City of Blair Regular Council Meeting
November 10, 2026

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session in the City Council Chambers on November 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM. The following were present: Gary Banner, Brent Clark, Kirk Highfill, James Letcher, Kent Long, Frank Wolff, Kevin Willis. Absent: Rick Paulsen. Also present were Deputy City Administrator Barrow, Deputy City Administrator Heaton, Deputy City Administrator Scott, City Attorney Talbot, Library Director Lukert, Planning and Zoning Director McFarland, IT Director White, Public Safety & Communications Coordinator Dunn, and Police Chief Kinsey.

The mayor publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Washington County Enterprise as shown by the affidavit of publication filed in the City Clerk's office. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to the mayor and all members of the City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is filed in the City Clerk's office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Agenda Item #1, #2 & #3 – Mayor Rump called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item #4 – Consent agenda approved the following: 4a) Approval of Minutes of the October 27, 2026, meeting. 4b) Clerk report of Mayoral Action of the October 27, 2026, meeting, 4c) City Department reports for October 2026, 4d) Claims as approved by the Finance Committee. Motion by James Letcher, second by Kevin Willis to approve the Consent Agenda. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea, Kevin Willis. Absent: Rick Paulsen. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #5 – Deputy City Administrator Barrow stated that Downtown business owners had asked about their responsibilities regarding the maintenance of city right of way. In reviewing the Municipal Code, staff found nothing clearly written in the code. The City Council recognized the historic downtown district in 2003. Its footprint is bordered by Front Street, Lincoln Street, 19th Street, and 15th Street, and includes all right-of-way on Highway 30 and Washington Street. Within the district the city will maintain vehicle travel surfaces, city-controlled curbside parking, and improved parking within city-controlled right-of-way available for public use. It will not maintain private parking lots or spaces claimed within the right-of-way, existing sidewalk snow, and ice removal duties, the NDOT agreement on Highway 30 maintenance, the city's ability to enter shared maintenance agreements, and the city's lawful authority to regulate public parking downtown will not change. There is no expansion of city maintenance responsibility inside or outside of the footprint. Betsy Anderson, 1235 Pinewood Drive, who noted leaf debris, dust, and dirt blowing from trucks on Washington Street sidewalks. She called this a gray area, since neither merchants nor the city is responsible and suggested merchants periodically sweep the sidewalks in front of their buildings, as they do snow and ice removal, to keep the sidewalks presentable and help business. The Transportation Committee reported that it met and agreed this was a procedural item that removes any gray area. Council member Clark introduced Ordinance 2631 amending Chapter 10, Article 24 of the Blair Municipal Code by adding Section 10-2414 to establish maintenance, repair, upkeep and snow and ice removal responsibilities of designated

components of the city-controlled public right of way within the Downtown Business District.

Council member Brent Clark moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Council member Frank Wolff seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote the following Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea, Kevin Willis. Absent: Rick Paulsen. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said Ordinance.

Said Ordinance was then read by title and thereafter Council member Brent Clark moved for final passage of the Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Council member Frank Wolff. The Mayor then stated the question was "Shall Ordinance No. 2631 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea. Absent: Rick Paulsen. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. The passage of said Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the Ordinance adopted. A true, correct, and complete copy of said Ordinance can be found in the Ordinance Record Book.

Agenda Item #6 – City Attorney Talbot stated the proposed resolution authorizes foreclosure on lots in Northern View Phase 2 whose special assessments have been delinquent for more than 3 years and. Talbot stated the foreclosure is the only method of collecting delinquent assessments. The city is paying the bonds and interest on these assessments while receiving no income from them. Motion by Frank Wolff, second by James Letcher to adopt Resolution No. 2026-116 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea. Absent: Rick Paulsen. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #7 – Mayor Rump asked for reports from the Deputy City Administrators. Deputy City Administrator Heaton reminded the council that Tannenbaum is a week from Thursday. He announced that the city received Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Affiliate Excellence Awards recognizing the community arboretum for plant collection diversity, maintenance practices, and community engagement. Betsy Anderson was also recognized personally for all the work she provides for the city. Signs will be placed in Steyer Park and Black Elk Park. Betsy Anderson, 1235 Pinewood Drive, said City Arborist Kyle Sheets nominated her, and they accepted the award in Lincoln the previous Friday. Blair has long been part of the statewide Arboretum. The state cited 150 acres of plantings across Ralph Steyer Park, Black Elk Neihardt Park, Rhoades Park, Veterans Tribute Plaza, and the grounds of Arbor Park School and the former Dana Village campus. Anderson credited Ralph Steyer's earlier work and thanked the Park Department and council for supporting its financial requests. The mayor congratulated her.

Agenda Item #8 – Council member Kevin Willis moved to recess at 7:16 p.m. for an Executive Session stating the closed session is needed for the protection of the public interest for the following: 1) Possible Litigation involving the City of Blair and 2) To preserve the attorney-client privilege. No action to be taken. Motion was seconded by James Letcher. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea. Absent: Rick Paulsen. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried and stated the Executive Session will be limited to discussion regarding possible litigation involving

the City of Blair and to preserve the attorney-client privilege. Council member Kevin Willis moved to come out of Executive Session and reconvened as a City Council at 7:25 p.m. which motion was seconded by Council member James Letcher. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea. Absent: Rick Paulsen. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #9 – Motion by Gary Banner, second by Kent Long to adjourn the meeting 7:25 p.m. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea. Absent: Rick Paulsen. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

The following claims were approved: Curt Scott Arbor Group, LB840, 33,000.00; Henton Worx, LLC, LB840, 100,000; Assethr, Pyrl, 264502.24; Principal Financial Group, Pen, 14809.38; Principal Financial Group, Pen, 16583.29; Principal Financial Group, Pen, 14565.64; Assethr, Pyrl, 1750.00; Point C, Ins, 1760.45; Washington County Chamber, Svc, 60000.00; Edward Jones, Pen, 44000.00; Abe's Trash Service Inc, Svc, 252.62; Acco, Inv, 4370.62; Adams & Sullivan Pc Llo, Svc, 1975.00; Advanced Applications, Inv, 400.00; Air Products & Chemicals, Inv, 5937.38; Alex Meyer, Inv, 130000.00; Amazon Sales Inc, Inv, 3932.87; American Underground Supply, Inv, 6909.23; Arps Red-E-Mix Inc, Svc, 480.50; Automatic Systems Co, Svc, 16222.84; Axon Enterprises Inc, Inv, 6589.76; Bi-State Motor Parts, Inv, 1207.85; Blair Ace Hardware, Inv, 537.32; Blalock, Kayli, Inv, 14.50; Blue Cross & Blue Shield Of Ne, Ins, 136880.13; Bs&A Software Llc, Inv, 300.00; Calvin Poulsen, Svc, 2665.00; Cappel Auto Supply Inc (Napa), Inv, 32.08; Carquest Auto Parts, Inv, 412.93; Cdw Government Inc, Inv, 2134.08; Chris Olson, Svc, 500.00; Cintas Corporation, Svc, 5383.82; Cline Williams, Svc, 1400.00; Core & Main Lp, Inv, 4200.00; Country Inn & Suites By Radisson, Inv, 274.94; Country Tire Inc, Svc, 2198.92; Crane Tech Usa Inc, Inv, 1472.86; Deborah Wood, Svc, 400.00; Demco Inc, Inv, 814.46; Dh Pace Co, Inv, 1670.80; Dick's Electric Co, Svc, 24488.31; Ditch Witch Undercon, Inv, 596.66; Dws Llc, Inv, 1300.00; Eakes Office Plus, Inv, 1765.56; Ecolab, Inv, 65126.34; Ehrhart Griffin & Associates, Inv, 3219.00; Era, Inv, 686.80; Fairway Oil Co, Inv, 254.20; Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Inv, 25316.94; First Wireless Inc, Inv, 1440.00; Firstnet At&T Mobility, Inv, 237.45; Grainger, Inv, 542.88; Great Plains Communications, Inv, 4732.86; Gt Distributors Inc, Inv, 8667.95; Hach Co, Inv, 2448.79; Hotsy Equipment Co, Inv, 471.28; Ingersoll Rand Company, Inv, 1070.25; Ingram Industries Inc, Inv, 10544.17; Jackson Services, Svc, 607.68; Jeo Consulting Group Inc, Svc, 12369.75; Jeredith Brands Llc, Inv, 3019.00; Jeremy Kinsey, Reimb, 153.59; Jerry's Transmission Service, Svc, 793.81; Jetter's Plumbing Inc, Svc, 219.61; Kb Industries Inc, Inv, 67.73; Law Enforcement Drone Association, Inv, 99.00; Leads Online, Inv, 3230.00; Library Ideas, Inv, 327.36; Long's Ok Tire Stores, Svc, 453.90; Macqueen Equipment, Inv, 3295.07; Metonic Real Estate Solutions, Inv, 283651.89; Midland Scientific Inc, Inv, 390.25; Midwest Laboratories Inc, Svc, 878.58; Midwest Mudjacking Inc, Svc, 953.76; Mindy Rump, Reimb, 239.82; Mississippi Lime Co Llc, Inv, 33423.21; National Hydro Excavation Services Inc, Inv, 1267.84; National Sign Company Llc, Inv, 517.50; Ndwee - Licenses, Inv, 315.00; Nebraska Dept Of Transportation, Inv, 61331.19; Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inv, 150.00; Nebraska Turf Products Inc, Inv, 618.09; Ninjaone Llc, Inv, 9603.60; Nippon Sanso Matheson Inc, Inv, 157.50; O'reilly Automotive Stores Inc, Inv, 82.60; Olsson Associates, Svc, 4046.81; One Call Concepts Inc, Svc, 185.46; One Source, Svc, 48.00; Onsite Services Solutions Llc, Inv, 595.00; Oppd, Inv, 126597.49; Pioneer Cleaning Llc, Svc, 600.00; Pounds Printing Inc, Inv, 220.00; Quady, Jessica, Reimb, 70.76; Relx Inc, Inv, 326.00; S & S Pumping Service Llc, Svc, 29215.00; S.E. Smith & Sons, Inv, 74.61; Sapp Bros Petroleum Inc, Svc, 5449.53; Seh Inc, Inv, 17743.14; Smitty's Auto Service, Inv, 730.29; Stahlnecker Bieker, Kimberly, Svc, 360.00; Summit Fire Protection Co, Inv, 594.00; Superior Green Inc, Svc, 11175.12; Swenson, Scott T., Inv, 918.77; Thermal Heating Air & Plumbing, Inv, 606.21; Thibault

Suhr & Thibault Inc, Inv, 450.55; Trekk Design Group, Inv, 6819.50; Univar Solutions Usa, Inv, 52385.15; Verizon 883740345-00001, Inv, 796.08; Vessco Inc, Inv, 35687.14; Wakefield Towing And Recovery, Svc, 1000.00; Warren Services Inc, Inv, 110.00; Washington County Enterprise, Inv, 213.91; Weslty Prettyman, Inv, 6800.00; Western Oil Ii Llc, Svc, 10547.85; Woods & Aitken Llp, Svc, 32678.35; Nippon Sanso Matheson Inc, Inv, 886.87; Zoll Medical Corp, Inv, 3158.00.

_____

Melinda K. Rump, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Brenda Wheeler, City Clerk

Seal