MINUTES
City of Peculiar
Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers – 250 S Main St
Monday, April 6, 2026
6:30 p.m.

APPROVED

1. **Call to Order**

   Mayor Shatto called the regularly scheduled Board of Aldermen meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

   All who were in attendance joined Mayor Shatto in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call**

   The following Aldermen responded to roll call:
   Alderman Ehrhardt
   Alderman Gallagher
   Alderwoman Grunwald - Absent
   Alderman Jarrett
   Alderman Poland
   Alderman Wells

   City Staff present for meeting:
   City Administrator, Don Shepard
   Public Works Director, Jill Bruss
   Development Director, Dylan Eppert
   Finance Director, Alexa Williams
   Parks and Recreation Director, Jason Long
   Deputy City Clerk, Cama Suess
   Police Lieutenant, Phillip Grabmiller

4. **Donation Presentation**

   Bob Schmidt of Rymeg Inc. stated that fourteen years prior he and Mike Shiroka, General Manager of Aaron's Family Fun Center decided to host a fundraiser to give back to the community focusing on veterans and first responders. He stated over the years the model grew and small businesses in the areas began supporting the fundraiser growing it into what it has become today. He stated that previous recipients

included the Belton Police Department, Raymore Police Department and the Veterans Community Project which builds tiny home communities for Veterans. Mr. Schmidt stated that on March 7, 2026 a fundraising event was held that raised $55,000 for the Peculiar Police Department, and presented a check to the City in that amount.

5. Officer Recognition

Chief Shepard recognized Officer Nims as the 2025 Officer of the Year. He stated Officer Nims had been a member of the Peculiar Police Department for over four years and had stepped forward as a leader in the department exemplifying the core values of excellence, professionalism, integrity and service. He stated that during 2025 Officer Nims delivered over 175 hours of in-service firearms training to the department enhancing their skills and readiness as well as stepping into the role of Field Training Officer to mentor and guide new officers. Chief Shepard stated Officer Nims had consistently looked for more training opportunities to improve himself and volunteer for assignments. He stated that in the words of his sergeant, Officer Nims has proven himself to be a vital asset to the department, a sentiment which Chief Shepard agreed with.

Chief Shepard recognized Officer Lowrey for a commendation ribbon stating that on June 22, 2025 Officer Lowrey was dispatched to a hit and run collision in the area of Harr Grove and State Route J. He stated that a citizen's vehicle had been parked in the road overnight and was struck with such force that it was pushed off the road. He stated that Officer Lowrey had found serialized parts left at the scene and identified the make and approximate year of the vehicle, as well as canvasing the area and finding surveillance footage of the collision, advancing the investigation. Chief Shepard stated that Officer Lowrey had then located a key witness who identified the suspect by name and reported the location of the vehicle which was hidden in an auto body shop awaiting repairs. He stated that Officer Lowrey then obtained a confession from the suspect bringing conclusion and justice to the citizen and the community at large. Chief Shepard stated Officer Lowrey's dedication to resolution demonstrated the department's core value of excellence.

Chief Shepard recognized Officer Burner for a commendation ribbon stating that on February 22, 2026 Officer Burner attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding 115 mph on I-49. Chief Shepard stated the vehicle fled, and Officer Burner followed policy and did not pursue the vehicle. He stated that the Cass County Sheriff's Department also located and attempted to stop the vehicle but lost sight of it after a short pursuit. Chief Shepard stated that after further investigation Officer Burner was able to identify several of the people who were occupants of the vehicle at the time of those pursuits. He stated that after differing stories about who had been driving the vehicle, Officer Burner was able to identify the correct driver, who came to the Police Department voluntarily and confessed five days later. Chief Shepard stated there would have been a very low probability of solving this case without the determined investigation by Officer Burner, which had instead resulted in felony charges against the driver. Chief Shepard stated Officer Burner's dedication to resolution demonstrated the department's core value of excellence.

Mayor Shatto thanked the Officers for their excellent service to the City.

6. **Agenda Approval**

Chief Shepard stated Staff would like to add Resolution 2026-20 to the agenda regarding the resignation of an Alderman. Alderman Wells motioned to approve the

agenda with the addition of Resolution 2026-20. Seconded by Alderman Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

7. **Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of Draft Minutes for March 16, 2026 BOA Meeting

Alderman Ehrhardt motioned to approve the Draft Minutes of the March 16, 2025 BOA Meeting. Seconded by Alderman Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

8. Topic of Discussion

A. Water Tower Painting

Chief Shepard stated it had been previously brought up by Alderman Gallagher that the decommissioned 3-legged water tower in town had become the official symbol of the town and was in need of new paint if it was to remain in good condition. He stated he had looked into rough estimates ranging from $60,000 -120,000 to paint it a single color.

Chief Shepard stated an idea had been presented to Staff to paint the tower using an American Flag theme and make the tower more eye-catching and a photo destination and draw for people to the City. He stated that painting the tower several colors and adding stars would add expense to the project and an idea had been floated to give people an opportunity to sponsor a star on the tower, and to have a stone at the bottom of the tower showing which star each person had sponsored, with an estimated sponsorship cost of $1,000 per star raising $50,000 toward the cost of repainting the tower.

Alderman Ehrhardt stated he thought it was an excellent idea. Alderman Wells agreed and felt it would improve the Broadway district. Alderman Jarrett asked where the additional funding would come from after the donations and Chief Shepard stated it would be budgeted into the 2027 budget cycle. Alderman Poland asked if pricing would be considered for both the plain white and the flag design and Chief Shepard stated he would proceed in the direction the Board desired. Chief Shepard the next step would be to get some rough estimates, and then put the project out for RFP.

Mayor Shatto stated he felt it was a great idea, and that if the idea of the permanent lighting that had been discussed last year was also added, it would be a year round attraction for the City. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the estimates.

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. New Business

A. Resolution 2026-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN APPROVING CERTAIN EXPENDITURES AND AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 OPERATING BUDGET.

APPROVED

Chief Shepard stated a donation was received from the fundraising gala of $55,000 and a budget amendment was required to add those funds to the budget. He stated one Chevy Tahoe was purchased this fiscal year as part of the vehicle replacement program with a Missouri Blue Shield grant paying for that purchase, and available CIP funds used for upfitting that vehicle. He stated the fundraising funds would allow for the purchase of a 2nd vehicle, with available CIP funds used for upfitting. He stated this would allow 2 vehicles to be added to the Police Department fleet this year, and allow 2 older maintenance heavy vehicles to be disposed of, while also freeing up CIP funds in the coming fiscal year. He stated this amendment would be budget neutral and Staff recommended approval.

Alderman Wells motioned to approve Resolution 2026-17. Seconded by Alderman Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Resolution 2026–18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF PECULIAR, MISSOURI, APPROVING THE DISPOSAL OF CITY-OWNED VEHICLES AND AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 OPERATING BUDGET.

Chief Shepard stated City Code required all City property with a value over $500 to be sold by formal written bid or public auction. He stated that in the past the City had used the public auction site of GovDeals to do so, and that process had worked well for the City. Chief Shepard stated City Code 115.330 allows the City Administrator to dispose of City Property only by Board approved Ordinance or Resolution.

Chief Shepard stated a 2017 Ford Explorer Limited that was originally purchased in 2017 for the City Administrator and had then been shifted to the Police Department and driven by both the current and former Police Chief now had over 100,000 miles on it and would not be cost effective to maintain and insure. He stated a replacement vehicle had been purchased in 2025 and had been in operation since October 2026. He stated Staff was recommending the vehicle be sold and the proceeds be added to the 2026 CIP and used to upfit the new vehicle being purchased with the funds from the gala.

Chief Shepard stated the City also owned two 2019 Ford Explorer Police vehicles that were purchased with governmental funds. He stated policy allowed the oldest vehicles in the Police fleet to be used by the SRO's. He stated that with the purchase of 2 new police vehicles, the 2021 Ford Explorers currently in use would be shifted over to the SRO's and there would no longer be a need for the 2019 Explorers in the fleet. He stated both of the 2019 vehicles were maintenance heavy and it would not be cost effective to keep them once the 2021 models were shifted over.

Chief Shepard stated it was Staff's recommendation that the two 2019 Ford Explorer Police Vehicles be donated to the Harrisonville School District's for use by the Cass Career Center's Law Enforcement Program. He stated the program was an excellent vocational program for high school juniors and seniors who had an interest in law enforcement that helped bridge the gap between the time students graduated at age 18 and could begin law enforcement academy training at age 21. Chief Shepard stated that most law enforcement agencies in Cass County had graduates of this program on their police forces as well as other agencies in the Kansas City Metro area and it was a valuable pipeline for these officer candidates.

Chandra Kelly of the Cass Career Center's Law Enforcement Program stated she had been teaching for the last 10 years and the programs graduates were filling law

APPROVED

enforcement positions in multiple departments. She invited the Board to come down and see the program any time. She stated it was a 2 year academy where the students spent 1,022 hours of criminal justice experience. She stated the school was currently using 2 Crown Victoria's as their police vehicles and that one of them had gone completely down last year. She stated it was impossible to train students how to pull over cars and do real world field experience at a desk and that having actual patrol cars was invaluable to the program.

Chief Shepard stated for all intents and purposes this program was like a police academy. He stated that recruits received from this program were miles ahead of other recruits when they start employment with a Police Department.

Alderman Gallagher asked what would be done with the vehicles if donated. Mrs. Kelly stated vehicle stops, pull overs, and arrest techniques would be taught using the vehicles so they become second nature for the students. She stated the vehicles were used on school property with the exception of trunk or treat in Harrisonville.

Alderman Ehrhardt stated these recruits were getting an additional 2 years of training over the 6 month police academy by completing this program. Chief Shepard stated one of the biggest hurdles for new recruits was passing the background check due to the bad decisions made during the time between high school graduation and police academy start age. He stated this program helped to solve that issue by keeping the kids engaged during those years and allowing them to participate in an internship program where students help out in dispatch and the courts and jails as well.

Alderman Wells stated he felt this was a great opportunity and an honor to help this program.

Chief Shepard stated that by donating the cars the only thing needing to be removed from the vehicles would be the police radios as the rest of the equipment was either inoperational or obsolete saving the City money due to not having to have the cars stripped. He stated the benefit of donating the cars to this program would outweigh any revenue generated by selling these vehicles.

Alderman Wells motioned to approve Resolution 2026-18. Seconded by Alderman Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

C. Resolution 2026-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF PECULIAR, MISSOURI, APPROVING A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE BELTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR JAIL SERVICES AND INMATE HOUSING.

Chief Shepard stated the City had a contract with the Belton Police Department for jail services that was due to expire May 16, 2026. He stated there was no change to the cost or the contract and the City recommended approval.

Alderman Gallagher stated in previous years the City contracted with local restaurants for inmate food and asked if Belton did the same. Chief Shepard stated that previously Belton had used Belton Research Hospital for food service but he was unsure of who was preparing the inmate food at this time. Chief Shepard stated the Belton Police Department was directed by their Board to contract for cost effective food services.

APPROVED

Alderman Wells motioned to approve Resolution 2026-19. Seconded by Alderman Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

D. Resolution 2026-20 (added during Agenda Approval)

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF PECULIAR, MISSOURI, ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF ALDERWOMAN STEFANIE GRUNWALD FROM THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Chief Shepard stated this Resolution was to accept the resignation of Stefanie Grunwald from the Board, and there was no Staff recommendation.

Mayor Shatto stated the Board wished Mrs. Grunwald well and thanked her for her service to the City.

Alderman Wells motioned to approve Resolution 2026-20. Seconded by Alderman Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

11. City Administrator Report

Chief Shepard stated the sewer line point repairs and the sewer line sleeving project were almost complete. He stated the materials for the Hurley Street low water crossing should be arriving later in the week and repairs should begin in the next couple of weeks. Chief Shepard and Mr. Long stated the sidewalk to the ADA Playground, repairs to the boat ramp, and the fire rings were being installed at City Lake.

12. Board of Aldermen/Mayor Reports and Comments

Mayor Shatto gave a letter of appreciation to Alderman Poland for his time and service to the City. Alderman Poland thanked each of the City Staff and the Board for their work and service to the City and stated he felt the City was on a good track moving forward.

Alderman Jarrett asked when the donation of the two police cars to the academy was scheduled to happen. Chief Shepard stated as soon as the two new police cars were in service, approximately June or July.

Alderman Wells issued a reminder that Election Day was the following day and encouraged all citizens to exercise their right to vote.

13. Aldermen Directives

Agenda	Approved
Draft Minutes, March 16, 2026	Approved
Resolution 2026-17	Approved
Resolution 2026-18	Approved
Resolution 2026-19	Approved
Resolution 2026-20	Approved

14. Closed Session per RSMo. 610.021

APPROVED

Subsection 1 - Litigation
Subsection 2 - Real Estate
Subsection 3 - Personnel

Alderman Wells motioned to move into Closed Session for Subsection 1 - Litigation, Subsection 2, Real Estate and Subsection 3, Personnel at 7:14pm. Seconded by Alderman Jarrett. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Attendance in Closed Session:

Roll Call:

Alderman Ehrhart	PRESENT
Alderman Gallagher	PRESENT
Alderman Jarrett	PRESENT
Alderman Poland	PRESENT
Alderman Wells	PRESENT

Discussion ensued regarding Subsection 1 - Litigation and Subsection 2 - Real Estate.

After discussion on Subsection 1 - Litigation and Subsection 2 - Real Estate - all City Staff with the exception of Deputy City Clerk Suess left the closed session at 8:09pm.

Discussion ensued regarding Subsection 3 - Personnel.

Alderman Wells motioned to leave Closed Session at 8:32pm. Seconded by Alderman Ehrhardt.

Roll Call:

Alderman Ehrhart	AYE
Alderman Gallagher	AYE
Alderman Jarrett	AYE
Alderman Poland	AYE
Alderman Wells	AYE

Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

15. Adjourn

Alderman Wells motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alderman Ehrhardt. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mayor Shatto adjourned the meeting at 8:34pm.

APPROVED