

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the BPS Administration Building Board Room, 320 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska 68310.
Mayor Wirth led those in attendance in Pledge of Allegiance.

Barnard: Present, Doyle: Present, Eckhoff: Absent, Eskra: Present, Fairbanks: Present, Hydo: Present, McLain: Present, Ruh: Absent.

Mayor Wirth announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

3. PROCLAMATION – Big Give Gage Day – September 11, 2025

Dee & Kelly Burken - get handout - 81 non profits, donor form, have couple in-person sites to give. Odell Nebraska Library, Wymore Heritage Inn, Adams - Cortland & Beatrice, Vintage Venue, 7a-7p, food trucks also - do we have permit??

Pinnacle Bank - child gets to pick favorite - \$10 to donate to favorite also battle of the schools - win ____ for their school. Year 8, \$2.5 raised.

Ted - 81 separate non-profits, don't have to write individual check - to gage co foundation, see attached form to divide among those

Terry - thank dee for time hoping for \$2-400,000 a year. if use cc, gage county foundation pays the fees. dee - mission to support community - wymore blue springs grant, host big give gage, & do 2 grants?

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.a. Approve agenda as submitted.

4.b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting.

4.c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.

4.d. Approval of minutes of regular meeting on August 17, 2026, as on file in the City Clerk's Office.

4.e. Approval of Treasurer's Report of Claims in the amount of \$1,630,961.73.

4.f. Approval of Envision Landscaping Claim in the amount of \$1,400.00.

4.g. Approval of BASWA Report of Claims in the amount of \$97,511.50.

4.h. Approval of BPW Report of Claims in the amount of \$1,870,182.19.

4.i. Approval of Change Order #2 decrease in the amount of \$6,918.57 and Pay Request #12 in the amount of \$459,923.60 to Building Crafts, Inc., for the WPC Grit Improvements project, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

4.j. Approval of Final Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$31,928.72 to Midlands Contracting, Inc., d/b/a Johnson Service Company, Inc., for the Sanitary Sewer Lining and Manhole Rehabilitation Project – 2025, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

4.k. Approval of Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$54,828.30 to Clausen & Sons Dirt Work, Inc., for the Hannibal Park Field No. 8 project.

4.l. Resolution Number 7835 executing the Request for Reconveyance and the Deed of Reconveyance, along with all other necessary documents to terminate the Deed of Trust for the Energy Efficiency Loan Agreement, between the City and Ashton H. Kotas.

4.m. Resolution Number 7836 executing the Letter Agreement extending the Interlocal Cooperation Act Agreement between the City and the County of Gage, Nebraska, for the purpose of providing ambulance services in certain areas of Gage County, Nebraska through June 30, 2027.

4.n. Resolution Number 7837 authorizing the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Clerk to sign any and all documents related to Federally Declared Disaster #4928 from the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding on May 15-18, 2026.

4.o. Resolution Number 7838 granting Midwest Music Productions, and their designees, permission to sell or offer for sale or peddle goods, wares, or merchandise upon the City Property located at the Tabernacle in Chautauqua Park on September 26, 2026, between 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., as part of their Punk at the Park Revival event.

4.p. Resolution Number 7839 granting Denise Pahl, d/b/a Tall Tree Tastings, and designees, permission to sell or offer for sale or peddle goods, wares, or merchandise upon the right-of-way immediately adjacent to the building located at 122 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska, effective immediately through December 31, 2026.

4.q. Resolution Number 7840 appointing Lynn Schlake to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

4.r. Resolution Number 7841 executing the General Release, Request for Reconveyance, and the Deed of Reconveyance, along with all other necessary documents to release and discharge Beatrice Bakery, regarding their LB840 Loan Agreement.

4.s. Resolution Number 7842 executing the Amendment to the Grant Agreement to close the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant.

4.t. Resolution Number 7843 executing the Amendment to the Agreement and any and all other documents necessary between the City and Eakes Office Solutions, for the leasing and servicing of additional printers and other office equipment for the BPW Billing Department and the Fire Department.

item k - Ted - dirt pile, where we at? TT - fence installed today, 1st layer of agrilime, sprinklers, grading, complete. piles of agrilime will be

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the items listed under the consent agenda, be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented. Eckhoff abstain from item f. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS

5.a. Public Hearing for the purpose of conducting the FY27 Budget Hearing.

budget discussion tonight - hearing next mtg 9/21

General fund - slightly above revenues & comparable - comprehensive 26 to projected CDD - licenses & permits more than anticipated, landmark, northgate, intergovernmental - \$200,000 federal grants & carry forward; charges/services - ambulance rate slightly higher. revs to 27 inline, bumped licenses & permits down to more of an average. pretty comparable. increase in proepty tax rewues

expenditures, didn't have to use contingency- \$100,000, other services/chages - IT fund is the difference. 27 personnel services 2% COLA IBEW, 3% police & 3% fire and 5% health insurance. Ted - do you adjust the contingency fund? TT - leave generally, before taking another budgeted line item.

each fund - cash balance following cash reserve policy - GF unrestricted 25-26 level, do spend some in 27, still within window taxes - property taxes \$ used in GF, sales in GF & Street 1/2 cent sales to debt fund? tax advantage act - 6 month window in 22-23, that has slowed down.graph- breakdown city for 2025 tax year ____%

Hydo - revenues in GF, sales tax actually budgeted higher than property tax. understand that it's about equal, \$4 million in 27 ask; Sales tax \$3.6-3.8

comparison of property tax request & levies- 27 total ask is increseing by 5.7% levy decrease by 10%; decreased by 18% - city had nothing to do with that

Property tax request form - state budget form, last year's ask - less bond dollars - stat with \$3.7 million, grow by inflation & real growth from County. inflation 5.62% growth percentage 8.6%?? Mike - who does calculation? HB - state of NE. tru local government, pull quarter 3 to quarter 3 - not based on consumer price index, GET FROM TT - table _____ bucket for government Hydo - real growth? TT_ new things being built in community - new house, new deck, does not include TIF. mayor - impact on city valuation is not, paying for police, fire, administration, community development, have very budget conscious people in position to use cash reserve policy as a bnechmark to understand, doesn't equal real \$\$ for city HB- growth & inflation - increase \$212,000 5% increase to health insurance 2 & 3% increases for wages,

street - comprehensive fund summary - rev intergovernmental higher in 26 due to timing of federal grants, misc rev includes BPS share of 33rd & Lnk; 27 no changes, taking back down intergovernmental & not misc expenditures - budget contingency not used this year; major change in 27 have 2% wages, 5% health ins. capital outlays - down to \$848,000 in capital - originally budgeted \$1 million - pulled out \$3 million in 28 for Highway 77 also expenditures debt service - payments on highway allocation bond for school site grading & streets. CAST - all will likely run through the State, still in capital pages, with no \$\$ amount listed - everything within house from state

unrestricted fund balance - street - showing \$1.6 million in bond proceeds for school sites, 26 - dropping down \$3million as committed number - better representation

Airport - intergovernmental - high in 25 & 26 & falls off in 27 - influx for federal dollars - 3 projects going on. nothing anticipated in 27, pretty inline ; expenditures no changes - wages & health ins airport - cash reserve - 22 & 23 - insurance proceeds not paid out for roof repairs - little high, but airport fund - no sales tax funds or property taxes - funded by leases, jet fuel, not many changes not room to grow.

Ted - if need be, can we spend cash reserves? HB - covered bond issuances, live on their own revenues. mayor- great asset

sanitation - revenues misc grant proceeds for recycling trailer & insurance proceeds for truck fire - showing \$1 million in anticipated sale of Mars site. expenditures wages & HI, adding additional funds for promotion to foreman for Department & 1 additional laborer. other services - labor/vehicle - expensive trucks, expensive repairs - used daily. contractual services increased - BASWA has rate increases, we pay tipping fee, same as other hauler. 2027 debt service showing \$1 mill for sale of site - used as payment towards outstanding debt service. would still be 2 additional years of bonds

sanitation unrestricted cash - still light, getting bonds paid off will be good for fund. HB at least at 3 month. TT - big equipment - which is why we have larger to purchase equipment if needed. no rate increase

electric - revenues 6% rate increase on average in 27 budgeted also. other change in 26 revenue - started infrastructure fund for infra repairs. \$6 million part is bond issuance for a number of projects wrapping up in 26/27

expenditures - labor & health ins. outside legal services - generation facility no bond issuance anticipated with potential generation facility

electric - unrestricted - also within electric - also include an additional 25% of purchased power cost into that number. running high - \$2.5 million in committed for PGF, not reflected in both 26 & 27. electric is high for a reason, we know we have major changes in 2030 with rates. Dana - why are we saying 2030? TT - current contract energy & capacity run though, either go out to market to buy or make our own facility - why we are increasing now as we will need that \$ eventually - have power expert it will be significantly higher than paying now. TT - evaluating seeing 4x higher than today. McLain - requiring additional capacity? TT - yes, SPP, TT now we need 15, TT - decline in 2021 - from 4 days, when things change, it is a large impact. Ted - goal to keep flat line. TT - did not pass along expense from 21 storm. Mayor - contemplating transformers are expensive - don't need people without, plan ahead & buy ahead, hard to forecast what will breakdown -

Water - revenues only changes for sales in 26 increased infrastructure fees. FY27 no rate increases proposed. other - water mains at school sites, hold AR as sites are sold, water will get funds back. expenditures - labor & health - capital light in 27, has been running heavy the last few years, anticipating building up cash & pausing until we have available.

cash balance - 23 waiting on federal funds for SRF funding. trending down faster than like, but holding off on some capital projects to see where that lines up

wpc - revenues same as water had rate increase in 26 for infra fees in sales. no rate increase for 27. other - federal funds for grit. expenditures - labor & health no major changes

cash balance - little higher, however, has a lot of capital on horizon & big dollar, good to be high with the upcoming projects

capital - electric - \$2 mill for PGF contingent on cash reserves to run out of. carrying over substation 7 improvements \$550,000 - issued last year. street - Ink reconstruction grant dependent - Hwy 77 reconstruction in FY28 - \$3 million. Hwy 136 reroute - \$0 moving forward will be run through state. true street project in 27 is Jefferson 26 - Sunridge, \$_____ TT - Hannibal view, road extension 4 for ours, 2 for other. removed other stuff to have cash available in 28 for Hwy 77. ITED - ast 2 in Hannibal view, then tif funds can be released. WPC - 27 grit - \$750,000 carried forward federal grant, LS#1 Design in 27 & construction in 28 - continue to follow path with other lift stations. TT - grant contingent - have pushed off, at some point won't be able to meet requirements. next thing is to update lift stations. did 5 & 6, looking at _____. 2 & 8 - have asked congresswoman _____ for funds. Eskra - permit? TT - year 3, if out of compliance, give 3 years to come up with plan, Eskra - have done number of improvements at PLant - TT - did study when James in private. items done can be used for new Plant. PP - homestead trail - extension grant & keno, pickleball court construction - lodging & _____; forest management grant - new ballfield lighting being installed at 8, 4 & 5 - financed & paying back. 80/20 grant - 1/2 by national parks???? hydro - playground improvements going west?? TT - yes Hydro - forest management? survey work tree removal, tree planting, multiple year grant. Dana - aud - major? TT - been on there for anumber of years, continue to push off, need to do. WATER - water main projects in 27 & 28 - 2 in 28 \$350 & \$300 - federal grant at this time, they may be moved up to 27, Terry - study?? TT - survey identify lines undersized, or number of Breaks that need to be repaired. we have gotten through that list, identifying next items to address. BASWA - spending slows down with new landfill 28 - landfill postclosure may be in 28. Ted - can we use landfill for demisters? TT - not once you close it. At some point they will make you close it. once capped eliminates leachate Ted - some benefits to leaving open. TT - yes; AIRPORT - capital large \$ when federal grants available 90/10 or 95/5. lawnmower & fence. SUPPRESSION - fire engine - year 3, shooting for November \$830,000 originally budgeted for sales tax dollars can use those funds for this purchase. other \$ 27 part of MFO funds from State. AMBULANCE - bond issuance for Ambulance & Police - \$545,000 bond issuance, can issue PSD. have not had an issuance due to COVID funds, 2018 last time. Eskra - similar to ambulance? TT - yes very similar, fewer manufactures Defibrillator - 27 & radio communications & ambulance?? Bond issuance. SANITATION - truck annually, depending upon how year goes replacement. GENERAL \$200,000 for depsters 27-30, also welcome signs mix of grant, Beatrice plus & Stake Your claim, Keno as well. COMMUNICATIONS - \$945,000 dispatch upgrades FIRE ADMIN - hospital joint facility training - trying to find grant funding.

IT Fund - put in place in 26, true budget - capital - upgrade to 181, \$63,000. infrastructure in need of upgrades. Dana - cameras? HB - replacement for security camera. CONTROL - PSD bond issuance - vehicle \$200,000 for 2 patrol units, body cams 50/50 grant, SRT equipment - all bond issuance. 27 library has \$ for Christmas lights on building

terr - thank sept heads

Mayor - moving to cleargov excellent move, sept head standpoint know where you are at. if you want something else just ask.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the public hearing be closed at 7:21 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

5.b. Public Hearing for the purpose of considering an application to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requesting \$630,000 for a project to replace and improve water main within the City's distribution system to increase fire flows.

TT - 2018 water study - identified number of purojects. completed. improve fire flow - 4" main, 3-5th, Scott to Perkins, Sumner, THayer, Milikin \$630,000, match \$333? may flip some projects
SENDD - wanting feedback regarding project. identified in 2018 water study. \$983,140 total cost - \$630,000 COB - \$353,1___ ; requirements - LMI - which COB qualifies for, Deadline SEpt 15 - any feedback? TT - fortunate to obtain some neighborhood, supportive of making these changes.
SENDD - public assessment project - community of Patrice supporting this supporting to have commutiy to sign? TT _ same for M&O project, have been through. Mayor - wonderful partner with Beatrice.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the public hearing be closed at 7:29 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

5.c. Public Hearing for the purpose of considering the Rezoning Application of Lorraine Catlin, for real property commonly known as 604 West Court Street, Gage County Parcel ID # 013185000, to be rezoned from "GC" General Commercial District to "RC" Residential Commercial.

TT - rezone residential last time, gathering place rezone to RC, extends to include gathering place, up for sale & looking to convert to residential use again. not including last meeting due to publication deadline.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the public hearing be closed at 7:30 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

6. RESOLUTIONS

6.a. Resolution Number 7844 executing any and all documents necessary to apply for a CDBG Grant to replace and improve water main within the City's distribution system to increase fire flows.

no questions - few docs to sign

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7844 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

6.b. Resolution Number 7845 executing the Amendment to the Loan Agreement, Promissory Note, Personal Guaranty, and Deed of Trust between the City and Jason J. and Jessica L. Hartig, to increase the loan amount from \$72,198.00 to \$91,740.40, from the City's CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant 23-DTR-002.

DTR grant - hartigs made improvements looking to amend loan, 5 years, etc. standard as past. updating the \$

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7845 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

7. ORDINANCES

7.a. Ordinance amending the Zoning Map for the City of Beatrice, Nebraska by changing the zoning of real property, commonly known as 604 West Court Street, from "GC" General Commercial District to "RC" Residential Commercial District.

TT _ rezoning P&Z recommended approval

Moved by McLain, seconded by Hydo, that said ordinance be given number 26-28 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-28 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

7.b. Ordinance amending Section 9-4 of the Beatrice City Code regarding fire prevention and protection.

in code since 2009, alarm registration, wording clarifications with new employees - within city limits, continue to have single family & duplex exempt

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-29 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-29 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

8. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS - None

9. MISCELLANEOUS

9.a. The next regular City Council meeting is September 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the BPS Administration Building Board Room.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Ruh: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor