

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL  
June 15, 2026

A regular meeting of the mayor and council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on June 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Columbus Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on May 27, 2026, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the city clerk. Notice of this meeting was given simultaneously to the mayor and members of the city council, with a copy of the acknowledgment of receipt of notice being on file in the office of the city clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the mayor and city council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

1. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT:** Mayor Bulkley announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room. Present were Mayor James Bulkley and Council Members, Charlie Bahr, Troy Hiemer, Rich Jablonski, Kat Lopez, AJ Palensky, Prent Roth, and Ron Schilling. Council Member Cynthia Alarcón was absent and excused. City staff members included City Attorney Neal Valorz, City Administrator Tara Vasicek, Director of General Services Betsy Eckhardt, City Clerk Shuraya Choat, City Engineer Rick Bogus, Public Works Director Chuck Sliva, Police Chief Bret Strecker, Assistant Fire Chief Nate Jones, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator Jean Van Iperen, Communications Manager Matt Lindberg, and Firefighters Dustin Saner, Aaron Perex, Tom Rathje, and Shane Ehlin, Jr.
2. **PRAYER:** Hiemer led in prayer.
3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The National Anthem was played and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following items are considered to be routine by the city council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a city council member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from consent status and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The items on the consent agenda were approved as presented with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Bahr. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Alarcón was absent.
  - 4.A. **Minutes of June 1, 2026, City Council meeting.**
  - 4.B. **Resolution No. R26-82 authorizing payment of various improvement projects.** Resolution No. R26-82 is entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THAT A CHECK BE ISSUED AND MADE PAYABLE TO THE RESPECTIVE CONTRACTOR(S) FOR LABOR, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIALS FURNISHED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATED DISTRICTS AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF

COLUMBUS, ALL AS SET FORTH ON THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATES OF PROGRESS PREPARED BY THE RESPECTIVE SPECIAL ENGINEER TO WIT: GEHRING CONSTRUCTION AND READYMIX CO., INC., CONCRETE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS 2026, \$47,354.40.

**4.C. Finance department report.**

**4.D. Payroll and bills on file.** B=Bnd Pymnts; CP=Capt'l Proj; E=Expns; G=Grnts; I=Insrnc; L=Lic; M=Mbrshp; P=Pymt; R=Rfnd; RT=Rent; S=Srcv & Supp; T=Trng; 6/18/26 payroll 1,119,123.61; 7/2/26 payroll 970,794.92; 7/2/26 quarterly payroll 9,208.90; 911 Custom 787.00 S; A to Z Msgng 148.50 S; ABDO Books 164.67 S; Ace Hdwr 663.33 S; Advnc Auto 216.96 S; All Star Auto 775.00 S; Aqua Case 117.50 S; Aqua-Chem 7,747.70 S; Aqua-Pure 13,290.57 S; Armor Equip 2,357.21 S; Arnold Mtr Sup 623.86 S; AT&T 1,090.59 S; Auxiant 174,938.29 I; Awards & Eng 28.00 S; Bair Holm 2,118.00 S; Bank of the Valley 39,486.50 B; Behlen Twng 1,500.00 S; Benchmark Gvrnmt 585.65 S; Bibliotheca 386.25 S; Black Hills 4,217.84 S; Bound Tree Med 1,455.40 S; Brown's Shoe 306.25 S; B Chochon 15,542.69 G; BS&A 1,425.00 S; Casey's Mail Serv 6,037.30 S; CBS Rprtng 19.40 S; Chesterman Co 1,121.33 S; K Christian 1,800.00 S; Chrome N Steel 1,678.55 S; City of Col 6,821.07 S; Clay Hills Ag 390.00 S; Club Prophet 739.00 S; CNC Rpr 2,015.99 S; CCH 1,006.08 S; Col Crdt Ser 359.08 S; Col Cstm Emb 31.00 S; Col Fam Rsrc Ctr 11,491.30 RT; R Comte 800.00 S; Conner Psych Serv 775.00 S; Connoisseur Media 1,100.00 S; Continental Drift Prod 1,000.00 S; Core & Main 366.06 S; CPPD 499.78 S; M Cromwell 43.07 E; Culligan 371.50 S; Dnls Prod 8,529.60 S; DEMCO 35.55 S; N Donovan 115.00 S; D Dunbar 52,208.94 P; Eakes 717.15 S; Earley Ent 5,798.38 S; Egan Sup 826.53 S; T Egger 70.54 E; Elctrcl Engrng 914.88 S; Engrnd Cntrls 1,590.00 S; Escalade Sprts 2,031.62 S; Fastenal 493.20 S; Ferrellgas 74.90 S; FNBO 23,512.38 S; Five Pnts Bnk 27,185.31 B; Frontier 177.94 S; Galls 1,973.12 S; Gehring Const 50,060.65 CP; G Steffy Ford 134.68 S; Grt Plns Bldg Sup 673.26 S; Grt Plns Comm 1,502.59 S; Grt Plns State Bnk 25,469.39 B; Hach 1,785.10 S; Hawkins 11,938.47 S; HD Sup 322.50 S; HDR 27,395.86 CP; Hrtlnd Ntrl Gas 5,291.10 S; Hrtlnd Clnrs 535.00 S; A Heath 530.00 S; C Heller 2,500.00 S; Hobby Lobby 82.76 S; M Howerter MD 1,303.75 S; Hy-Vee 398.29 S; Image Tech 831.40 S; Imagetrend 2,395.88 S; Indstrl Rpr Serv 420.00 S; Jackson Serv 2,404.86 S; J Sikora 300.00 S; JEO 17,173.25 CP; Jones Auto 19,854.69 CP; Kelly Sup 388.80 S; Kirkham Michael 4,667.80 CP; Koch Excvtng 4,729.10 CP; Lakeview Small Eng 129.00 S; Language Ln Serv 282.92 S; LARM 4,427.51; L Larsen 3,600.00 S; P Laska 178.93 E; Lncln Jrnl Str 792.38 S; Lncln Wnwtr Wrks 1,077.11 S; Loup 116,851.93 S; Luxer Corp 2,103.57; M & O Door 24.82 S; Mailbox 87.76 S; Marco Tech 2,160.00 CP; Matteo Sand 617.90 S; McMaster Carr 61.21 S; Menards 2,306.39 S; MARC 1,152.40 S; Mdwst Lab 1,410.97 S; Mdwst Machine 513.00 S; Mdwst Tape 609.39 S; Mdwst Turf 159.29 S; Mike's Twng 1,950.00 S; D Miller 1,500.00 S; M Morelock 800.00 S; Motion Ind 499.14 S; MRES Legacy 23 Hldngs 52,873.91 B; Mueller Sprnkls 123.00 S; Mun Pipe 2,496.22 S; Napa Auto 415.29 S; NE Golf & Turf 130.69 S; NE Law Enf 655.00 S; Norfolk Daily News 385.00 S; NE NE Econ Dev 95.00 S; NE NE Sld Wste

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71,815.99 S; NoSwett 999.00 S; Occ Health 3,563.00 S; Olson's Pest 578.00 S; One Call Cncpt 361.55 S; One Source 150.45 S; O'Reilly 366.26 S; Otis Elev 550.00 S; Paper Tiger 38.00 S; Pete Lien 16,120.87 S; Petty Cash 193.18 S; L Piitz 1,600.00 S; Pioneer Mfg 991.25 S; Platte Cnty 4,267.54 S; Platte Cnty Reg of Dds 175.00 S; Platte Cnty Trsr 15,961.01 R; Platte Villy Comm 1,176.25 CP; Platte Villy Precast 18,278.00 CP; Points Cnsltng 3,335.00 CP; Port-A-Johns 725.00 S; N Porter 73.26 E; Preferred Plmbng 409.42 S; Principal Life Ins 7,701.80 I; Reardon Lawn 244.91 S; F Ritter 1,000.00 S; River Villy Tire 125.00 S; Sapp Bros 50,867.22 S; SCP Dist 148.50 S; Srvcstr by Shvln 2,661.00 S; Shvln Sup 932.80 S; Shirts R Us 400.00 S; Side Step 1,700.00 S; P Siemek 81.02 S; Stanley Ptrlm 484.20 S; Starguard Elite 480.00 T; State Dept of Rev 72,077.66 P; State of NE Offc of CIO 793.06 S; Super Svr 56.56 S; Sysco 22,060.46 S; The Fltr Shop 446.05 S; The Glf Shp 5,591.73 S; The Knox Co 22,339.00 CP; T Brechbill 3,800.00 S; Tire Outlet 1,850.00 S; TK Elevator 272.17 S; Tractor Sup 156.57 S; Trane U.S. 4,555.00 S; Trittech Sftwr 180.00 S; Truck Cntr 3,730.94 S; Turfwerks 798.22 S; Twin Rvrs Vet 423.31 S; Ty's Outdoor 54.19 S; UPS 147.96 S; USA Blue Bk 738.32 S; D Valenzuela 75.98 E; C Van Dyke 175.00 S; Waste Conn 691.53 S; Weedcope 2,100.00 S; What's the Scoop 750.00 S; Wilke Lndscp 416.00 S; Zimco 445.00 S. Total \$3,270,658.84.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Included in Consent Agenda
6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None
8. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None
9. **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:** Finance department report included in Consent Agenda
- 9.A. **Update on Nebraska Department of Transportation Loup River South Bridges project.** Bogus reported that the project remains on schedule with steel installation and bridge deck work being the primary focus.
10. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:** None
11. **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None
12. **REPORTS ON LEGISLATION:** None
13. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- 13.A. **Appointment of Anthony Kosch as firefighter.** The mayor's appointment of Anthony Kosch as firefighter was ratified with a motion by Bahr and a second by Roth. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Alarcòn was absent. Kosch thanked the council and looks forward to serving the community.
- 13.B. **Comments from mayor and city council members.** There were no comments from the mayor or council members.

**14. RESOLUTIONS:**

**14.A. Resolution No. R26-83 opposing the proposed railroad crossing closure located on 63rd Avenue on the west side of Howard Boulevard/US Highway 81.** Bogus explained that the purpose of this resolution is to express the City's concerns regarding the proposed closure of the railroad crossing and noted that Platte County shares similar concerns. He further stated that resolutions adopted by both the City and Platte County will be forwarded to the Nebraska Department of Transportation to be retained as permanent record. Resolution No. R26-83 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, OPPOSING THE REQUEST OF THE RIO GRANDE PACIFIC CORPORATION ON BEHALF OF THE NEBRASKA CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY ON TRACKS OWNED BY THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD FOR CLOSURE OF THE RAILROAD CROSSING ON 63RD AVENUE LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF HOWARD BOULEVARD/US HWY 81 TO THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Lopez. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Alarcòn was absent.

**15. ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:**

**15.A. Ordinance No. 26-12 authorizing the mayor and city administrator to execute requests for deeds of reconveyance or partial deeds of reconveyance for real estate held as security from Quail Meadows LLC.** Vasicek explained that the City holds security on these lots as part of Quail Meadow's LB840 loan agreement and that as the lots sell, the City will need to release the lots to the purchaser. She stated that the City is requesting authorization for the mayor and city administrator to execute the release of these lots administratively, rather than having the City Council approve them each time. The rules were suspended and Ordinance No. 26-12 entitled: A ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE REQUESTS FOR DEEDS OF RECONVEYANCE OR REQUESTS FOR PARTIAL DEEDS OF RECONVEYANCE WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS LOTS IN QUAIL MEADOWS ADDITION WHICH ARE HELD AS SECURITY BY THE CITY UNDER A DEED OF TRUST FROM QUAIL MEADOWS LLC RECORDED ON MAY 14, 2025, IN BOOK 770 OF MORTGAGES, PAGE 569, OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE, PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE was read by number only with a motion by Palensky and a second by Schilling. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Alarcòn was absent. Ordinance No. 26-12 was

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adopted with a motion by Palensky and a second by Schilling. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Alarcòn was absent.

16. **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING:** None
17. **ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING:** None
18. **PAYROLL AND BILLS ON FILE:** Included in Consent Agenda
19. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None
20. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Presented and approved this 6th day of July 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

: Shuraya Choat