter To The Editor Policy

The Rush County News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters MUST be signed and must include the writer's address and phone number where the writer may be reached during office hours. Letters are verified prior to publication.

Letters may also be brought to the News and presented in person. Letters should be typed and should be as short as possible to make a point and retain reader interest.

The editor reserves the right to condense and edit. Publication is never guaranteed.



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The Rush County NEWS

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## --NOTICE--

CITY OF LA CROSSE

### DOG AND CAT LICENSES

Deadline For Securing Dog And Cat

Licenses Is January 30, 2026.

Proof Of Rabies Vaccination Is Required.

A Penalty Will Be Added After That Date.

Licenses May Be Secured At The City Office.

1119 Main, La Crosse, Kansas

## Rush Co. Conservation District Annual Meeting

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Township Hall - Rush Center

• MEAL - 6:30 P.M.

• MEETING and AWARDS PROGRAM

• ELECTION of TWO SUPERVISORS

Please Make Reservations By January 30

Phone: 785-222-2615 Ext. 3 or

Email: stephanie.royer@ks.nacdnet.net

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