

CITY OF IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL

July 6, 2026

A Regular 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 July 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by notice of meeting being published in the Imperial Republican and 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, Jan Elliott, Julie Gockley, John Miller. Others present: Mayor Craig Loeffler, Director of Public Works Pat Davison, Interim Administrator Al Vacanti, City Attorney Josh Wendell, Sergeant Chris Bustillos, Chrissy Davis, Norma Hickman, Ann Strand, Mitch Hoskovec, Matt Owens, Alan Carman, Dan Leibhart, Gina Blocher 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 Julie Gockley: To approve the consent agenda with corrections to the June 15, 2026 Council meeting minutes, second by Jan Elliott. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

Mayor Loeffler discussed the resignation letter of Judy Gaswick from the Imperial Theatre Board.

Miller Construction pay application is tabled until next meeting.

Logan White and Abraham Ramos arrived at 6:12 pm.

Mayor Loeffler discussed Al Vacanti, interim-Administrator, will be leading the 2026-27 budget discussion. Agenda item is to discuss the date the budget meeting shall be held. Vacanti states August 20th is the deadline for assessed valuations to be delivered. Vacanti will be working with Treasurer Tricia Moreno and Director of Public Works Pat Davison. Vacanti will be working in the office 3-5 days but if the Council is in approval, Vacanti will work remotely from his home. Vacanti discussed the budget process to the Council. The Council agrees to allow Vacanti work remote. The Council would prefer to have a regular and special budget meeting on August 3rd at 6:00 pm.

League of Risk Management renewal coverage proposal for the 2026-27 pool year. LARM has made increased adjustments of 0% adjustment for property, 0% adjustment level rate for liability coverage, and +5% adj for Worker's Compensation. Total annual contribution is \$442,397.00.

Motion by Julie Gockley: To introduce and move to adopt R26-07-01 LARM 2026-27 with the 3-year, 180 day commitment renewal at the 5% discount rate, second by John Miller. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

League Association of Risk Management 2026-27 Renewal Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. R26-07-02

WHEREAS, City of Imperial is a member of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM);
WHEREAS, section 8.10 of the interlocal Agreement for the Establishment and Operation of the League Association of Risk Management provides that a member may voluntarily terminate its participation in LARM by written notice of termination given to LARM and the Nebraska Director of Insurance at least 90 days prior to the desired termination given to and that members may agree to extend the required termination notice beyond 90 days in order to realize reduced excess coverage costs, stability of contribution rates and efficiency in operation of LARM; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of LARM has adopted a plan to provide contribution credits in consideration of certain agreements by members of LARM as provided in the attached letter.
BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of Imperial, Nebraska, in consideration of the contribution credits provided under the LARM Board's plan, agrees to:
O Provide written notice of termination at least 180 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2029. **(180 day and 3 year commitment; 5% discount)**
O Provide written notice of termination at least 180 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2028. **(180 day and 2 year commitment; 4% discount)**
O Provide written notice of termination at least 180 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2027. **(180 day notice only; 2% discount)**
O Provide written notice of termination at least 90 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2029. **(90 day notice and 3 year commitment only; 2% discount)**
O Provide written notice of termination at least 90 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2028. **(2 year commitment only; 1%)**
O Provide written notice of termination at least 90 days prior to the desired termination date, which date shall be no sooner than September 30, 2026. **(90 day Notice only)**
Adopted this 6 day of July, 2026.

Sergeant Chris Bustillos discussed the purchase of a new F150 pickup for the Imperial Police Department. The K-9 police vehicle was recently sold to Hitchcock County. The vehicle total is \$63,000.00. Adam's Bank and Trust will loan the City of Imperial the funds, in order to be paid within two fiscal years. Hitchcock County purchased the K-9 vehicle for \$20,000.00 and will be payment on the new vehicle. Bustillos states the use of a pickup will be put to good use, as it will be passed to the utility department after a certain amount of time.

Jody Fenwick arrived at 6:35 pm.

Logan White left the meeting at 6:36 pm.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To approve the purchase of a Ford F150 from Anderson Ford in the amount of \$49,387.00, second by Julie Gockley. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

Sgt. Bustillos discussed the need to close Court Street for the National Night Out August 4th. Court Street between 7th and 8th, to be closed from 4:00-8:00 pm. There will be several stations with food/drinks, raffles, etc.

Logan White arrived at 6:38 pm.

Motion by John Miller: To approve the closure of Court Street, between 7th and 8th Streets between the hours of 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, second by Jan Elliott. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

Pat Davison discussed the liability claim for Lloyd Wilson. It was hot, dry and windy and Wilson's trees caught on fire. The City of Imperial does not have liability insurance on fire. The claim presented is in the amount of \$23,495.76. Jan Elliott questions whether Lloyd Wilson's personal insurance would cover this, such as, if the fire would destroy three homes, would the City have to pay for all three homes? City Attorney advised the Council if further discussion, there may be a need to enter executive session. Elliott discussed she has a lot of questions. Clerk Hoskovec and Davison have contacted Fred Wieblehouse regarding the claim. Lloyd Wilson has torn out the trees and is ready to replace. Elliott cannot get her answer in executive session.

Motion by John Miller: To table the payment of the liability claim in the amount of \$23,945.76 to Lloyd Wilson, second by Jan Elliott. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

Davison received three estimates from Southwest JCB, Titan Machinery and Murphy Tractor for the purchase of a new backhoe. The warranty from JCB started in April 30, 2026, which was the first time the salesman called inquiring about the purchase of a backhoe. The purchase price is \$127,900, trade in value of \$30,950.00 equals to \$96,950.00. Titan Machinery quote is in the amount of \$175,000, 2 year warranty, with a trade in value of \$50,000. Murphy Tractor & Equipment price is \$176,300.00, trade in value of \$55,000, with a warranty of travel time, mileage & deductible for 5 years and 2,500 hours.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To approve the bid from Murphy Tractor Equipment in the amount of \$121,300.00 and authorize the City Clerk to sign on behalf of the City, second by Julie Gockley. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

Officer Julia Slade arrived at 5:52 pm.

Davison discussed the current Bobcat is a lemon. The estimated repairs needed are \$13,000. There has been that much money put in the Bobcat with repairs already. Central Nebraska Bobcat brought a 2024 Bobcat, 350 hours, in the amount of \$65,000.00. There would be a trade in value of \$32,000. The funds are budgeted from the street department.

Motion by John Miller: To approve to purchase the 2024 Bobcat from Central Nebraska Bobcat with trade in, in the amount of \$36,500.00, second by Julie Gockley. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

Mayor Craig Loeffler announced the resignation of the City Clerk/Deputy Administrator Sarah Hoskovec. John Miller states Sarah Hoskovec has done a really good job and is sad to see her go. Her training and everything she has been doing, it is just sad. Miller states he was shocked to see this on the agenda and it upset him. City Attorney Wendell discussed Hoskovec would

like to stay employed as long as the Council will let her. Mayor Loeffler would like Hoskovec to stay on as long as she wants, Elliott agrees and would like Hoskovec to let the Council know as soon as she can when her last day is. Elliott states she appreciates everything Hoskovec does for the Council.

Motion by Julie Gockley: To table the resignation letter for City Clerk/Deputy Administrator, Sarah Hoskovec, second by John Miller. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

Discussion of the renewal of the city sales tax. September is the deadline for the wording to be put on the ballot. Hoskovec states if the Council approves the Resolution, the Ordinance would be on the next meeting for approval. The sample ballots are attached to the Resolution for consideration. The options are to leave the sales tax at 1% or add a .5% to the 1%. Mike Rogers discussed in a previous meeting, to have the sales tax be used in a broad perspective and perpetual. Council would like some of the funds to be used for healthcare.

Al Vacanti states the Council and elected officials cannot take a political position to vote for or against. The position is presenting information on the subject.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To introduce Resolution R26-07-02 and move for its adoption, second by John Miller. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION NO R26-07-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IMPERIAL, NEBRASKA, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, TO SEEK VOTER APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF IMPOSITION OF A SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE PERCENT (1.00%) AND THE ADDITION OF A SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE-HALF PERCENT (0.50%); UNDER CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS; AND RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, § 77-27,142 of the Revised Reissue Statutes of the State of Nebraska provides:

(I) Any incorporated municipality ... by ordinance of its governing body is hereby authorized to impose a sales and use tax of one-half percent, one percent, [or] one and one-half percent ... upon the same transactions that are sourced under the provisions of sections 77-2703.01 to 77-2703.04 within such incorporated municipality on which the State of Nebraska is authorized to impose a tax pursuant to the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967, as amended from time to time No sales and use tax shall be imposed pursuant to this section until an election has been held and a majority of the qualified electors have approved such tax pursuant to sections 77-27,142.0 I and 77-27,142.02.

WHEREAS, a one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax is currently being imposed by the City of Imperial, Nebraska (the "City") as approved by the voters at an election held November 7, 2006, the collections from which are currently authorized to be applied to the City's general fund or other funds as provided by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, to provide continuing funding for the City's general fund it is necessary and appropriate to call an election to be held in conjunction with the Statewide General Election on November 3, 2026, on the question of imposing a one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Imperial, Nebraska,

SECTION 1. The Mayor and City Council find and determine (1) that the City currently levies and collects a total of 1.00% sales and use tax previously approved by the electors of the City and there has not been submitted to the electors of the City a proposition on the question of the levy of sales and use tax within the previous 23 months; and (2) that it is necessary and appropriate to authorize the renewal of such 1.00% sales and use tax at the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2026; and (3) that it is necessary and appropriate to authorize an increase of the sales and use tax by an additional 0.50%, for a total sales and use tax rate of 1.50%.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and City Council intend for the sales and use tax to be applied as follows, as indicated in the draft sales tax ordinance presented with this resolution.

- Revenues from 0.5% of such sales and use tax shall be applied to the City's Economic Development Program (if continuation of the Program is approved by the voters on November 3, 2026); and
- Revenues from 0.5% of such sales and use tax shall be applied to capital expenditures of the City; and

- If both Proposition A and Proposition 8 are approved by the voters and a total sales and use tax rate of 1.50% is authorized: Revenues from 0.5% of such sales and use tax shall be applied to health care and emergency service expenditures of the City, which may include expenditures for facilities and operations of the City or facilities and operations of the County (through an interlocal agreement).

SECTION 3. An election will be held in conjunction with the Statewide General Election on November 3, 2026, at which time there shall be submitted to the electors of the City the following ballot questions:

Proposition A:

"Shall the City of Imperial, Nebraska, be authorized to renew its existing sales and use tax of one percent (1.00%) upon the same transactions within the City of Imperial on which the State of Nebraska is authorized to impose a sales and use tax, to be imposed in perpetuity and applied to the City's general fund or other purposes as provided by ordinance of the City Council?"

- ☐ FOR renewal of said one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax, subject to such terms and conditions
☐ AGAINST renewal of said one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax

Electors voting in favor shall blacken the oval opposite the words "FOR renewal of said one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax, subject to such terms and conditions" following such proposition, and electors voting against shall blacken the oval opposite the words "AGAINST renewal of said one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax" following the proposition.

Proposition B:

"Shall the City of Imperial, Nebraska, be authorized to impose a sales and use tax of an additional one-half percent (0.50%), for a total sales and use tax rate of one and one-half percent (1.50%), upon the same transactions within the City of Imperial on which the State of Nebraska is authorized to impose a sales and use tax, to be imposed in perpetuity and applied to the City's general fund or other purposes as provided by ordinance of the City Council?"

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FOR said additional one-half percent (0.50%) sales and use tax, subject to such terms and conditions0 AGAINST said additional one-half percent (0.50%) sales and use tax

Electors voting in favor shall blacken the oval opposite the words "FOR said additional one-half percent (0.50%) sales and use tax, subject to such terms and conditions" following such proposition, and electors voting against shall blacken the oval opposite the words "AGAINST said additional one-half percent (0.50%) sales and use tax" following the proposition.

SECTION 4. Notice of said election shall be given to the qualified electors of said City by publication at least one time not more than thirty days nor less than ten days previous to the election, and a copy of the sample ballot shall be published one time, not more than ten days, nor less than three days prior to the election. Such notice and sample ballot shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in said city and the City Clerk of the City shall be, and hereby is directed, to cause such notice and sample ballot to be published.

SECTION 5. The City Clerk of the City shall be, and hereby is authorized and directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the Chase County Election Commissioner by September 1, 2026, who shall conduct the election as provided by law. The City does hereby agree to reimburse said Election Commissioner for the expense of conducting such election, as provided by the Election Act.

SECTION 6. The form of the ballot and the form of the notice of said election shall be substantially in the form submitted to this meeting, a copy of which form shall be made a part of the minutes. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed in conjunction with the Chase County Election Commissioner conducting the election, to arrange for the printing of necessary ballots for said election and to do all other things and to take all other actions appropriate or necessary in order to cause said election to be submitted to the qualified electors of the city as above provided.

This resolution shall repeal all resolutions or portions thereof in conflict herewith. APPROVED THIS 6 DAY OF July, 2026.

Discussion and consider action regarding directing legal counsel to make changes and give advice regarding amendment to the City of Imperial Personnel Handbook was tabled.

Discussion and consider authorization to purchase audio and video recording and broadcasting equipment for Council Chambers was tabled.

Public comment: None

Motion by John Miller: To adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm, second by Jan Elliott. On call for the vote, the following votes were shown on the voting lights: Nick Colton: Absent, Jan Elliott: Yea, Julie Gockley: Yea, John Miller: Yea. Motion Carried.

SEAL:

Mayor

Attest: City Clerk