

CITY OF IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL

July 14, 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 July 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

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 at 6:00 P.M. and instructed the Clerk to call the roll, with the following results:

Present: Nick Colton, Jan Elliott, Julie Gockley, John Miller and Mayor Craig Loeffler.

Others Present: Treasurer Tricia Moreno, Chief Chad Ostmeier, 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 table the consent agenda, 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: Yea. Motion Carried.

The Council discussed the termination of the contract for interim Administrator, Al Vacanti. John Miller questioned the Mayor what the reason was. Mayor Loeffler states there was a letter given to the Mayor and Council. Vacanti would stay on for the next 14 days if the Council wanted him to. Julie Gockley questioned the Mayor if he wanted Vacanti to stay on and help with the budget but Mayor Loeffler states we don't need him to at the moment.

Mayor Loeffler discussed he has not had time to speak to Councilmember Gockley in regards to this. Vacanti has already started looking at the budget per Clerk Sarah Hoskovec. Councilmember Miller questions why we would not let him just finish it and Mayor Loeffler states the next interim has the ability to do so. Councilmember Miller says he would abstain from the voting due to not having the knowledge of the situation. Mayor Loeffler said he has not been able to inform Councilmember Gockley either and would like to explain. Mayor Loeffler is not disqualifying Vacanti's ability, skills or knowledge, Vacanti is a very talented and is what he says he is. Councilmember Elliott would like to skip to the next agenda item so some of the questions may get answered and then return to this item.

Mayor Loeffler discussed they cannot hire another interim when one is still hired. Mayor Loeffler would like to go into recess to speak with Councilmember Gockley.

The Council went into recess at 6:09 P.M.

The Council came out of recess at 6:17 P.M.

Elliott states if Vacanti wants out of his contract then ok. Loeffler discussed Vacanti made it clear he would stay on for the next 14 days.

Councilmember Miller questioned if the City brought in Vacanti and he was doing a great job but then all of a sudden he wants out? Councilmember Miller states something is not right with this. Mayor Loeffler said he received a phone call in the middle of a parking lot Friday night and was called every name in the book. Mayor Loeffler stated it took him over an hour to get in the pickup and comprehend what happened. Mayor Loeffler took the whole weekend to think about the situation.

Councilmember Miller questions what brought Vacanti to this point. Councilmember Elliott asked Councilmember Miller if he had read all the emails and correspondence, and there was a lot that took place. Councilmember Miller states he is not happy with the whole situation and states this is all wrong, the City employees are mad and there is something not right, this whole group of people, which was going good and then all of a sudden its upended. Councilmember Elliott states it surprises her too. Mayor Loeffler discussed that when he asked Vacanti why, it was because he read the minutes of previous meetings among other things. Mayor Loeffler told Vacanti the minutes are sometimes out of context and are not a word for word transcript, they just have to be agreed upon and filed. Clerk Sarah Hoskovec told the Mayor he may not want to go into any more personnel detail.

Mayor Loeffler discussed Vacanti was supposed to critique him and the Council, if they were doing something wrong, good, etc., or if there is something in the office that needs addressed. Councilmember Miller states Vacanti is there to run the office, to take care of the problems in the office, and lead us down a good road. Mayor Loeffler discussed that the only difference is that he asked Vacanti to give him his opinion on what are the issues. Mayor Loeffler states it is not the Mayor or Council's job to be in the office but may be forced to when things are not getting done, but we can only go so far. Councilmember Elliott discussed that she would have liked to have an in person meeting with him but was unable to because he quit. Councilmember Gockley asked Vacanti why and said it was in response to Loeffler's email.

Mayor Loeffler states the email Councilmember Gockley is talking about, is Vacanti asked for Mayor Loeffler and Councilmember Elliott immediate resignation, that was the only way Vacanti was coming back. Mayor Loeffler states he was not going to step down, he started this job and he is going to finish it. Mayor Loeffler states if people want him out, there is a recall process or they can vote him out at the next election. Councilmember Elliott's philosophy is that if Vacanti wants out, we cannot expect the girls alone to run the office without an interim. The application that is presented looks good and we should allow Vacanti out of his contract so the City can move forward.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To approve the resignation of interim Administrator contract effective at 12:00 P.M. on July 14, 2026, 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: Abstain (Without Conflict). Motion Carried.

Mayor Loeffler discussed the reason he moved to find someone else for Interim City Administrator. Loeffler states he has known this person for a while now and stated for the record that he is currently an Administrative Board member of WCNDD.

Mayor Loeffler has seen this person grow over the last two years and is a good leader. Mark Bottom, the current chair for WCNDD has given his verbal approval for this person to come on board.

Councilmember Elliott stated, if we have a solution, we need an interim, and have an interim according to the contract received, who is willing to take it on, be here more than the previous Interim could have been, so if he is willing to step into that roll than she doesn't see why the City would not take this into good consideration.

Councilmember Elliott believes the City needs to take care of the employees with an interim.

Loeffler states the Council did not have any idea about Edward Dunn, only Nick Colton, until 4:30 last night, that Mayor Loeffler wanted to bring him in and states it was his decision. Mayor Loeffler felt he needed to provide for what was left of the staff. Edward Dunn is a leader, and feels that is what the City needs.

Mayor Loeffler would like the Council to consider the interim Administrator he appointed to fill the position until further notice. Edward Dunn has presented an agreement of appointment, which ends as of the last day of December 2026. Edward Dunn is currently the Executive Director for WCNDD, and was the City Superintendent in Grant for more than five (5) years. Mark Bottom, the current Chair of the WCNDD Administrative Board gave him high remarks per Mayor Loeffler. Edward Dunn emailed a digital copy of the Agreement of Appointment and subsequent memorandum to the Council. Edward Dunn states he is willing to step in as the Interim Administrator. Edward Dunn discussed that the City Administrator is directly responsible for the budget, along with the necessary assistance of the City Treasurer, and City Clerk if needed. Edward Dunn states he prepared the budget every year in Grant. Councilmember Elliott states the City has not even discussed what the City is going to do about Economic Development but Councilmember Elliott and Edward Dunn have spoken that WCNDD can help with part, plus Edward Dunn can assist. Edward Dunn believes having multiple similar networks and contacts, there will be minimal time needed to develop relationships, since he already knows most of the supporting entities the City works with. Councilmember Elliott said that in the circumstances, Tricia Moreno is the Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, who has experience to help with all this as well. Edward Dunn discussed with Mayor Loeffler and Council President Colton that he can work on the budget remotely as well. Edward Dunn provided staff with a calendar of his schedule for July and August. Edward Dunn is scheduled Monday - Wednesday to be available for time in office & meetings but does have some prior engagements.

City Treasurer Tricia Moreno discussed that Edward Dunn would be in the office three days a week and she would be in the office two days a week by herself and would like the Council to consider changes to the open office hours. Mayor Loeffler believes there are plenty of volunteers in the community who would step up and help, and is not afraid to ask. Mayor Loeffler believes there are many talented people in the community who could help. Council President Colton discussed there may need to come a time where the City closes the office and this can and will be discussed at the next City Council meeting. Mayor Loeffler would like City Treasurer Tricia Moreno to tell the Council if she is overwhelmed.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To approve the appointment of Edward Dunn to interim Administrator, as presented and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Imperial effective at 12:00 P.M. July 14, 2026, 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: Abstain (Without Conflict). Motion Carried.

Public Comment: Owen Swanson questioned when Clerk Sarah Hoskovec's last day is. Gina Blocher questioned Hoskovec's resignation. Edward Dunn states the wording in the last meeting minutes states City Clerk Sarah Hoskovec would stay as long as she could. Even though her resignation is tabled, City Clerk Sarah Hoskovec would stay on until she had given a final date. Hoskovec states her resignation will be on the Monday, July 20, 2026 Council meeting agenda. Councilmember Elliott states City Clerk Sarah Hoskovec is not required to come into the office on Monday.

Motion by Jan Elliott: To adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm, second by John Miller. 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: Yea. Motion Carried.

SEAL:


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK