

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting
March 11, 2025

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session in the City Council Chambers on March 11, 2025, at 7:00 PM. The following were present: Holly Hafer, Kent Long, Rick Paulsen, Kevin Willis, Frank Wolff. Absent were Brent Clark, Kirk Highfill, and James Letcher. Also present were City Administrator Green, Assistant City Administrator Barrow, Director of Public Works Heaton, City Attorney Talbot, Non-Lawyer Assistant Ferrari, HR Manager Guhl, Community Development Director Beiermann, and Chief Lager.

The Mayor publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Enterprise or the Pilot -Tribune as shown by the affidavit of publication filed in the City Clerk's office. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is filed in the City Clerk's office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Agenda Item #1, #2 and #3 – Mayor Rump called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item #4 – City Administrator Green highlighted the spring cleanup and burning calendar. The Judiciary Committee has recommended changing burning with a permit to nine consecutive days instead of the usual nine days over three weekends. Staff received complaints from citizens about not being able to burn due to weather. The Committee suggested trying this schedule for one year to see if it would alleviate the concerns received from citizens. If anyone on the Council would like to discuss this issue, it can be pulled from the consent agenda. Consent agenda approved the following: 4a) Approval of Minutes of the February 25, 2025 meeting, 4b) Clerk report of Mayoral Action of the February 25, 2025, meeting, 4c) City Department reports for February, 2025, 4d) Claims as recommended by the Finance Committee, 4e) Approve Spring Clean Up and Open Burn with a permit for 2025, 4f) Resolution No. 2025-25 approving the preliminary engineering supplemental agreement for the River Road Connector Project. Motion by Rick Paulsen, second by Frank Wolff to approve the Consent Agenda. Council members voted as follows: Brent Clark: Absent, Holly Hafer: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Absent, James Letcher: Absent, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #5 – City Administrator Green stated the Police and Fire Committee requested a report detailing response and call data for the Blair Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (BVFD). The January and February reports are being presented for your reference, but in the future, these reports will be included on the consent agenda. Jake Dunn, a member of the BVFD, reviewed the report received from the Washington County Sheriff's Office detailing all the activity for the Department for the past two months. This report will be received from the Sheriff's Office each month and included on the consent agenda. The Mayor and Council expressed their thanks for all the volunteers do to support the citizens of Blair.

Agenda Item #6 – HR Manager Guhl stated the city’s new employee advisory committee called CAT met and reviewed the proposed new policy regarding paid time off for the employees to volunteer. The Committee has representatives of each city department for the purpose of providing representatives with an opportunity to voice opinions and share feedback on issues directly related to their employment and wellness. This policy will support the employees with engagement in the community. The paid leave would include eight (8) hours to volunteer for a non-profit or approved 5013C organization. They can use the hours in four (4) hour increments and the hours reset every fiscal year. Employee can also volunteer in a long-term commitment like Teammates. In addition to the annual eight (8) hours, they can be paid for one (1) hour per week. This does require the employees to complete a request form and receive proper approval from their supervisor. Trevor Corey, Chairman of the CAT, stated the policy is important to many of the employees, especially for those participating in Teammates. This policy gives the employees the opportunity to volunteer and serve in the community. Mayor Rump stated she strongly supports this policy. The Finance Committee is part of CAT, and they are onboard with this policy. They will re-evaluate the policy in a year to see if any changes need to be made. Council member Hafer introduced Resolution No. 2025-26 amending the City of Blair Policies and Procedures to establish a Volunteer Time Off Policy for city employees. Motion by Holly Hafer, second by Rick Paulsen to adopt Resolution No. 2025-26 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Brent Clark: Absent, Holly Hafer: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Absent, James Letcher: Absent, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #7 – Non-Lawyer Assistant Ferrari stated the proposed ordinance would add the fee for UTV licensing to the city’s master fee list in the Municipal Code. Prior to this, citizens were only required to register their UTV once with this city. As per code, they are now required to license their UTV’s annually for \$50. They will be given a different colored sticker each year. Any violations would be covered under the Violations Bureau of the city. Staff will be sending out letters to all registered UTV owners letting them know the code has changed to now require annual licensing. Mark Hodson, 231 Riverview Dr., questioned what the inspection of the UTV would involve and if the code would change to allow the UTV’s to operate after dark. City Administrator Green stated the State Legislature is considering amending state statute to allow UTV’s to operate at night only for snow removal purposes. The Police and Fire Committee recommended approval of the \$50 fee. Council member Paulsen introduced Ordinance No. 2567 amending the Blair City Municipal Code Appendix - Permit, License and Application Fees by adding the fees for UTV Licensing.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BLAIR CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, APPENDIX—PERMIT, LICENSE, AND APPLICATION FEES ADDING THE FEES FOR UTV LICENSING; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AND PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Council member Rick Paulsen moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Council member Holly Hafer seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote the following Council members voted: Holly Hafer: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, and Frank Wolff: Yea. Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill, Absent, James Letcher, Absent. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said Ordinance.

Said Ordinance was then read by title and thereafter Council member Frank Wolff moved for final passage of the Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Council member Holly Hafer. The Mayor then stated the question was "Shall Ordinance No. 2567 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Council members voted: Holly Hafer: Yea, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, and Frank Wolff: Yea. Brent Clark: Absent, Kirk Highfill, Absent, James Letcher, Absent. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. The passage of said Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Council President declared the Ordinance adopted. A true, correct, and complete copy of said Ordinance can be found in the Ordinance Record Book.

Agenda Item #8 – Director of Public Works Heaton stated with the recent interest in development of the property along the north side of Highway 75, staff has asked Olsson to revise Work Order 2 in order to get a design for sanitary services in that area. The original work order was for the design of the newly annexed areas along Hollow Road. This will still include that work but now provide services along Highway 75. The additional fee is \$10,000, bringing the total to \$45,000. This is part of the on-call agreement the city signed with Olsson at the previous meeting. The Water and Sewer Committee recommended approval of amending Word Order #2 with Olsson. Council member Willis introduced Resolution 2025-27 approving amended Work Order #2 with Olsson for Annexation Sanitary Sewer Plans. Motion by Kevin Willis, second by Holly Hafer to approve Resolution No. 2025-27 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Brent Clark: Absent, Holly Hafer: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Absent, James Letcher: Absent, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #9 – City Administrator Green reported several staff members will be gone over the next few weeks due to Spring Break. He also gave an update on the activities at the airport and the expansion plans that are moving forward quicker than expected due to state grants received. Green then updated the public on the process of Executive Session.

Agenda Item #10 – Motion by Frank Wolff, second by Kevin Willis to go into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. to discuss possible litigation involving the City of Blair and to preserve the attorney-client privilege. Council members voted as follows: Brent Clark: Absent, Holly Hafer: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Absent, James Letcher: Absent, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. Mayor Rump declared a motion had been made and seconded to go into Executive Session for the limited purpose to discuss possible litigation involving the City of Blair and to preserve the attorney-client privilege. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried. Motion by Frank Wolff, second by Rick Paulsen to come out of Executive Session and reconvene as a City Council at 7:55 p.m. Council members voted as follows: Brent Clark: Absent, Holly Hafer: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Absent, James Letcher: Absent, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried. Mayor Rump then stated: As you may remember, the Executive Session was limited to the following subjects: to discuss possible litigation involving the City of Blair and to preserve the attorney-client privilege.

Agenda Item #11 – Director of Public Works Heaton presented updated plans and design for the alternative route for the Industrial Water Main Project. HDR has designed a new route that will avoid the area with the stuck pipe and allow the project to move forward. Staff will work with HDR to solicit bids to complete the project. The Engineer's estimate is \$2,165,869. Council member Hafer introduced Resolution 2025-28 approving the redesign of the Industrial Transmission Main authorized by

Amendment No. 7 with HDR Engineering and authorizing staff to solicit bids to complete the redesigned project. Motion by Holly Hafer, second by Frank Wolff to approve Resolution No. 2025-28 as presented. Council members voted as follows: Brent Clark: Absent, Holly Hafer: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Absent, James Letcher: Absent, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #12 – Motion by Kent Long, second by Holly Hafer to adjourn the meeting 7:57 p.m. Council members voted as follows: Brent Clark: Absent, Holly Hafer: Yea, Kirk Highfill: Absent, James Letcher: Absent, Kent Long: Yea, Rick Paulsen: Yea, Kevin Willis: Yea, Frank Wolff: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 3. Mayor Rump declared the motion carried.

The following claims were approved: Abe's Trash Service, Inc, Svc, 1798.50; Advantage Archives, LLC, Svc, 1200.00; Aflac, Svc, 2659.12; Air Products & Chemicals, Inv, 9294.02; Aj's Service & Repair, Svc, 4249.70; Amazon, Inv, 1686.50; American Public Works, Inv, 245.00; American Underground, Inv, 864.82; Association For Rural & Svc, 50.00; Aunt Flow Corp, Inv, 824.00; Automatic Systems Co, Svc, 2611.52; Babkel Mechanical, Svc, 28682.77; Beiermann Jeff, Reimb, 235.41; Bjork Brandi Lee, Reimb, 14.00; Blair Ace Hardware, Inv, 1245.94; Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Svc, 91424.12; Bomgaar Supply Inc, Inv, 1796.47; Bound Tree Medical Llc, Inv, 363.98; Brodart Co, Inv, 2337.00; Buds Auto Repair, Svc, 916.79; Cargill Inc, Svc, 1000.00; Carlson Restoration, Svc, 200.00; Carquest Auto Parts, Inv, 117.35; Cdw Government Inc, Inv, 1890.00; Chapman Trucking, Svc, 1020.10; Christiansen Masonry, Inv, 3250.00; Cintas Corporation #749, Svc, 2453.38; City Wide Facility Sol, Svc, 2875.00; Civicplus, Inv, 3101.55; Clark Brent & Kimberly, Reimb, 205.60; Cloyed David C, Inv, 5960.00; Colibri System, Inv, 1254.35; Country Tire Inc, Svc, 1144.03; Danko Emergency Equipment, Inv, 374.00; Dash Medical Gloves, Inv, 173.23; Datashield, Svc, 87.53; Dick's Electric Co, Svc, 4853.10; Eakes Office Solutions, Inv, 903.72; Ejs Supply, Inv, 3251.33; Electronic Contracting Co, Svc, 311.85; Electronic Engineering, Inv, 268.00; Enterprise Publishing Co, Svc, 1538.32; Eriksen Constr Co Inc, Svc, 1000.00; Feld Fire, Inv, 321.00; First Wireless - D&D, Svc, 1087.08; Firstnet At&T Mobility, Svc, 90.06; Frahm Robert, Svc, 200.00; Fremont Electric, Inv, 282.30; Gaylord Bros Inc, Inv, 125.92; General Fire & Safety, Svc, 911.95; Grainger, Inv, 493.43; Great Plains Communic, Svc, 3092.18; Green Phil, Svc, 140.60; Groundworks Nebraska Llc, Svc, 50.00; Hach Co, Inv, 674.16; Hawkins Inc, Inv, 7062.00; Hayes & Associates, Svc, 9963.48; Hdr Engineering Inc, Svc, 50931.94; Henton Trenching Inc, Svc, 5210.00; Hirschert-Olsen Auto Serv, Svc, 72.84; Holly Hafer, Reimb, 205.60; Hsa Bank, Hsa, 102.50; Hull, Faith, Reimb, 16.66; Illinois Library Assn, Svc, 256.86; Ingram Library Services, Inv, 239.49; Jackson Services, Svc, 1042.55; James Letcher, Reimb, 205.60; Jason Starkey, Svc, 50.00; Jeo Consulting Group Inc, Svc, 32906.45; Jetter's Plumbing Inc, Svc, 728.22; Jones Automotive Inc, Svc, 1700.00; Kelly Ryan Equipment Co, Svc, 845.34; Langer Electric Company, Svc, 500.00; Language Line Services, Svc, 17.11; Larm, Svc, 51.00; Lexis Nexis, Svc, 295.00; Long's Ok Tire Stores, Svc, 20.00; Macqueen Equipment, Inv, 10574.19; Mammoth Containers, Svc, 6955.00; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, Inv, 576.99; Mckinnis Roofing & Sheet, Svc, 789.60; Michael Todd & Co, Inv, 352.80; Micro Marketing, Inv, 337.90; Mid-American Benefits Llc, Svc, 971.36; Midwest Automatic Fire, Svc, 325.00; Midwest Dcm Inc., Inv, 9981.49; Midwest Laboratories, Svc, 1658.82; Mississippi Lime Co, Inv, 21042.90; Mutual Of Omaha Insurance, Svc, 4840.46; Nalco Company, Inv, 37168.95; Navigate 360 Llc, Svc, 1273.08; Ndee - Fiscal Services, Svc, 40.00; Nebraska Handyman, Svc, 50.00; Nebraska State Patrol, Inv, 1318.00; Nsg Logistics Llc, Inv, 4429.08; Olson Grading, Svc, 2500.00; Olsson Associates, Svc, 800.00; Omaha Neon Sign Co, Svc, 50.00; One Call Concepts Inc, Svc, 55.33; Oppd (Utilities), Svc, 119757.32; O'reilly Auto Parts, Inv, 312.66; Paulsen Richard E, Reimb, 205.60; Pioneer Cleaning Llc, Svc, 600.00; Point C, Flex, 332.00; Poulsen Calvin, Svc, 3493.75; Pounds Printing Inc, Inv, 439.60; Premier Systems Roofing, Svc, 50.00;

Qtc Contracting Inc, Svc, 500.00; Quick Med Claims Llc, Svc, 1245.96; Remm Cindy L, Inv, 1480.00; Rock Hard Concrete Inc, Svc, 50.00; Roe Ethan, Reimb, 1531.92; Royalty Roofing, Svc, 150.00; Rump Mindy, Reimb, 204.20; S & S Pumping Service, Svc, 7410.00; S.E. Smith & Sons, Inv, 134.43; Sampson Construction Co, Inv, 35712.35; Sapp Bros Petroleum, Inv, 3951.40; Sirchie, Inv, 122.73; Spartan Stores Llc, Inv, 41.00; Stalp Gravel, Inv, 3083.46; Systems Technology Group, Svc, 495.00; Talbot Law Office, Svc, 3982.50; The Team Approach, Inc, Inv, 192.00; Thermal Heating Air And, Svc, 507.00; Total Truck & Machine, Svc, 234.90; Ty's Outdoor Power & Serv, Inv, 263.99; Union Pacific Railroad, Svc, 5000.00; United Tactical Systems, Inv, 5315.00; Univar Usa Inc, Inv, 22108.88; Usabluebook, Inv, 372.66; Wakefield Towing And Reco, Svc, 400.00; Western Oil Ii Llc, Inv, 5078.89; Wheeler Brenda, Reimb, 214.20; Wildlife Encounters, Svc, 395.00; Wood Deborah, Svc, 400.00; Woodhouse Ford, Svc, 2309.70.

Melinda K. Rump, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Wheeler, City Clerk

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