

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, September 21, 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.

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. ROLL CALL

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.a. Approve agenda as submitted.

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

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

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

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS

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

HB - budget discussion last meeting as well. on website, as well as budget available digitally

comp fund summary - high level fund changes 26 to 27, revenues 3.8% increase with property tax 5.7% increase there, charges for services for ambulance charges intergovernmental revenue with grant funding received
expenditures decrease of 0.5% - IBEW, Fire, FOP & health ins

tax breakdown - portion of tax levy FY26 tax, COB 23.24% of total tax levy

comparison of tax request - FY27 5.7% increase request lowers levy 10.6% _____ valuation was 18%

property tax request form - state of NE changed calculation on the amount we can ask inflation & growth percentage. 5.26% & _____ growth. TF - every community or 1st? TT - believe every one
5.26% state calculates - consumer price index specific to governments

STreet - comp fund - decrease rev 12% & expenditures by 39% - revenues federal grants, Della & downtown beautification. expense - capital outlays, moving around projects to look forward to hwy 77 project funds

airport - 3 million decrease in both rev/expenditures - due to wrap up of several large capital projects, thanger, navajids, runway

sanitation - 1 mill increase to rev due to possible sale of MARS site moving to landfill. expenditures increase \$800,000 showing proceed of sale moving to debt service to pay off portion of - sanitation has change to labor - adding laborer & promoting to foreman

electric - 6% increase in revenue with rate increase . 5.8% decrease in expenditures from capital projects, bond issuance for fund in FY26 - roll-off of those projects

Water - revenues right sizing with revenues from infrastructure 5% decrease in expenditures, lighter in capital in FY27 than 26

WPC - revenues & expenditures both down due to roll-off of grit project, no longer in 27

overall 5% increase for EBA fund & 2% IBEW, 3% - fire & fop

Capital improvements - FY27 - electric 2mill power generation facility from cash reserves; 550,000 substation 7 improvements - rollover from bonds; street Lincoln street construction grant dependent - if grant funds come available \$3 million for highway 77 - hwy 136 reroute - \$0 in expenditures, it will run through the State; FY27 - jefferson street, 26th to sunridge; wpc - 750,000 wrap up for grit construction project, deism for future lift station improvements as well; PP - FY27 - homestead trail extension, grant & keno \$, \$513,000 for pickleball court grant/lodging; \$_____ forest management program; water - light in capital to build up cash funding 2 water main projects - 2 additional in FY28 - may be interchangeable, part of grant application; airport-light wrapping up federal; suppression - fire engine rebudget - \$835,000 from sales tax with fire station bonds originally; Ambulance & Police - \$545,000 PSD bond - defib, \$160,000, radio comm \$90,000 & ambulance mannequin: Sanittiaon rearloader; GA, \$200,000 towards dumpsters, \$100,000 for welcome sign - grant funding, private & Beatrice plus.; communication - \$967,000 - federal grant; IT - \$63,000 channel 181 upgrade; patrol - part of bond issuance: body cams - grant as well; \$20,000 library for Christmas lights in FY27

Jim Nelson, 1025 N 6th, home address, 430 e hickory road, - total tax request - amount of real estate is 5.8%? TT - pretty close. so real estate taxes will go up? TT - yes, electrical capital improvements - power generation facility - for consulting? TT - possibly not at that point. JM - what for? TT - purchasing equipment. JM - lincoln street - does it include roundabout? TT - yes it does. JM - how much city cost? TT - \$2.____? Hydo - that is FY28, not current budget. JM - approving entire budget to 2033. Hydo - yes & no, 28 on is a maybe, depending upon funding grants, etc. TF - requested to have these projects. JM - approving. Mayor- we are approving FY27 budget, continuation budget from biennial budget we are currently in. JM - homestead trail - FY28 \$3 mill?? what percentage is outside city limit? TT- most; JM - gage county asked to participate? TT - majority 80/20, 20 - 10% city share. electric department revenue - still planned is a 3% increase for first _____; TT - average of 6% across class. JM - who is getting rate decrease?? TT - answered

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the public hearing be closed at __6:28__ p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

4. RESOLUTIONS - None

5. ORDINANCES - None

6. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS - None

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.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 6:29 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor