

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
June 1, 2026

A regular meeting of the mayor and council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on June 1, 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 Cynthia Alarcòn, Troy Hiemer, Rich Jablonski, Kat Lopez, AJ Palensky, and Ron Schilling. Council Member Charlie Bahr and Prent Roth were absent and excused. City staff members included City Attorney Neal Valorz, Director of General Services Betsy Eckhardt, City Clerk Shuraya Choat, City Engineer Rick Bogus, Public Works Director Chuck Sliva, Police Chief Bret Strecker, Park and Recreation Director Sydney Mroczek, Fire Chief Ryan Gray, Fire Captain Kyle Lingenfelter, Firefighters Broderick Hoeft, Samuel Hilger, and Trina Osuna, and Engineer Intern Katie Manzano.
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 Schilling. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bahr and Roth were absent.
 - 4.A. **Minutes of May 18, 2026, City Council meeting.**
 - 4.B. **Minutes of May 18, 2026, Community Development Agency meeting.**
 - 4.C. **Minutes of May 26, 2026, Civil Service Commission meeting certifying firefighter candidates Anthony Kosch and Andy Keyes.**
 - 4.D. **Resolution No. R26-79 authorizing payment of various improvement projects.** Resolution No. R26-79 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: COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC COMPANY, FRANKFORT SQUARE LIGHTING, \$42,478.80; RUTJENS CONSTRUCTION, INC., COLUMBUS NORTH WELL NO. 20, \$203,194.66.

4.E. Finance department report.

4.F. Payroll and bills on file. B=Bnd Pymnts; CP=Capt'l Proj; E=Expns; G=Grnts; I=Insrnc; L=Lic; M=Mbrshp; P=Pyemt; R=Rfnd; RT=Rent; S=Srv & Supp; T=Trng. 6/5/26 payroll 1,008,554.36; 1200.Aero 1,200.00 S; 911 Custom 432.00 S; Ace Hdwr 520.09 S; Ace Ovrsh Strg 4,661.56 S; Addept Media 110.00 S; Ag Spray 160.36 S; H Aldrich 228.00 E; Allo 148.94 S; Amrcn Red Cross 789.00 T; Aqua-Chem 380.00 S; B Arant 350.00 S; Armor Equip 1,048.49 S; Arnold Mtr Sup 37.90 S; AT&T 513.74 S; Auxiant 179,308.49 I; Awards & Eng 151.00 S; Bnchmrk Gvrnmnt Sol 55.80 S; A Benesch 2,250.00 CP; Boarders Inn 1,199.60 S; R Bogus 168.20 E; BOKF NA 2,877,287.50 B; Bomgaars 1,881.14 S; Carolina Sftwr 871.03 S; CDW Gvrnmnt 39,248.02 S; Chesterman Co 2,783.22 S; Col Chamber 33,460.00 S; Col Comm Fndtn 33,301.31 B; Col Crdt Serv 57.00 S; Col Cstm Emb 54.00 S; Col Scrn Prntng 920.00 S; Col Westgate 8,052.33 B; Cmmnwth Elect 42,478.80 CP; Core & Main 19,366.46 S; Culligan 36.50 S; D & K Prod 5,168.10 S; Digitech 2,833.03 S; Eakes 1,493.29 S; Elctrnc Eng 33.95 S; Elli Vnarg 12,383.84 B; Fastenal 381.10 S; Frst Interstate Bnk 233,826.35 B; W Fleischacker 300.00 R; M Fluent 139.00 S; Foxster OPCO 6,450.00 S; Gehring Const 339.00 S; Godfather's 104.00 S; Grt Plns Comm 209.95 S; Grt Plns State Bnk 350,663.83 B; Hach 381.56 S; Hawkins 10,572.29 S; HDR 4,871.01 CP; Hmtwn Lsng 708.59 S; M Hook 100.00 R; Humanities NE 75.00 S; IAR 660.00 S; Ingram Lbry 3,926.29 S; Intrntl Code Cncl 465.50 S; J P Cooke 77.50 S; Jackson Serv 2,304.88 S; JEO 23,100.00 CP; J Deere 60.36 S; Jones Auto 20,943.04 CP; Kelly Sup 1,683.61 S; M Klee 60.19 E; Larson Family RE 22,328.33 B; Lfgrd MD 190.00 S; Lncln Wnwtr Wrks 1,590.72 S; Locable 1,485.00 S; Loup 9,844.91 S; P McCulloch 262.50 S; Menards 2,673.07 S; Metro CC 1,284.50 T; Mueller Sprnklr 205.00 S; NAPA 353.99 S; NBC Capital 58,615.28 P; NE Amateur Sftbll Assn 890.00 S; NE Fire Sprnklr 678.00 S; NE Glf & Trf 1,680.00 S; NE Pblc Hlth 1,243.00 S; Nippon Sanso Math 69.75 S; NENEAAA 12,636.00 P; Novicki Fire Prev 220.00 S; O'Reilly 66.35 S; Otis Elvtr 350.00 S; Pete Lien 7,925.77 S; Petty Cash 17.42 S; Pinnacle Bnk 34,010.33 B; Platte Cnty Trsr 40,608.67 R; Platte Vlly Prntng 130.00 S; Polydyne 7,912.00 S; Prestox 152.32 S; Quadient 1,681.00; Quill Corp 71.38 S; R & R Prod 158.85 S; Reardon Lawn 117.99 S; K Reid 9,250.00 S; River Valley Tire 40.00 S; Rutjens 203,194.66 CP; Schieffer Sgns 169.50 S; Sequoia Prop 2,868.42 B; SERC 88,046.31 B; Shevlin Sup 1,269.33 S; State Fire Mrshl 300.00 T; Stericycle 73.96 S; String Beans 1,100.00 S; Stryker 1,106.25 S; Super Svr 67.12 S; The BPAD Grp 350.00 S; Tire Outlet 6,709.00 S; Toby Kid Klauenberg 615.00 S; Truck Cntr

313.86 S; True Ag 8.16 S; Turfwerks 57.12 S; UPRR 1,466.47 CP; UNL 35.90 S; USA Blue Bk 668.62 S; Vandenburg Elect 627.00 S; T Vasicek 2,156.00 E; Wemhoff Rfg 392.26 S; Wilson & Co 5,716.54 CP; Zimco 1,250.00 S. Total \$5,483,683.71.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Included in Consent Agenda
6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
 - 7.A. **Public hearing - Application from Caribbean Bar & Grill LLC dba Caribbean Bar & Grill for retail Class C liquor license located at 1267 26 Avenue and Emilio Pardon as manager.** No public testimony was heard. The public hearing closed with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Palensky. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bahr and Roth were absent. A recommendation was made to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission to approve the application from Caribbean Bar & Grill LLC for a retail Class C liquor license and Emilio Pardon as manager with a motion by Palensky and a second by Schilling. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bahr and Roth were absent.
8. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None
9. **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:** Finance department report included in Consent Agenda
10. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:** None
11. **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None
12. **REPORTS ON LEGISLATION:** None
13. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 13.A. **Appointment of Beth Augustine-Schulte to the Planning Commission for three-year term.** The mayor's appointment of Beth Augustine-Schulte to the Planning Commission was ratified with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Alarcòn. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bahr and Roth were absent.
 - 13.B. **Quote from Knox Company in the amount of \$22,339 for seven narcotic storage units for the fire department. Reallocated CIP #26-24, 22-12** Gray explained that the Drug Enforcement Agency recently issued new regulations regarding the storage, tracking, use, and disposal of controlled substances. He noted that the purchase of these narcotic storage units is intended to meet the new requirements and that additional measures will be needed to achieve full compliance. The reallocation of funds was approved and the quote from Knox Company for seven narcotic storage units was accepted with a motion by Palensky and a second by Jablonski. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez,

Palensky, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Bahr and Roth were absent.

13.C. Plans, specifications, estimate of cost in the amount of \$220,078.50, and authorization to advertise for bids for Precision Approach Path Indicator and Beacon project for Columbus Municipal Airport (plans and specifications are on file in the engineering department). CIP #26-15 Bogus clarified that a state grant was awarded for this project and will cover a significant portion of the project expenses. The plans, specifications, estimate of cost, and authorization to advertise for bids for the Precision Approach Path Indicator and Beacon project was approved with a motion by Alarcòn and a second by Schilling. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Bahr and Roth were absent.

13.D. Comments from mayor and city council members. Bulkley read a press release regarding the Pawnee Plunge dated June 1, 2026, and Bogus introduced Engineer Intern Katie Manzano.

14. RESOLUTIONS:

14.A. Resolution No. R26-80 awarding contract to B-D Construction, Inc. for the base bid amount of \$136,379.50 for Columbus Loup River Bridge Mitigation 2026. CIP #25-25 Resolution No. R26-80 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AWARDING CONTRACT TO B-D CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE BASE BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$136,379.50 FOR COLUMBUS LOUP RIVER BRIDGE MITIGATION 2026 was adopted with a motion by Palensky and a second by Jablonski. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Bahr and Roth were absent.

14.B. Resolution No. R26-81 approving professional service agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$51,400 for design phase services for South 14th Avenue Stormwater Treatment Facility. CIP #24-37 Resolution No. R26-81 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, APPROVING AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND ENGINEER FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$51,400 FOR SOUTH 14TH AVENUE STORMWATER TREATMENT FACILITY DESIGN PHASE SERVICES; A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Alarcòn and a second by Palensky. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Bahr and Roth were absent.

15. ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING: None

16. ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING: None

17. ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING:

17.A. Ordinance No. 26-08 amending city code section 50.35 to add regulations regarding handling of solid waste. Ordinance No. 26-08 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AMENDING COLUMBUS CITY CODE (ORDINANCE NO. 24-01) SECTION 50.35 OF CHAPTER 50 OF TITLE V, TO ADD REGULATIONS REGARDING HANDLING OF SOLID WASTE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM was adopted with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Alarcòn. Alarcòn, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bahr and Roth were absent.

18. PAYROLL AND BILLS ON FILE: Included in Consent Agenda

19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

20. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Presented and approved this 15th day of June 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

: Shuraya Choat