

City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2026 6:00 PM
Columbus Community Building/Community Room
2500 14 Street
Columbus, NE 68601

The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to go into closed session as per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. A current agenda is on file at City Hall, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska. For more information, call 402-562-4224 or visit our website at www.columbusne.us.

1. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND ROLL CALL

...4-1407. Act, how cited.

Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 2004, LB 821, § 34.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1071; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 35.

Annotations

- Nebraska's public meetings laws do not apply to school board deliberations pertaining solely to disputed adjudicative facts. *McQuinn v. Douglas Cty. Sch. Dist. No. 66*, 259 Neb. 720, 612 N.W.2d 198 (2000).
- The primary purpose of the public meetings law is to ensure that public policy is formulated at open meetings. *Marks v. Judicial Nominating Comm.*, 236 Neb. 429, 461 N.W.2d 551 (1990).
- The public meetings law is broadly interpreted and liberally construed to obtain the objective of openness in favor of the public, and provisions permitting closed sessions must be narrowly and strictly construed. *Grein v. Board of Education of Fremont*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- Although a committee was a subcommittee of a natural resources district board, it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act because there was never a quorum of board members in attendance and the committee did not hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the board. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- A county board of equalization is a public body whose meetings shall be open to the public. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1409. Terms, defined.

For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 2; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 1; Laws 1989, LB 429, § 42; Laws 1989, LB 311, § 14; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 124; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 978; Laws 1997, LB 798, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 36; Laws 2007, LB296, § 810; Laws 2011, LB366, § 2; Laws 2021, LB83, § 11; Laws 2022, LB922, § 12.

Annotations

- A township is a political subdivision, and as such, a township board is subject to the provisions of the public meetings laws. *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- A county agricultural society is a public body to which the provisions of the Nebraska public meetings law are applicable. *Nixon v. Madison Co. Ag. Soc'y*, 217 Neb. 37, 348 N.W.2d 119 (1984).
- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943, and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).
- Although a committee was a subcommittee of a natural resources district board, it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act because there was never a quorum of board members in attendance and the committee did not hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the board. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- Although the Open Meetings Act does not define "subcommittee," a subcommittee is generally defined as a group within a committee to which the committee may refer business. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- The Open Meetings Act does not require policymakers to remain ignorant of the issues they must decide until the moment the public is invited to comment on a proposed policy. By excluding nonquorum subgroups from the definition of a public body, the Legislature

has balanced the public's need to be heard on matters of public policy with a practical accommodation for a public body's need for information to conduct business. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).

- As an administrative agency of the county, a county board of equalization is a public body. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- The electors of a township at their annual meeting are a public body under the Open Meetings Act. *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Bd.*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (2007).
- The meeting at issue in this case was a "meeting" within the parameters of subsection (2) of this section because it involved the discussion of public business, the formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public power district. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).
- Informational sessions in which the governmental body hears reports are briefings. *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (1993).

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close

passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 3; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 2; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 1; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 125; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1072; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 1; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 1; Laws 2011, LB390, § 29; Laws 2012, LB995, § 17.

Annotations

- There is no absolute discovery privilege for communications that occur during a closed session. *State ex rel. Upper Republican NRD v. District Judges*, 273 Neb. 148, 728 N.W.2d 275 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- The public interest mentioned in this section is that shared by citizens in general and by the community at large concerning pecuniary or legal rights and liabilities. *Grein v. Board of Education*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- Hearing in closed executive session was contrary to this section since there was no showing of necessity or reason under subdivision (1)(a), (b), or (c), but did not result in reversal of board decision. *Simonds v. Board of Examiners*, 213 Neb. 259, 329 N.W.2d 92

(1983).

- Negotiations for the purchase of land need not be conducted at an open meeting but the deliberations of a city council as to whether an offer to purchase real estate should be made should take place in an open meeting. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- Public meeting law was not violated where the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska voted to hold a closed session to consider the university president's resignation, and also discussed the appointment of an interim president during such session. *Meyer v. Board of Regents*, 1 Neb. App. 893, 510 N.W.2d 450 (1993).

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body; applicability of section.

(1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section, each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committees, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting to a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village, any advisory committee of such governing body, or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper;

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(C) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district.

Such notice shall be posted by the public body in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, (B) request the newspaper submit a post on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (C) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iv)(A) and (C) of this section and a written record of the request to the newspaper pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iv)(B) of this section. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

- (viii) A community college board of governors;
- (ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;
- (x) A local public health department;
- (xi) A metropolitan utilities district;
- (xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and
- (xiii) A natural resources district.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, subsection (1) of section 70-1014, subsection (2) of section 70-1014.02, or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of (A) an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas, (B) an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, (C) a governing body of a risk management pool and any advisory committee of such governing body, or (D) any advisory committee of any state entity created in response to the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act, such organization, governing body, or committee may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing.

(3) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in

such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413.

(8) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

(a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body;

(b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and

(c) The public body complies with subdivisions (2)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

(9) This section does not apply to a meeting of the Nebraska Power Review Board or a public power district, a public power and irrigation district, an electric membership association, an electric cooperative company, a municipality having a generation and distribution system, or a registered group of municipalities if such meeting is subject to section 70-1034.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 4; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 3; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 25; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 469, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 1161, § 1; Laws 1999, LB 47, § 2; Laws 1999, LB 87, § 100; Laws 1999, LB 461, § 1; Laws 2000, LB 968, § 85; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 38; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 2; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 2; Laws 2007, LB199, § 9; Laws 2009, LB361, § 2; Laws 2012, LB735, § 1; Laws 2013, LB510, § 1; Laws 2017, LB318, § 1; Laws 2019, LB212, § 5; Laws 2020, LB148, § 3; Laws 2021, LB83, § 12; Laws 2022, LB742, § 1;

Laws 2022, LB908, § 1; Laws 2022, LB922, § 13; Laws 2024, LB287, § 74;
Laws 2024, LB399, § 4; Laws 2024, LB1370, § 8; Laws 2025, LB521, § 82.

Operative Date: May 31, 2025

Cross References

- **Emergency Management Act**, see section 81-829.36.
- **Intergovernmental Risk Management Act**, see section 44-4301.
- **Interlocal Cooperation Act**, see section 13-801.
- **Joint Public Agency Act**, see section 13-2501.
- **Municipal Cooperative Financing Act**, see section 18-2401.
- **Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act**, see section 71-2485.

Annotations

- Under subsection (1) of this section, the Legislature has imposed only two conditions on the public body's notification method of a public meeting: (1) It must give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting and (2) it must be recorded in the public body's minutes. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- An emergency is "(a)ny event or occasional combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or remedy; pressing necessity; exigency; a sudden or unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition." *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- An agenda which gives reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at a meeting of a city council complies with the requirements of this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- When notice is required, a notice of a special meeting of a city council posted in three public places at 10:00 p.m. on the day preceding the meeting is not reasonable advance publicized notice of a meeting as is required by this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- Teacher waived right to object to lack of public notice in board of education employment hearing by voluntary participation in the hearing without objection. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).
- A county board of commissioners and a county board of equalization are not required to give separate notices when the notice states only the time and place that the boards meet and directs a citizen to where the agendas for each board can be found. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- A county board of equalization is a public body which is required to give advanced publicized notice of its meetings. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Notice of recessed and reconvened meetings must be given in the same fashion as the original meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- True notice of a meeting is not given by burying such in the minutes of a prior board proceeding. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- An agenda notice which merely stated "work order reports" was an inadequate notice under this section because it did not give interested persons knowledge that plans for a 345 kv transmission line through the district was going to be discussed and voted upon at the meeting. Inadequate agenda notice under this section meant there was a substantial

violation of the public meeting laws; however, later actions by the board of directors cured the defects in notice, and such actions were in substantial compliance with the statute. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing. Except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, a public body shall allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and

(f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 5; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 4; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 2; Laws 1987, LB 324, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1073; Laws 2001, LB 250, § 2; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 39; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 3; Laws 2008, LB962, § 1; Laws 2021, LB83, § 13; Laws 2024, LB43, § 21.

Annotations

- To preserve an objection that a public body failed to make documents available at a public meeting as required by subsection (8) of this section, a person who attends a public meeting must not only object to the violation, but must make that objection to the public body or to a member of the public body. *Stoetzel & Sons v. City of Hastings*, 265 Neb. 637, 658 N.W.2d 636 (2003).

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available

on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 6; Laws 1978, LB 609, § 3; Laws 1979, LB 86, § 9; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 26; Laws 2005, LB 501, § 1; Laws 2009, LB361, § 3; Laws 2015, LB365, § 2; Laws 2016, LB876, § 1; Laws 2021, LB83, § 14; Laws 2022, LB742, § 2.

Annotations

- Under prior law, if a person present at a meeting observes and fails to object to an alleged public meetings laws violation in the form of a failure to conduct rollcall votes before taking actions on questions or motions pending, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Hauser v. Nebraska Police Stds. Adv. Council*, 264 Neb. 944, 653 N.W.2d 240 (2002).
- Subsection (2) of this section does not require the record to state that the vote was by roll call, but requires only that the record show if and how each member voted. Neither does the statute set a time limit for recording the results of a vote, after which no corrections of the record can be made. If no intervening rights of third persons have arisen, a board of county commissioners has power to correct the record of the proceedings had at a previous meeting so as to make them speak the truth, particularly where the correction supplies some omitted fact or action and is done not to contradict or change the original record but to have the record show that a certain action was taken or thing done, which the original record fails to show. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 214 Neb. 85, 333 N.W.2d 652 (1983).
- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943, and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).
- There is no requirement that a public body make a record of where notice was published or posted. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 9; Laws 1977, LB 39, § 318; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 5; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 126; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1074; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 40; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 4.

Annotations

- The Legislature has granted standing to a broad scope of its citizens for the very limited purpose of challenging meetings allegedly in violation of the Open Meetings Act, so that they may help police the public policy embodied by the act. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010).
- Any citizen of the state may commence an action to declare a public body's action void. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- The reading of ordinances constitutes a formal action under subsection (1) of this section. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- Under the Public Meetings Act, a county lacks capacity to maintain an action to declare its official conduct "void" for noncompliance with the act. *County of York v. Johnson*, 230 Neb. 403, 432 N.W.2d 215 (1988).
- When a petitioner under this section is successful in the district court, that court may allow attorney fees. *Tracy Corp. II v. Nebraska Pub. Serv. Comm.*, 218 Neb. 900, 360 N.W.2d 485 (1984).
- Informal discussions between the Tax Commissioner and the State Board of Equalization in which instructions were clarified, with such clarification leading to the amendment of hearing notices, did not constitute a public meeting subject to the provisions of this section. *Box Butte County v. State Board of Equalization and Assessment*, 206 Neb. 696, 295 N.W.2d 670 (1980).
- The right to collaterally attack an order made in contravention of the Public Meeting Act must occur within a period of one year as is specifically provided by this section. *Witt v. School District No. 70*, 202 Neb. 63, 273 N.W.2d 669 (1979).
- Statutory change, requiring "publicized notice" for board of education employment hearings, occurring between dates meeting scheduled and conducted, held not to void

proceedings. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).

- Voiding an entire meeting is a proper remedy for violations of the Open Meetings Act. Once a meeting has been declared void pursuant to Nebraska's public meetings law, board members are prohibited from considering any information obtained at the illegal meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Actions by the board of directors were merely voidable under this section, and not void. Pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the plaintiffs were awarded partial attorney fees because they were successful in having the court declare that the board of directors was in substantial violation of the statute, even though the plaintiffs did not get the relief requested of having the board's actions declared void. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

2. PRAYER

3. NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

4.A. Minutes of June 1, 2026, City Council meeting.

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=Pynt; 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 Hdw 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

4.B. Resolution No. R26-82 authorizing payment of various improvement projects.

RESOLUTION NO. R26-82

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.

WHEREAS, the mayor and council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, hereby find and determine that pursuant to contract, labor, equipment, and materials have been furnished for improvements in the following designated districts and projects within said City, to wit:

Gehring Construction & Ready Mix Co., Inc.	Concrete Paving Improvements 2026	\$47,354.40
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that the respective special engineer has prepared and filed with the city clerk a certificate of progress respecting said improvements, copies of which are attached and are hereby incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein; and that pursuant to said contract, the plans, specifications, and said certificate of progress, there is due the respective contractor on account the amount as set forth in the attached.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, that the said improvements in the aforesaid districts and projects and the respective certificate of progress be and are hereby accepted and adopted; that a check be issued and made payable to the respective contractor in the amount and in the manner as set forth in the respective certificate of progress; that each check shall be drawn on the appropriate and respective fund; that each check shall be redeemed and paid upon collection of special assessments and sale of various purpose bonds at the completion of each of said districts and projects.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY CLERK



Contractor's Application and Certificate of Payment

200-200-57300-20071 - 47,354.40

		Contractor's Application for Payment No: 6	
		Application Period: (From - to) 3/24/26 to 6/2/26	
To: City of Columbus (Owner)	From (Contractor): Gehring Construction & Ready Mix Co., Inc.	Contractor's Project No.:	
Project Name: Concrete Paving Improvements 2026			Via (Consulting Engineer / Architect): City of Columbus
Fiscal Year Budget Number: 200-200-57300-20071			

Application For Payment

Field Order and Change Order Summary

Field (FO#) and Change Orders (CO#) Approved:		
Number	Additions	Deductions
FO 1	\$ 75,302.00	
FO 2	\$ 3,112.12	
TOTALS	\$ 78,414.12	\$ -
NET CHANGE	\$ 78,414.12	

1. ORIGINAL CONTRACT PRICE.....	\$	1,897,618.10
2. Net change by Field Order and Change Orders.....	\$	78,414.12
3. Current Contract Price (Line 1 ± 2).....	\$	1,976,032.22
4. TOTAL COMPLETED AND STORED TO DATE (Column H on Progress Estimate).....	\$	186,065.00
5. RETAINAGE: (Capped at 10% at 50% of Line 3) (When line 4 is over 50% of Line 3 do calculation of Line 3 x .5 x .1 to get Retainage)	\$	18,606.50
6. AMOUNT ELIGIBLE TO DATE (Line 4 - Line 5).....	\$	167,458.50
7. LESS PREVIOUS PAYMENTS (Line 6 from prior Application).....	\$	120,104.10
8. AMOUNT DUE THIS APPLICATION (Line 6 - Line 7).....	\$	47,354.40
9. BALANCE TO FINISH, PLUS RETAINAGE (Line 3- Line 6).....	\$	1,808,573.72

(To double check Line 9 Take Column 1 + Line 5 should = Line 9 calculations)

Contractor's Certification

The undersigned Contractor certifies that to the best of the Contractor's knowledge, information and belief, the Work covered by this Application for Payment has been completed in accordance with the Contract Documents, that all amounts have been paid by the Contractor for Work for which previous Certificates for Payment were issued and payments received from the Owner, and that current payment shown herein is now due.

Contractor: Gehring Construction & Ready Mix Co., Inc.
 By: Stephen Anderson Date: 6-2-26
 Printed/Typed Name: Stephen Anderson

Payment of: _____
 (Line 8 or other - attach explanation of the other amount)

is recommended by: _____
 (Consulting Engineer/Architect) (Date)

Payment of: \$ _____
 47,354.40
 (Line 8 or other - attach explanation of the other amount)

is approved by: Richard J. Bozner _____
 (City Engineer) (Date) 6-8-2026

Approved by: _____
 Funding Agency (if applicable) (Date)

APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATE FOR PAYMENT

Containing Contractor's signed Certification is attached

Project Name: Concrete Paving Improvements 2026				Contractor's Pay Application: 6							
Application Period: (From - To) 3/24/26 to 6/2/26											
A Item			B	C	D	E	F	G	H		I
Bid Item No.	Description	Unit of Measure	Bid Quantity	Unit Price	Bid Value (B*C)	Estimated Quantity Installed	Value Installed (G*E)	Material Presently Stored	Total Completed and Stored to Date (F+G)	% (F) B (H/F*100)	Balance to Finish (D - H)
PROJECT A: 33RD AVENUE FROM NORTH OF 30TH STREET TO SOUTH OF 38TH STREET											
1	Mobilization	JOB	1	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.10	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	10	\$ 45,000.00
2	Traffic and Pedestrian Control	JOB	1	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 0.50	\$ 6,250.00		\$ 6,250.00	50	\$ 6,250.00
3	NPDES, SWPPP, and BMP Maintenance	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 2,500.00
4	Curb or Grate Inlet Filter BMP	EA	11	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 1,800.00		\$ 1,800.00	55	\$ 1,500.00
5	Remove Paving, Including Sawing	SY	14,570	\$ 6.00	\$ 87,420.00	\$ 6,136.00	\$ 36,816.00		\$ 36,816.00	42	\$ 50,604.00
6	Remove Storm Sewer	LF	232	\$ 10.50	\$ 2,436.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 2,436.00
7	Remove Grate Inlet	EA	18	\$ 500.00	\$ 9,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 9,000.00
8	Remove & Reset Monument Well	EA	1	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 500.00
9	Remove & Reset Sign with Telespar Post	EA	23	\$ 500.00	\$ 11,500.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 11,500.00
10	Remove Actuated Pedestrian Pole & Equipment	EA	2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	100	\$ -
11	Remove, Relocate, Temporary Set, & Reset Mailboxes (Approx. 15)	JOB	1	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 0.50	\$ 1,750.00		\$ 1,750.00	50	\$ 1,750.00
12	Remove & Reset Decorative Mailbox (Sta. 15+50L)	JOB	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 1,500.00
13	Remove & Reset Fence & Landscaping	JOB	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 5,000.00
14	4" Aggregate Paving Subbase	SY	12,840	\$ 16.00	\$ 205,440.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 205,440.00
15	4" Perforated Underdrain Piping System	LF	5,400	\$ 15.00	\$ 81,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 81,000.00
16	9" P.C. Concrete Doweled Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	12,229	\$ 72.00	\$ 880,488.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 880,488.00
17	7" P.C. Concrete Street Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	1,285	\$ 60.00	\$ 77,100.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 77,100.00
18	6" P.C. Concrete Driveway Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	556	\$ 55.00	\$ 30,580.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 30,580.00
19	5" P.C. Concrete Sidewalk Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	501	\$ 70.00	\$ 35,070.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 35,070.00
20	1.5' P.C. Concrete Header	LF	56	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,400.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 1,400.00
21	Actuated Pedestrian Pole Foundation	EA	2	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 5,000.00
22	ADA Handicap Ramp Detectable Warning Panel	SF	312	\$ 40.00	\$ 12,480.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 12,480.00
23	Storm Sewer Junction Box	EA	2	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 9,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 9,000.00
24	6' Open Throat Inlet	EA	24	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 108,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 108,000.00
25	18-inch RCP Class III Storm Sewer	LF	57	\$ 58.00	\$ 3,306.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 3,306.00
26	15-inch RCP Class III Storm Sewer	LF	412	\$ 52.00	\$ 21,424.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 21,424.00
27	12-inch RCP Class III Storm Sewer	LF	88	\$ 47.00	\$ 4,136.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 4,136.00
28	Adjust Manhole to Grade	EA	18	\$ 500.00	\$ 9,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 9,000.00
29	Connect to Existing Storm Sewer	EA	7	\$ 700.00	\$ 4,900.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 4,900.00
30	Construct Concrete Collar	EA	8	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,280.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 1,280.00
31	Adjust Water Valve to Grade	EA	17	\$ 250.00	\$ 4,250.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 4,250.00

Project Name: Concrete Paving Improvements 2026					Contractor's Pay Application: 6						
Application Period: (From - To) 3/24/26 to 6/2/26											
A			B	C	D	E	F	G	H		I
Item											
Bid Item No.	Description	Unit of Measure	Bid Quantity	Unit Price	Bid Value (B*C)	Estimated Quantity Installed	Value Installed (G*E)	Material Presently Stored	Total Completed and Stored to Date (F+G)	% (F) B (H/F*100)	Balance to Finish (D - H)
32	Final Pain Striping, 4-inch Yellow Solid and Dashed	LF	7,906	\$ 1.85	\$ 14,626.10		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 14,626.10
33	Final Pain Striping, 4-inch White Solid and Dashed	LF	400	\$ 1.85	\$ 740.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 740.00
34	Final Paint Striping, White Turn Arrow	EA	4	\$ 550.00	\$ 2,200.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 2,200.00
35	Final Paint Striping, White Crosswalk Bars (24"x72")	EA	5	\$ 275.00	\$ 1,375.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 1,375.00
36	Speed Limit Sign (R2-1) with Telespar Post	EA	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 250.00
37	Two-Way Left Turn Only Sign (R3-9b)	EA	4	\$ 275.00	\$ 1,100.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 1,100.00
38	Overexcavation and Crushed Concrete	TON	200	\$ 60.00	\$ 12,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 12,000.00
39	Earthwork, Final Grading, Backfill, & Shaping	JOB	1	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 90,000.00
40	Hydroseeding Disturbed Areas	ACRE	1.1	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 24,200.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 24,200.00
FO2	Remove Hydroseed, Use Sod instead	SF	47,916.0	\$ 0.57	\$ 27,312.12		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 27,312.12
					\$ 1,833,613.22		\$ 52,616.00		\$ 52,616.00		\$ 1,780,997.22
PROJECT B: 13TH STREET AND 28TH AVENUE PEDESTRIAN NODES											
1	Mobilization	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
2	Traffic and Pedestrian Control	JOB	1	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	100	\$ -
3	NPDES, SWPPP, and BMP Maintenance	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
4	Remove Paving, Including Sawing	SY	241	\$ 12.00	\$ 2,892.00	241	\$ 2,892.00		\$ 2,892.00	100	\$ -
5	8" P.C. Concrete Street Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	241	\$ 85.00	\$ 20,485.00	241	\$ 20,485.00		\$ 20,485.00	100	\$ -
6	ADA Handicap Ramp Detectable Warning Panel	SF	32	\$ 40.00	\$ 1,280.00	32	\$ 1,280.00		\$ 1,280.00	100	\$ -
7	Adjust Manhole to Grade	EA	2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	2	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	100	\$ -
8	Overexcavation & Crushed Concrete	TON	100	\$ 60.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 6,000.00
9	Earthwork, Final Grading, Backfill, & Shaping	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
					\$ 40,157.00		\$ 34,157.00		\$ 34,157.00		\$ 6,000.00
PROJECT C: 8TH STREET AND 3RD AVENUE FIELD ENTRANCE											
1	Mobilization	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
2	Traffic and Pedestrian Control	JOB	1	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	100	\$ -
3	Remove Paving, Including Sawing	SY	63	\$ 12.00	\$ 756.00	63	\$ 756.00		\$ 756.00	100	\$ -
4	8" P.C. Concrete Street Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	8	\$ 100.00	\$ 800.00	8	\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00	100	\$ -
5	6" P.C. Concrete Trail Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	49	\$ 80.00	\$ 3,920.00	49	\$ 3,920.00		\$ 3,920.00	100	\$ -
6	6" P.C. Concrete Colored & Stamped, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	6	\$ 150.00	\$ 900.00	6	\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00	100	\$ -
7	Overexcavation & Crushed Concrete	TON	20	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,200.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 1,200.00
8	Earthwork, Final Grading, Backfill, & Shaping	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
					\$ 13,576.00		\$ 12,376.00		\$ 12,376.00		\$ 1,200.00

Project Name: Concrete Paving Improvements 2026				Contractor's Pay Application: 6							
Application Period: (From - To) 3/24/26 to 6/2/26											
A			B	C	D	E	F	G	H		I
Item											
Bid Item No.	Description	Unit of Measure	Bid Quantity	Unit Price	Bid Value (B*C)	Estimated Quantity Installed	Value Installed (G*E)	Material Presently Stored	Total Completed and Stored to Date (F+G)	% (F) B (H/F*100)	Balance to Finish (D - H)
ADDITIONAL PROJECT NO. 2 - SENIOR CENTER NORTH ENTRANCE PAVING											
1	Mobilization	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
2	Traffic and Pedestrian Control	JOB	1	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	100	\$ -
3	Remove Paving, including Sawing	SY	79	\$ 16.00	\$ 1,264.00	79	\$ 1,264.00		\$ 1,264.00	100	\$ -
4	7"P.C. Concrete Street Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	66	\$ 70.00	\$ 4,620.00	66	\$ 4,620.00		\$ 4,620.00	100	\$ -
5	5" P.C. Concrete Sidewalk Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	14	\$ 70.00	\$ 980.00	14	\$ 980.00		\$ 980.00	100	\$ -
6	ADA Handicap Ramp Detectable Warning Panel	SF	8	\$ 40.00	\$ 320.00	8	\$ 320.00		\$ 320.00	100	\$ -
7	Overexcavation & Crushed Concrete	TON	20	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,200.00		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ 1,200.00
8	Earthwork, Final Grading, Backfill, & Shaping	JOB	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	1	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	100	\$ -
					\$ 13,384.00		\$ 12,184.00		\$ 12,184.00		\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 1,900,730.22		\$ 111,333.00		\$ 111,333.00		\$ 1,789,397.22
FIELD ORDER NO. 1 - ADA SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS											
1	Mobilization	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
2	Traffic and Pedestrian Control	JOB	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	100	\$ -
3	Remove Paving, including Sawing	SY	466	\$ 12.00	\$ 5,592.00	466	\$ 5,592.00		\$ 5,592.00	100	\$ -
4	5"P.C. Concrete Sidewalk, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	344	\$ 70.00	\$ 24,080.00	373	\$ 26,110.00		\$ 26,110.00	108	\$ (2,030.00)
5	7" P.C. Concrete Street Paving, NDOT Type 47B-3500	SY	164	\$ 70.00	\$ 11,480.00	134	\$ 9,380.00		\$ 9,380.00	82	\$ 2,100.00
6	ADA Handicap Ramp Detectable Warning Panel	SF	360	\$ 40.00	\$ 14,400.00	360	\$ 14,400.00		\$ 14,400.00	100	\$ -
7	Adjust Valvebox to Grade	EA	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	1	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	100	\$ -
8	Adjust Curb Stop to Grade	EA	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	1	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	100	\$ -
9	Adjust Grate Inlet to Grade	EA	4	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00	3	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	75	\$ 500.00
10	Repair/Rework of Grate Inlet if used parts available	EA	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	1	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	100	\$ -
11	Rebuild of Inlet Box if needed	EA	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	1	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	100	\$ -
12	Earthwork, Final Grading, Backfill, & Shaping	JOB	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	100	\$ -
13	Hydroseeding Disturbed Areas	Acre	0.25	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	0.25	\$ 5,500.00		\$ 5,500.00	100	\$ -
FIELD ORDER NO. 1					\$ 75,302.00		\$ 74,732.00		\$ 74,732.00		\$ 570.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST PLUS FIELD ORDER NO. 1 and NO. 2					\$ 1,976,032.22		\$ 186,065.00		\$ 186,065.00		\$ 1,789,967.22

4.C. Finance department report.

CASH SUMMARY BY FUND FOR CITY OF COLUMBUS

FROM 04/01/2026 TO 04/30/2026

FUND: ALL FUNDS

CASH AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance 04/01/2026	Total Debits	Total Credits	Ending Balance 04/30/2026
100	GENERAL FUND	8,503,740.14	1,568,210.86	1,883,069.82	8,188,881.18
189	PERPETUAL CARE	90,466.50	414.69	38.33	90,842.86
200	STREETS/ENGINEERING	(1,625,236.76)	484,863.87	361,579.79	(1,501,952.68)
205	AIRPORT	1,562,307.42	29,261.93	19,036.86	1,572,532.49
206	DOWNTOWN BID	138,287.76	1,909.67	6,576.35	133,621.08
210	SALES TAX	3,330,377.61	525,137.22	158,559.08	3,696,955.75
211	1/2 CENT SALES TAX	3,196,131.33	253,551.41	0.00	3,449,682.74
212	GAMING TAX	588,754.73	2,698.74	55,249.43	536,204.04
220	COMMUNICATIONS - E911	694,186.92	123,841.94	119,182.58	698,846.28
221	COMMUNICATIONS - WIRELESS E911	210,940.75	12,460.03	10,686.14	212,714.64
225	COMMUNICATIONS-EC-911 EQUIPMENT	(53,744.27)	0.00	0.00	(53,744.27)
240	HOUSING REHAB & LOANS	425,751.61	1,951.56	204.12	427,499.05
260	PROGRESS AND JOBS GROWTH	945,963.28	56,401.11	400.77	1,001,963.62
270	KENO	416,238.16	1,340.32	0.00	417,578.48
400	DEBT SERVICE FUND	(695,950.22)	952.43	0.00	(694,997.79)
480	COMMUNITY REDEVL AUTH	717,586.43	66,169.15	10,262.00	773,493.58
500	UTILITY SERVICE	23,971,862.66	1,075,420.68	761,339.68	24,285,943.66
520	WATER	17,391,187.96	628,796.46	422,225.57	17,597,758.85
530	LOUP DISTRIBUTION	2,007,933.95	9,203.97	850.68	2,016,287.24
560	STORMWATER UTILITY	1,869,751.38	43,678.73	10,467.48	1,902,962.63
570	SOLID WASTE DIVISION	4,955,892.67	258,009.64	185,979.29	5,027,923.02
600	HEALTH INSURANCE	2,944,621.43	112,526.75	70,854.96	2,986,293.22
710	FIRE PENSION	68,026.14	311.82	637.82	67,700.14
730	LICENSES TO SCHOOLS	14,505.00	1,700.00	0.00	16,205.00
740	LIBRARY FOUNDATION	623,646.18	0.00	0.00	623,646.18
745	LIBRARY ENDOWMENT	1,857,430.24	0.00	0.00	1,857,430.24
750	GERRARD PARK TRUST	159,167.51	0.00	0.00	159,167.51
999	PAYROLL CLEARING	13,637.00	903,368.03	923,902.42	(6,897.39)
	TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	74,323,463.51	6,162,181.01	5,001,103.17	75,484,541.35

4.D. Payroll and bills on file.

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.



**Accountability - Dedication
Honesty - Integrity - Respect**

City Hall | Engineering Department
2500 14th St., Suite 3
Columbus, NE 68601
402-562-4309
EngDept@columbusne.us
www.columbusne.us

Nebraska Department of Transportation Columbus South Bridges Project

June 2026 Update

- Nebraska Department of Transportation project
 - City is the Local Public Agency of record

 - Working on finishing the south piers and abutments
 - Prepping and setting of reinforcement on the deck
 - Grading and subgrade preparation for the trail connection on the north
 - NDOT will include removal and replacement of the traffic “bump” on north end of the east bridge structure
 - Temporary asphalt wedge placed last week
 - City submitted NEPA Amendment to United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) for construction of box culvert wall along Levee by Higgins Memorial.
 - Working with the USACE and NDOT on this process
 - USACE determining their processes and timeline for approval
 - If work proceeds and approved is obtained in time, a Change Order to the general contractor will be needed for this work

 - Project remains on schedule for fall 2027 completion
-

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.



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Integrity – Respect

City Hall
2500 14th St.
Columbus, NE 68601
402-562-4220
columbusne.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2026
TO: City Council Members
FROM: James B. Bulkley, Mayor
SUBJECT: Appointment

With your permission, I wish to submit the name of **Anthony Kosch** for appointment to the position of Firefighter. Per Council Rules, the two-week waiting period is waived for an appointment of a paid firefighter. Mr. Kosch was certified by the Civil Service Commission at their meeting held May 26, 2026.

Anthony was born and raised in Columbus, NE, where he graduated from Scotus Central Catholic High School. He earned his EMT license from Northeast Community College in 2023 and later attended Metropolitan Community College, earning a degree in Paramedicine. Anthony has served as a paramedic and lab technician at CHI Health Clinic in Omaha and is currently employed as a paramedic with Priority Medical Transport.

Anthony is a volunteer for the Bellwood Rural Fire Department and, as an active member of the Knights of Columbus, volunteers at a variety of community events. In his free time, he enjoys recreational sports, reading, and spending quality time with his friends and family. Anthony looks forward to contributing to a team-oriented environment and the opportunity to serve his hometown and make a positive impact in the community.


James B. Bulkley, Mayor

13.B. Comments from mayor and city 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.

RESOLUTION NO. R26-83

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.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Nebraska, has received correspondence from the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation on behalf of the Nebraska Central Railroad Company (NCRC) to the Nebraska Department of Transportation recommending the railroad crossing closure of 63rd Avenue located on the west side of Howard Boulevard/US Hwy 81; and,

WHEREAS, the NCRC leases and operates the railroad line at said location on railroad tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad; and

WHEREAS, the community is growing in the region, the corporate limits are located on both sides of said crossing, and railroad crossings are limited in the region with the next closest crossing at about one mile; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure would sever community neighborhoods, create unnecessary burden on the vehicular and pedestrian traffic, increase travel times of the public and school buses, impact operations for current and future businesses, and increase vehicle emissions due to the three-mile permanent detour; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure is not in compliance with the City's Comprehensive Plan, Long-Range Transportation Plan, and Master Trail Plan; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure would cause emergency life safety response times to increase outside of the National Fire Protection Agency standards and Insurance Services Office benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, proposed closure would result in a loss of an emergency route from a Loup River federal levee failure or flood event as included in the City of Columbus, Platte County, and Lower Loup Natural Resource District Emergency Operations Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, to oppose the request of the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation on behalf of the Nebraska Central Railroad Company request for closure of the railroad crossing on 63rd Avenue located on the west side of Howard Boulevard/US Hwy 81.

This resolution shall repeal all resolutions or portions thereof in conflict herewith.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ___ DAY OF _____, 2026.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY



Accountability - Dedication
Honesty - Integrity - Respect

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2026

TO: Tara Vasicek, City Administrator

FROM: Richard J. Bogus, City Engineer

RE: Resolution of opposition for Closure of 63rd Avenue Railroad Crossing on the west side of Howard Boulevard

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the approval of the Resolution in opposition to the request of the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation (RGPC) on behalf of the Nebraska Central Railroad Company (NCRC) on tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) for closure of the railroad crossing on 63rd Avenue located on the west side of Howard Boulevard (US Hwy No. 81).

DISCUSSION:

Whereas,

- The community is growing in region of the 63rd Avenue, as proof of recent subdivisions
 - Platte County Board of Supervisors are on record by Resolution to keep the crossing open
 - Existing corporate limits are located on both sides of the railroad tracks
 - Access crossings options in the region of the railroad tracks are already limited
 - The closest crossing in either direction of 63rd Avenue is about one mile
 - Closure is not in compliance with the City Comprehensive Plan which includes the Long-Range Transportation Plan
 - Increase travel times of the public and school buses, causing negative safety impacts to the public
 - Increased vehicle air emissions due to the three-mile permanent detour
 - Increase travel use travel costs for the user
 - Emergency life safety vehicle response times will increase and be outside of the National Fire Protection Agency standards and Insurance Services Office benchmarks.
 - Loss of an emergency access from a Loup River federal levee failure or flood event, as included and stated in the City of Columbus, Platte County and Lower Loup Natural Resource District Emergency Operations Plan
 - Closure severs a portion of the community neighborhood
 - Existing and planned business major impactions and operations on the south side. Gehring Construction & Ready Mix owns, operates, and is expanding south and east of this intersection. Loss of crossing would be financially severe.
 - Affects property valuations on the south side
 - Severs the City's Master Trail Plan in this region. Existing trails are in place set up to utilize this crossing, due to the lack of crossing in the area.
 - Creates an unnecessary burden on the vehicular and pedestrian public
-

- There will most likely be residential and business opposition and questions of fairness and reduced quality of life
- The 63rd Avenue crossing was there before the NCRC decided to use it as staging for the UPRR Columbus Yard.
- The NCRC and UPRR are aware of this from past meetings on this option from ongoing 63rd Avenue and Howard Boulevard traffic signalization meetings

Therefore, the City's objection to the RGPC request on behalf of the NCRC to the NDOT to close the 63rd Avenue crossing located on the west side of Howard Boulevard/US Hwy No. 81

FISCAL IMPACT:

Impact to Street and Utility Divisions operation budgets if the intersection is closed.

ALTERNATIVE:

Do not approve.

SIGNATURE:

By: Richard J. Boger

Approved By: [Signature]



63 Avenue, west side of Howard Blvd/US Hwy 81

KWMG-FM Columbus

Harran's Colum

Image © 2026 Airbus

Imagery Date: 5/1/2026 41°27'10.27" N 97°24'20.55" W elev 1465

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.

DRAFT

ORDINANCE NO. 26-12

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.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Nebraska, is the legal holder and holder of a Promissory Note in the original sum of \$800,000, secured by a certain Deed of Trust dated April 7, 2025, in which Neal J. Valorz, Attorney at Law, as Trustee, and Quail Meadows LLC, as Trustor, the same having been recorded on May 14, 2025, in Book 770 of Mortgages, Page 569, of the Register of Deeds Office, Platte County, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Quail Meadows LLC has sold and/or plans to sell and continue to sell various lots from the Quail Meadow Addition of the City of Columbus, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, when each such lot is sold Quail Meadows LLC will seek a Deed of Reconveyance with respect to said lot that has been sold and the City desires to grant the Mayor and City Administrator the authority to request such Deed of Reconveyance or Partial Deed of Reconveyance so as full City Council approval is not necessary each time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDANED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, that:

- Section 1. The Mayor and City Administrator are granted the authority to request such Deed of Reconveyance or Partial Deed of Reconveyance with respect to such lot or lots lying in the Quail Meadow Addition of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, which said lots are secured by the Deed of Trust dated April 7, 2025, and recorded May 14, 2025, in Book 770 of Mortgages, Page 569, of the Register of Deeds Office, Platte County, Nebraska;
- Section 2. Upon a request for such a Deed of Reconveyance or Partial Deed of Reconveyance being executed by the Mayor and City Administrator, the Trustee under said Deed of Trust shall be authorized to execute a Deed of Reconveyance or Partial Deed of Reconveyance, as the case may be, with respect to the lot or lots set forth in said request; and

- Section 3. That all ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are repealed.
- Section 4. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication according to law. Publication shall be in pamphlet form as authorized by §16-405 of Nebraska Revised Statutes with distribution to be made by making copies available to the public upon request at the City office.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

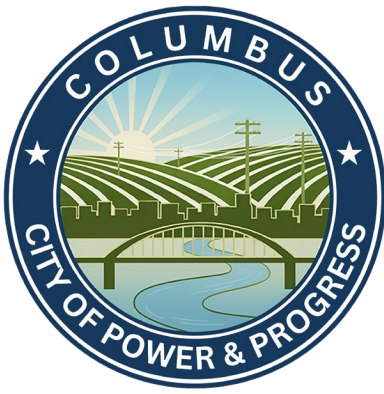
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY



**Accountability – Honesty
Dedication – Integrity – Respect**

City Hall | Administrative Office
2500 14th St., Suite 3
Columbus, NE 68601
402-562-4232
columbusne.us

Memorandum

Date: June 11, 2026

To: Tara Vasicek, City Administrator

From: Jean Van Iperen, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator

RE: Ordinance Authorizing Deeds of Reconveyance – Quail Meadows Addition

Recommendation:

Approval of the Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and City Administration to execute Requests for Deeds of Reconveyance and Partial Deeds of Reconveyance for lots within the Quail Meadows Addition and authorize the release of Lots 1 through 6, Block C as presented.

Discussion:

The City of Columbus currently holds a Deed of Trust securing an \$800,000 promissory note from Quail Meadows, LLC related to the development of the Quail Meadows Addition. The Deed of Trust was executed on April 7, 2025, and recorded on May 14, 2025.

As residential lots within Quail Meadows are sold, the City must authorize the release of those individual lots from the Deed of Trust through a Deed of Reconveyance or Partial Deed of Reconveyance. Currently, each release would require City Council approval.

The proposed ordinance authorizes the Mayor and City Administrator to execute Requests for Deeds of Reconveyance and Requests for Partial Deeds of Reconveyance on behalf of the City for lots within the Quail Meadows Addition. This will streamline the process by eliminating the need for individual City Council approval each time a lot is sold while maintaining the City's security interest in the remaining unsold lots.

The accompanying Partial Deed of Reconveyance would release Lots 1 through 6, Block C, Quail Meadows Addition from the Deed of Trust, allowing those lots to be conveyed to purchasers while the remaining lots continue to secure the outstanding obligation.

Fiscal Impact: None

Alternative:

Signature: Jean Van Iperen

Concurrence: _____

Approved: [Signature]

Sipple, Hansen, Emerson
Schumacher, Klutman &
Valorz LLC
PO Box 1305
Columbus, NE 68602-1305

Return To:
City of Columbus
2500 14th Street
P.O. Box 1677
Columbus, NE 68601

PARTIAL DEED OF RECONVEYANCE

Neal J. Valorz, Attorney at Law, Trustee under the Nebraska Deed of Trust dated April 7 2025, made by Quail Meadows, LLC, Trustor, dated April 7 2025, and recorded May 14, 2025, in Book 770 of Mortgages, Page 569, of the Register of Deeds, Platte County, Nebraska, having received from the City of Columbus, Nebraska, the Beneficiary thereunder, a written request to reconvey, in part, and in accordance with said request and the provisions of said Deed of Trust does hereby reconvey, without warranty, to the entity legally entitled thereto, all right, title and interest in and to that portion of the real property described in said Deed of Trust said portion being described as follows:

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block C, Quail Meadows Addition, a Subdivision of Part of the Northeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 29, Township 17, North, Range 1 East of the 6th P.M., Platte County, Nebraska.

DATED this ____ day of _____ 2026

Neal J. Valorz, Attorney at Law, Trustee

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF PLATTE)

Before me, a notary public qualified for said county, personally came Neal J. Valorz, known to me to be the identical person who signed the foregoing and acknowledged the execution thereof to be his voluntary act and deed.

DATED this ____ day of _____ 2026

Notary Public

REQUEST FOR PARTIAL DEED OF RECONVEYANCE

**TO: Neal J. Valorz, Attorney at Law, Trustee
P. O. Box 1305
Columbus, NE 68602**

The undersigned Beneficiary, the City of Columbus, Nebraska, is the legal owner and holder of the Promissory Note in the original sum of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00), secured by that certain Deed of Trust dated April 7 2025, in which Neal J. Valorz, Attorney at Law, is Trustee and Quail Meadows, LLC, is Trustor, recorded May 14, 2025, in Book 770 of Mortgages, Page 569, of the Register of Deeds, Platte County, Nebraska.

You are requested to reconvey, without warranty, to Quail Meadows, LLC, the right, title or interest now held by you thereunder in and to that portion of the real property described in said Deed of Trust, situated in Platte County, Nebraska, as follows:

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block C, Quail Meadows Addition, a Subdivision of Part of the Northeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 29, Township 17, North, Range 1 East of the 6th P.M., Platte County, Nebraska.

The making of this Partial Reconveyance shall be endorsed by the undersigned Beneficiary upon said Note and Deed of Trust.

CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, Beneficiary

By _____
JAMES BULKLEY, Mayor

By _____
TARA VASICEK, City Administrator

ATTEST:

City Clerk
(SEAL)

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**