

CITY OF IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL

June 3, 2026

A Special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Imperial was held in the Council Chambers, City Council Chambers, 740 Court Street, Imperial, NE 69033 on June 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by notice of meeting being posted at the Imperial Lied Library, City Office and Imperial Post Office and on the City of Imperial's website at <http://www.Imperial-NE.com>. Notice of this meeting was communicated in advance notice to the Mayor and Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Craig Loeffler called the meeting to order and instructed the Administrator to call the roll, with the following results:

Present: Nick Colton (Council President), Jan Elliott (Council member), Julie Gockley (Council member), **Absent:** John Miller (Council member). Others present: Administrator Tyler Pribbeno, City Attorney Josh Wendell, Chris Peterson, Deann Carpenter, Tricia and Josh Moreno, Rick Elliott, Public Works Superintendent Pat Davison, Adam Schneweis, Anne Strand, Owen Swanson, Marge Steuben, Norma Hickman, Mitch Hoskovec, Chief Chad Ostmeyer, Ron Berry, Matt Owens, Dan Leibhart, Alan Carman, Emilee Pease, Jill Moline, Gina Blocher, Beth Falla, Nick Schultz, and City Clerk Sarah Hoskovec recording the minutes.

A quorum was declared present, and the meeting continued.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The Mayor announced this meeting is being conducted pursuant to the Nebraska Open Public Meetings Act and that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall of the Chambers.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Julie Gockley. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Yea, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Absent. Motion Carried.

Imperial Manor/Parkview Heights have discussed purchasing their property insurance from the League Association of Risk Management (LARM). The City of Imperial has been a member of LARM for several years. Fred Wiebelhaus of LARM was unable to join the meeting via ZOOM, but quoted coverage last month. The quote received was with a \$25k deductible, at \$51,447.51. The City of Imperial's current policy has a \$1k deductible. Since the facility would be under the City's policy, would like the Council to consider keeping all deductibles at \$1k. Although the higher deductible would save the facility 16k, if there were a hail occurrence, LARM would take the highest deductible first.

Motion by Nick Colton: To approve the Imperial Manor/Parkview Heights to join the League of Risk Management under the City of Imperial with a \$1,000.00 deductible for property and liability insurance, second by Julie Gockley. On call for the vote, the following votes were

shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Yea, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Absent. Motion Carried.

Mayor Craig Loeffler would like to add surveillance cameras in the City Office drive thru, upgrade the system in the City Office and add cameras outside the office towards the City Square. Rick Elliott from Prairie States, states the cameras will record only when in motion. The Mayor discussed the two quotes he received from Prairie States Communications for 7 cameras. There will be seven cameras on the system with have 8 channels or can upgrade to 16 channels, in order to add more cameras per Rick Elliott. Marge Steuben asked the Mayor if this was a conflict of interest. Mayor Loeffler states there is not, that is why Jan has not said anything and will abstain from the vote. The cameras will have remote access. Mayor Loeffler states the quotes are under \$10k. Nick Schultz questions why there are no other quotes, because when he submitted a quote under \$10k, the Council always wanted another quote. Loeffler states he is unsure if the City required it, but just did it that way and is open to quotes. Is doing it this way because of the incident that happened Saturday in the City Square. Nick Colton states they should get other before the Council decides.

Mayor Loeffler would like the Council to read the personnel policy to discuss making changes, which has given a few examples he has discussed personally, for changes he thought needed done. Loeffler assigned Elliott and Gockley to review sections 1-6 and Colton and Miller to review 7-12, and discuss at the next meeting with changes they see fit. Loeffler would like a separate personnel handbook for personnel and appointed officials that is different, since they are handled and treated differently. Benefits are the same, but there are some procedures to be done for appointed employees, more so, than regular employees according to legislation and would like to have a separate handbook just for that. Will discuss at the next meeting and advise the lawyer to make the changes wherever they see fit. Loeffler states not all of it will be the Council's decision but what is required by law. Loeffler states the goal is to not have the same issues the City did in the past of not knowing where to go or when. It is not fair to the employees, appointed official or to the elected official up on the podium during that process. City Attorney Josh Wendell suggests bringing this is back for discussion and will forward to Cline, Williams Attorneys, who the City has used in the past to update the handbook. Pribbeno will discuss with department heads.

The "Welcome to Imperial" sign east of town, has some of the stucco gone, per the Mayor. Pribbeno has contacted Josh Moreno for a quote to fix it but has not received one yet.

Pribbeno discussed the Allo transition from cable franchise to master right of way agreement franchise. The contact from Allo has not returned Pribbeno's call. The current franchise agreement ends June 30, 2026. Attorney Wendell has read the contract. Wendell discussed it is a substitution of the existing agreement of the right away, terminating the cable to move to broadband. The new agreement is for alternative service and the intent is the same. Allo understands the importance of helping municipalities in which their products are in. The new contract will be in process for 10 years.

Motion by Julie Gockley: To approve the non-exclusive public row license agreement between the City of Imperial and ALLO Communications LLC and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City, second by Jan Elliott. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Colton: Abstain (Without Conflict), Elliott: Yea, Gockley: Yea, Miller: Absent. Motion Carried

The Council discussed the City sales tax renewal in length. Pribbeno noted that the bond attorney will need confirmation of language for the general election 120 days prior to the election. Discussed the option of one percent split, half for Economic Development and half for Community Development, with the possibility of an additional half percent used for healthcare. Pribbeno states the Community Development funds and Economic Development funds have helped a lot of new businesses and many amenities within the City. Mayor Craig Loeffler states they made a decision the night before we lost the ability to do the special election in the emails stating the direction given. Pribbeno discussed Colton, Elliott, Loeffler and himself were on a phone call back in April and the bond attorney had indicated what the process was but feels the deadline is early August for the general election. Loeffler would like to make a decision and focus on the deadline. Loeffler discussed there has been discussion between them and moving forward. Colton believes the cut off day is July 14th. Pribbeno states there will be a 120 delay in receiving the new sales tax due to the regulations of the State of Nebraska. Loeffler states it is around \$120k of lost revenue. Pribbeno states the discussion of the renewal started back in December. Treasurer Tricia Moreno states there are minutes from April stating the Mayor wanted to wait till the general election. Elliott asked the audience how they would like to see the sales tax spent. Pribbeno states if the City asks for any percentage and it fails, the City cannot ask for another two years. Pribbeno states that is where the difficulty lies, the Council has not been able to decide, to give the attorney direction to prepare the Resolution. There can be multiple questions on the ballot, which would cost the City more, but there are options. Pribbeno discussed there needs to be a decision also of how the sales tax will be used, which is some of the frustration of getting it approved. The Council has to decide the language in which to put on the ballot. Mayor Loeffler discussed using half a percent for either the Manor, hospital, or emergency services. Elliott states the City could not restrict it to anything and this would leave it up to the Administration and Council. Loeffler discussed he does want to restrict it because it leaves it open to misuse, as a concerned citizen. Elliott questioned if the sales tax can be used to pay bonds back. Pribbeno states the sales tax is used for now and has been since 2007 or 2008, which was decided by prior Council. The Council now can make changes to this.

Pribbeno discussed the Council needs to decide whether the sales tax renews for 20 years or in perpetuity. Elliott discussed that one of the things the bond attorney cautioned the Council on, is if there is a thirty-year bond and the sales tax renews in twenty years, don't plan on the City sales tax dollars to pay that just in case there is none after twenty years. Attorney Wendell believes in 2008, the City was limited to twenty years. Jill Moline states she sees all the good this community does, why not go up a percent, keep the structure the same because it would be very confusing to split the tax money into thirds. Owen Swanson would like to know if the City needs permission from the County Commissioners to approve the funds for EMS and the hospital. Loeffler states yes, they currently do. Swanson discussed the meeting between the County and City did not happen due to no quorum, but now working with the County and not having the quorum it put a black eye on the City. If the Manor or the hospital close, that jeopardizes the community per Loeffler. Swanson would like two questions on the ballot.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To approve to request Mike Rogers, of Gilmore & Bell, to prepare or give advice on two proposals, one with 1% split 50/50 between Economic Development/Community Development, or 1.5% split 1/3, between Economic Development and Community Development, and healthcare, and be perpetual, second by Nick Colton. On call for the vote, the following

votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Yea, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Absent. Motion Carried.

Statutory Review and Process Clarification for Appointed Officials was not discussed.

Discussion and consider authorization to purchase audio and video recording and broadcasting equipment for Council Chambers was not discussed.

The City Attorney advised the Council to enter executive session to discuss the removal of the City Administrator from office.

Motion by Nick Colton: To enter into closed session with the City Council, the Mayor, the City Attorney, and Tyler Pribbeno for the purpose of discussion of the removal of the City Administrator to include a review the job performance of the City Administrator, prior notifications given to the City Administrator from the Mayor, and to review the personnel file of the City Administrator regarding job performance to protect the reputation of the individual involved, second by Julie Gockley. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Yea, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Absent. Motion Carried.

Attorney Wendell states the Council, Mayor, City Attorney and the City Administrator are going into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the removal of the City Administrator to include a review the job performance of the City Administrator, prior notifications given to the City Administrator from the Mayor, and to review the personnel file of the City Administrator regarding job performance to protect the reputation of the individual involved.

Executive session entered at 7:02 pm.

Public meeting opened up at 8:39 pm.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To come out of executive session at 8:39 pm. Nick Colton seconded. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Colton: Yea, Elliott: Yea, Gockley: Yea, Miller: Absent. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marge Steuben asks why they are removing the City Administrator. Attorney Wendell states the Council and Mayor cannot engage in any responses to questions for protection of all reputations at stake. Tyler Pribbeno did not make any comment. No other discussion.

Mayor Loeffler questioned if the Council was going to take any action. Elliott asked if the removal was also for the position of Economic Development. Colton believes the two titles are the same roll based on definition. Attorney Wendell questions if that also includes termination of employment. Colton agreed. Tricia Moreno states that is not on the agenda. Wendell states the Council knows.

Motion by Nick Colton: To remove the City Administrator from office. Jan Elliott seconded. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Yea, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Absent. Motion Carried.

Marge Steuben left the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Alan Carman asked if the Council could give a reason for the removal and stated that this all seems odd. Wendell states the City is not going to make a comment.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm, second by Nick Colton. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Yea, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Absent. Motion Carried.

SEAL:

Mayor

Attest: City Clerk