

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting
June 9, 2026

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session in the City Council Chambers on June 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM. The following were present: Mayor Rump, Gary Banner, Kirk Highfill, James Letcher, Kent Long, Rick Paulsen, Kevin Willis, and Frank Wolff. Absent: Brent Clark. Also present were City Administrator Green, Deputy City Administrator Barrow, Deputy City Administrator Heaton, Deputy City Administrator Scott, City Attorney Talbot, Library Director Lukert, 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 May 26, 2026, meeting, 4b) Clerk's report of the Mayoral Action meeting, 4c) City Department reports for May 2026 and 4d) Claims as recommended 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: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #5 – Sergeant Josh Hathaway of the Blair Police Department, serving as drone team coordinator, presented a request to use \$35,241.08 from public safety bond funds to modernize the department's drone program. The purchase includes two indoor tactical drones (\$4,000 total for both as a complete kit) used for SWAT deployments with the Washington County joint team, two outdoor weather-rated drones (\$27,000 total for both including thermal and IR capability, 4K cameras, accessories, and warranty), approximately \$1,000 in support equipment including extra batteries, and a \$2,500 replacement laptop for mapping and 3D mapping tasks, replacing an outdated computer. The outdoor drones can operate in winds up to 35 mph and include a drop system capable of delivering water, cell phones, or inflatable life vests for river rescue. The drones are also thermal and can be used at night. Existing drones will not be retired but will remain in service. The purchase will be drawn from the public safety bond, which has \$240,000 remaining. The Police and Fire Committee reviewed and supported the proposal. Council member Highfill introduced Resolution 2026-068 Resolution 2026-068 approving the use of Public Safety Bond Funds in the amount of \$35,241.08 for the purchase of drone equipment. Motion by Kirk Highfill, second by Rick Paulsen to adopt Resolution No. 2026-068 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #6 – Sergeant Hathaway also presented the firearms replacement request, totaling \$17,229.70 from public safety bond funds. The department's current patrol shotguns and rifles were purchased in 2010 or 2011 and have seen thousands of rounds, well past their replacement date. The purchase includes replacement patrol rifles, patrol shotguns, and additional pistols to accommodate personnel growth. Old weapons will be traded in to GT Distributors. Additional pistols will serve as backup in case of malfunction. The Police and Fire Committee noted that a private contact in arms sales could not beat the price offered by GT Distributors. The Police and Fire Committee reviewed and supported the proposal. Council member Paulsen introduced Resolution 2026-069 approving the use of Public Safety Bond Funds to purchase replacements for the department's patrol rifles, patrol shotguns, and pistols. Motion by Rick Paulsen, second by Kent Long to adopt Resolution No. 2026-069 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #7 – City Administrator Green recommended indefinitely postponing Resolution 2026-070, which would have approved a professional services agreement with Olson Associates for the city's comprehensive plan. Two key reasons were cited: the Community Development Director announced retirement, and Mr. Green himself announced his resignation, effective at the end of August 2026. These two positions are the most critical for managing the comprehensive plan process. Negotiations with the engineering firm are still ongoing, with the proposed cost described as substantially high. Motion by James Letcher, second by Kevin Willis to indefinitely postpone Resolution No. 2026-070 until a new City Administrator and Community Development Director are in place to restart negotiations and bring a new recommendation forward. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #8 – City Administrator Green explained that the Elk Ridge Subdivision had a prior paving district created under Ordinance 2502 tied to a previous developer who never moved forward with payment, stalling the project for several years. A new landowner has since entered a developer's agreement and is ready to proceed. However, the original paving district referenced Replat 1, which did not include all street right-of-way. Two re-plats have occurred: Replat 1 changed the physical layout of lots, and Replat 2 added the missing street right-of-way. The proposed ordinance will repeal Ordinance 2502 and also revoke Resolution 2023-11, which had approved the previous developer's agreement with the prior landowner. The Finance Committee supported the action. Council member Banner introduced Ordinance 2617 repealing Ordinance 2502 to allow for the creation of Paving District No. 205 under Ordinance 2618 with a new legal description for Elk Ridge Subdivision.

REPEALING ORDINANCE 2502 THAT CREATED PAVING DISTRICT NO. 205 – ELK RIDGE SUBDIVISION REPLAT 1 IN THE CITY OF BLAIR, WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA, WHICH DISTRICT LEGAL DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN REPLATTED AND A NEW LEGAL DESCRIPTION DEVELOPED MAKING ORDINANCE 2502 NULL AND VOID; REPEALING RESOLUTION 2023-11 THAT APPROVED A DEVELOPER’S AGREEMENT FOR ELK RIDGE SUBDIVISION REPLAT 2 WITH A PREVIOUS DEVELOPER; PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AND ORDERING PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Council member Gary Banner 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: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. 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. Council member Gary Banner moved for final passage of the ordinance, as amended, and Council member Frank Wolff seconded the motion. The Mayor then asked, "Shall Ordinance No. 2617 be passed and adopted as amended?" Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. 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 the ordinance, as amended, is on file in the Ordinance Record Book.

Agenda Item #9 – City Administrator Green stated that following the repeal under Ordinance 2617, this ordinance will create a new paving district 205 for Elk Ridge Subdivision referencing Replat 2. The district covers grading, paving, curbing, guttering, and storm sewer improvements. Streets that are included are Riverview/Garfield Street running north-south and west and east Garfield Circles. Special assessments will be levied in proportion to benefits to property within the district. The only substantive change from the previous ordinance was updating the legal description to reference Replat 2. The Finance Committee supported the action. Council member Wolff introduced Ordinance 2618 creating Paving District 205 to include grading, paving, curbing, guttering, and storm sewer for Elk Ridge Subdivision.

AN ORDINANCE CREATING PAVING DISTRICT NO. 205 IN THE CITY OF BLAIR, WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA, DESCRIBING SAID STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREIN FOR ELK RIDGE SUBDIVISION, AND PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS MAY BE LEVIED IN PROPORTION TO BENEFITS TO THE PROPERTY IN SAID DISTRICT; WHICH ORDINANCE REPLACES ORDINANCE 2502 THAT WAS REPEALED BY ORDINANCE 2517; PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AND ORDERING PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Council member Frank Wolff moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Council member James Letcher seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote the following Council members voted: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. 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. Council member Frank Wolff moved for final passage of the ordinance, as amended, and Council member James Letcher seconded the motion. The Mayor then asked, "Shall Ordinance No. 2618 be passed and adopted as amended?" Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. 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 the ordinance, as amended, is on file in the Ordinance Record Book.

Agenda Item #10 – Deputy City Administrator Heaton this Resolution had been postponed from the May 12 meeting. Heaton had presented a traffic study conducted in April showing increased speeds in the area between 12th and 13th Streets on Park Street, with at least one recorded speed of approximately 45 mph. The stop sign location at 12th and Park was determined after staff discussion, council input, and consultation with school board members. The action was citizen-initiated, prompted by concerns about children's safety near a school. Joseph Lager, 209 Riverview Drive, questioned why Park Street was prioritized over Adams, Nebraska, or State Streets. Staff clarified this was in response to a specific citizen request backed by traffic data. Staff acknowledged other streets could be reviewed in the future. The Transportation Committee and school provided recommendations in favor. Council member Letcher introduced Resolution 2026-055 for the installation of stop signs at 12th and Park, making it a four-way stop. Motion by James Letcher, second by Kevin Willis to adopt Resolution No. 2026-055 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #11 – Deputy City Administrator Heaton presented bids for storm damage repairs stemming from a hailstorm in May 2024. The delay in reaching this point was attributed to the extensive scope of insurance claims. Staff members Mark Hodson and Tony Larimore reviewed all claims and distinguished between cosmetic and legitimate repairs. Approximately 19 city buildings with shingled roofs were identified as needing repair; membrane roofs were not damaged enough to warrant action. Unused insurance settlement funds will be reserved for future storm damage. Motion by Kevin Willis, second by Frank Wolff to receive and place on file the bids for the 2024 Storm Damage Hail Repairs. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried. Four bids were received which requested two bid categories to include standard Class 3 shingles and premium Class 4 hail-resistant shingles as follows: 1) McKinnis (Basic Shingle) - \$166,719.75, 2) McKinnis (Class 4 Shingle) - \$194,142.08, 3) Royalty (Basic Single) - \$159,043.31 and 4) Royalty (Class 4 Shingle) - \$178,960.89. Royalty Roofing submitted the lowest bid in both categories. The price difference between Class 3 and Class 4 is approximately \$20,000. The insurance company confirmed no discount is available for Class 4 shingles. The Finance Committee, represented by Council Member Banner, recommended Class 4 shingles as the better long-term investment. Council Member Hillfill suggested pushing the insurance company to provide a discount for Class 4 upgrades, noting that private homeowners often receive premium reductions of around 20%. Council member Banner introduced Resolution 2026-071 approving a bid for the 2024 Storm Damage Hail Repairs Motion by Gary Banner, second by Kevin Willis to adopt Resolution No. 2026-071 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #12 – Deputy City Administrator Heaton presented a proposal to establish no-parking zones on portions of Meadow Drive and North 24th Street in the Still Meadows neighborhood near Highway 75 North, Deerfield School, and the library. The request was prompted by a January fire at a resident's home where the Fort Calhoun's ambulance could not navigate the area due to parked cars and had to drive through neighbors' front yards. The incident occurred at 10:30 PM on the coldest day of the Council Meeting June 9, 2026

year, and both occupants required transport to Omaha. Fire Chief Dave Aten tested driving a large truck in the area on a regular day and confirmed it was difficult. The proposed change would add no parking signs to the north side of Meadow Drive and west side of North 24th Street. The Transportation Committee supported the measure. Council member Highfill introduced Resolution 2026-072 establishing No Parking Zones on certain portions of Meadow Drive and North 24th Street for Emergency Access and Public Safety. Motion by Frank Wolff, second by James Letcher to adopt Resolution No. 2026-072 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #13 – City Administrator Green provided updates on several ongoing city matters. Regarding staff transitions: the City Administrator job description is being finalized for a nationwide posting this week, with applications expected from internal staff, regional candidates, and national applicants. The administrator selection process could extend into September, with Mr. Green planning to remain through the budget process at end of August. Regarding ongoing projects: the first Safe Streets For All planning meeting will be held later in the week, covering traffic, intersection improvements, pedestrian walkability, and trails, which will feed into the future comprehensive plan. A meeting was held with JEO personnel regarding a CCCFF planning grant to develop concepts for the community room upstairs at City Hall. The budget workshop is scheduled for June 30 at 5:30 PM (a fifth Tuesday). Individual department head budget meetings were being finalized this week.

Agenda Item #14 – Council member Kevin Willis moved to recess at 7:39 p.m. for an Executive Session stating the closed session is needed to discuss possible litigation involving the City of Blair and to preserve the attorney-client privilege. Motion was seconded by Council member Frank Wolff. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried and stated the closed session will be limited to the following subjects: to discuss potential litigation and preserve the attorney-client privilege. Council member Kevin Willis moved to come out of executive session and reconvened as a City Council at 8:30 p.m. which motion was seconded by Council member James Letcher. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried and stated that the closed session was limited to the following subjects: discussion of potential litigation and preserve the attorney-client privilege.

Agenda Item #15 – Motion by Gary Banner, second by Kent Long to adjourn the meeting 8:39 p.m. Council members voted as follows: Gary Banner: Yea, Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill: Yea, James Letcher: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

The following claims were approved: AAA Garage Door, Inc, Svc, 1006.00; Abe's Trash Svc, Inc, Svc 187.45; Access Technologies Inc, Inv, 185.65; Acco, Inv, 2632.20; Air Products & Chemicals, Svc, 9601.48; Allied Appliance, Inv, 665.04; Amazon Sales Inc, Inv, 7807.47; American Underground Supply, Svc, 1621.56; Arps Red-E-Mix Inc, Svc, 4605.76; Assethr, Pysl, 258434.85; Babkel Mechanical, Inv, 5857.69; Berens-Tate Consulting Group, Svc, 2500.00; Bi-State Motor Parts, Inv, 1261.40; Blair Ace Hardware, Inv, 1903.93; Blue Cross & Blue Shield Of Ne, Ins, 136743.24; Bobcat Of Omaha, Inv, 819.79; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Inv, 363.51; Bound Tree Medical Llc, Inv, 2134.55;

Breakout Inc, Inv, 199.00; Calvin Poulsen, Svc, 2275.00; Cappel Auto Supply Inc (Napa), Inv, 71.94; Carquest Auto Parts, Inv, 696.46; Chris Olson, Svc, 1000.00; Cintas Corporation, Svc, 7103.71; City-County Comm, Svc, 400.00; Clia Laboratory Program, Svc, 248.00; Country Tire Inc, Svc, 2560.83; Danko Emergency Equipment Co, Inv, 307.39; Datashield, Svc, 87.53; Deborah Wood, Svc, 400.00; Dick's Electric Co, Svc, 2594.38; Eakes Office Plus, Inv, 1863.98; Ecolab, Inv, 63568.47; Eriksen Construction Co Inc, Svc, 30484.10; First Wireless Inc, Inv, 1249.54; Firstnet At&T Mobility, Inv, 229.29; Force America Distributing, Inv, 4320.00; Fuchs Works Llc, Inv, 700.00; Galls Llc, Inv, 856.02; Grainger, Inv, 1209.70; Great Plains Communications, Inv, 5039.95; Great Plains Uniforms Llc, Inv, 24.50; Hawkins Inc, Inv, 11770.00; Henton Worx Llc, Svc, 185.40; Hireright Holdings Corporation, Inv, 216.00; Home Depot Credit Services, Inv, 884.48; Horizon Rehabilitation Centers, Svc, 2465.00; Hotsy Equipment Co, Inv, 792.27; Hsa Bank, Inv, 82.50; Icma, Dues, 312.50; Ingram Industries Inc, Inv, 3375.99; Jackson Services, Svc, 592.36; Jennings Properties, Llc, Inv, 5600.00; Jeo Consulting Group Inc, Svc, 7362.28; Jeredith Brands Llc, Inv, 3019.00; Joshua R Madsen, Reimb, 53.47; Knowbuddy Resources, Inv, 714.59; League Of Kansas Municipalities, Inv, 130.00; Lerner Publishing Group Inc, Inv, 558.92; Logix Transportation Inc, Svc, 2750.00; Long's Ok Tire Stores, Svc, 1121.19; Lutheran Family Services, Inv, 13607.36; Macqueen Equipment, Inv, 2233.42; Michael Todd & Company Inc, Inv, 944.50; Midwest Automatic Fire, Inv, 311.00; Midwest Laboratories Inc, Svc, 904.73; Midwest Mudjacking Inc, Svc, 2767.50; Mississippi Lime Co Llc, Inv, 40332.51; National Sign Company Llc, Inv, 1754.00; Ndwee, Inv, 1360813.18; Nebraska Bank, Tif, 6300.00; Nebraska Dept Of Transportation, Inv, 11461.48; Nebraska Public Health, Inv, 998.00; Nippon Sanso Matheson Inc, Inv, 1234.75; Oclc Inc, Inv, 813.47; Olsson Associates, Svc, 25820.24; One Call Concepts Inc, Svc, 273.39; One Source, Svc, 105.00; Oppd, Inv, 94896.04; O'reilly Automotive Stores Inc, Inv, 42.64; Orkin Llc, Svc, 197.25; Pioneer Cleaning Llc, Svc, 600.00; Point C, Ins, 2139.32; Principal Financial Group, Pen, 40829.83; Pvs Dx Inc, Inv, 30.00; Relx Inc, Inv, 310.00; Rogge, Jacob, Reimb, 60.00; S & S Pumping Service Llc, Svc, 7295.00; S.E. Smith & Sons, Inv, 354.90; Sandbox Construction, Svc, 199.00; Sapp Bros Petroleum Inc, Svc, 6432.09; Scholastic Book Fairs Inc, Inv, 523.12; Sharp Image Inc, Svc, 270.00; Sherwin-Williams Co, Inv, 34.71; Sirchie Acquisition Company, Inv, 48.24; Spartan Stores Llc, Inv, 346.16; Stahlnecker Bieker, Kimberly, Svc, 360.00; Superior Green Inc, Svc, 26071.40; Talbot Law Office Pc Llo, Svc, 4000.00; Thermal Heating Air & Plumbing, Svc, 20979.36; Thompson Solutions Group, Svc, 2341.25; Trekk Design Group, Inv, 5615.00; Us Postal Service Fort Calhoun, Inv, 600.00; Utilities Service Group, Svc, 3100.00; Verizon 883740345-00001, Inv, 719.56; Viking-Cives Midwest Inc, Inv, 13010.00; Wakefield Towing And Recovery, Svc, 1400.00; Washington County Clerk, Inv, 263.54; Washington County Enterprise, Inv, 538.68; Western Oil Ii Llc, Inv, 8983.40; Woodhouse Ford Inc, Inv, 67866.03; Wp Llc, Tif, 16000.00; Zoll Medical Corp, Inv, 687.60.

Melinda K. Rump, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Wheeler, City Clerk

Seal

Council Meeting June 9, 2026