

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the BPS Administration Building Board Room, 320 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska 68310.
Mayor Wirth led those in attendance in Pledge of Allegiance.

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Present, Eckhoff: Present, Eskra: Present, Fairbanks: Present, Hydo: Present, McLain: Present, Ruh: Present.

Mayor Wirth announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

3. PROCLAMATION - "Autism Acceptance Month" – *Ted Fairbanks*

presented to Councilmember Fairbanks. pass on to Krystal Wallman, 1111 woodland, casing & Donna Schultz.

4. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS

4.a. Update on SCC-Beatrice – *Toni Landenberger*

toni 25 years, updates & restructure of campuses - separated out roles - associate vp & development, since july
progrmas of study - new - aa nursing, utility lineworker & welder
welding trades center, opened in fall 2025 - certificate program - 2 in fall & spring - add on - if build up dermad will offer all year
utility lineworker program - recently required was going to be in Lnk or Milford - stand alone program, starting 2026 fall - 20
spots? 30 applicants??partnering with NPPD & reached out to TT -
1 + 1 nursing LPN to RN
enrollment statistics 550 students? ag & athlete transfer largest
international students - 25 - down - many athletes, one from Russia - non athlete
sports - bobcats - baseball, softball, coed rodeo, esports, golf
Agricultural Technology Center - north of Ag Hall - former technology building - building new, will replace Ford Hall, phased
approach - expandable with future farm phasing
4 classroom labs, ag mechanics, add greenhouse

Ted - welding certficiate program? certificate 1 class? _____ working to make them stackable
Doyle - enrollment increasing? yes, 11% last year, looking at 8--9% this year Doyle - going into trades, graduating far fewer
than we used to, so have to be gathering from somewhere. more exposure for 2 year degree. good wages, opportunities with a 2
year

estra - kudos on lineman program - Norfolk - good partners to work with - they get 80 applicants for 40 spots

Mayor - future will be

future master plan updating this year

Mayor - working with City - where lines are working on arrangement what is city's or colleges, roads

4.b. Presentation by Neapco – *Herb Griebe, Plant Manager - Components*

herb - refresher & update on neapco
1981 opened - 1st bldg, expanded 3 expanded factory & 1 added on office in 2014-2015
model still similar - automotive industry, small vehicle & ag presence - customers in ag field - red/white, green, blue - continue to

bid on projects to plan for revenue

3 shift operation; 140 hourly employees, 40 salary employees.

looking to bring new business to building - general questions - 1. workforce - people drive the success we have. what are some projects council sees for neapco to bring into the city? or Investments? Mayor - acquiring 4 elementary schools, finished up housing lots - 41 lots available that will hopefully be starter homes. couple other - housing - kensington 36 - stoddard place housing as well. Looks like with merger of GDC - new tool, have SCC here - welding etc. industrial park important piece. last piece making sure we can provide with electricity - taking steps to ensure customers have power we need. Herb - utilities have been a given, very beneficial

herb - would love to see city grow, always in a hiring mode - open in assembly & machine, facility maintenance, wide spectrum of income. part time work - soliciting at SCC, have had some success - 12-18 hr week. fill in gaps.april - at SCC & HS

dont take approach that expect someone to stay forever, give someone experience so they can build up & combine with their education.

Ted - saw small area - really impressed with employees, even who came & went - internal program? Herb - people themselves -

terry - thank for 45 years

HERb- continue to push customers for new business &

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.a. Approve agenda as submitted.

5.b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting.

5.c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.

5.d. Approval of minutes of regular meeting on March 16, 2026, as on file in the City Clerk's Office.

5.e. Approval of Treasurer's Report of Claims in the amount of \$892,976.47.

5.f. Approval of BASWA Report of Claims in the amount of \$530,235.61.

5.g. Approval of BPW Report of Claims in the amount of \$1,984,386.29.

5.h. Approval of Pay Request #7 in the amount of \$398,693.11 to Building Crafts, Inc., for the WPC Grit Improvements project, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

5.i. Approval of Pay Request #7 in the amount of \$63,766.06 to Van Kirk Brothers Contracting for the 2025 Heritage Heights Addition project.

- 5.j. Approval of Change Order #4 increase in the amount of \$5,933.00 to Van Kirk Brothers Contracting for the 2025 Heritage Heights Addition project.
- 5.k. Refer claim of Alayna McGinty, Wyatt McGinty, and Isabelle Rios regarding damages to their personal property to the City Attorney and City Insurance carrier for review and disposition.
- 5.l. Refer claim of Rodney Trauernicht regarding damages to his personal property to the City Attorney and City Insurance carrier for review and disposition.
- 5.m. Refer claim of Joyce Porter regarding damages to her personal property to the City Attorney and City Insurance carrier for review and disposition.
- 5.n. Refer claim of Tammy Vculek for an injury occurring on November 16, 2025 to the City Attorney and City's Insurance Carrier for review and disposition.
- 5.o. Award of bid for the Hannibal Park – Field No. 8 Project – 2026 to Clausen & Sons Dirt Work, Inc., in the amount of \$115,215.00.
- 5.p. Resolution Number 7751 granting permission to Tall Tree Tastings, LLC, to serve alcoholic beverages in the Beatrice Public Library on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., for a “Little Black Dress” event.
- 5.q. Resolution Number 7752 entering into a Wide Area Network (WAN) Leasing and Services Agreement and any and all other documents necessary, between the City and Unite Private Networks, LLC, d/b/a Segra, for Segra to lease WAN Facilities and provide WAN Services to the Beatrice Public Library.
- 5.r. Resolution Number 7753 executing the Amendment to Administrative Service Agreement with Allegiance, and any and all other documents necessary, to reflect the increase in administrative fees paid to Allegiance.
- 5.s. Resolution Number 7754 consenting to the assignment of Evalyn M. Fitzwater's, Trustee of the Evalyn M. Fitzwater Living Trust u/a dated December 5, 1991, right, title, and interest in and to Quonset No. 6 to Scott W. Fitzwater, Pamela S. Johansen, and Todd B. Fitzwater.
- 5.t. Resolution Number 7755 submitting Payment Request #9 to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the reimbursement of eligible costs for the Downtown Revitalization Project 23-DTR-002.
- 5.u. Resolution Number 7756 stopping all traffic traveling south on Crest Drive before entering the intersection of Crest Drive and Scott Street.
- Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the items listed under the consent agenda, be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS

6.a. Public Hearing for the purpose of considering the application of Ironwood Grille, LLC, dba, Ironwood Grille, LLC, 1301 Oak Street, Beatrice, Nebraska, for a new application for a Class C liquor license.

Murphy - background check - nothing to prevent them from having license
Chet - no changes re zoning just ownership no concerns

Wendy & COLby - excited to bring to Club & community
Doyle - thank you for investing.

Wendy - misconception when it was blackcock grill - has been open to members & public to enjoy.
Alex - open? Yes, 11-8; 7 days/?

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the public hearing be closed at 6:46 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the application of Ironwood Grille, LLC, dba, Ironwood Grille, LLC, 1301 Oak Street, for a Class C liquor license, be recommended to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission for approval. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

6.b. Public Hearing for the purpose to consider amending Section 303 of Article III of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Beatrice, relating to Agricultural Use Types; Table 4-2 of Article II of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Beatrice, relating to Permitted Uses by Zoning Districts; and Section 602 of Article VI of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Beatrice, relating to Supplemental Use Regulations: Agricultural Uses.

TT - proposing amending zoning ordinance. wants to open butchery, current zoning does not allow, amending to allow. adding in ability by special use permit in AG or GI - with no confinement within 750' of residential. rules - no livestock confined for more than 3 days. no more than 5 animals for 8 hours.

When apply - traffic plan, waste removal, butcher control measurers
Ruh - on 5 animals - bring in 15, have to be down to 5 within 8 hours.

TR - all nuisance ordinances in as well

Dana - uncomfortable with bribing in 100 animals & down to 5, could be a large operation.

TT - correct - looking for small butchery, Dana - not seeing any issues, but thinking within 2 miles, could have issue with a large operation, sounds like could

TR - P&Z can put more restrictions on

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the public hearing be closed at 6:55 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.a. Resolution Number 7757 executing the Professional Services Agreement between the City and JEO Consulting Group, Inc., for the Beatrice Court Street Access and Safety Transformation (“CAST”) Initiative, Project DPS-34(46), CN 13608.

one of the next boxes, rerouting Hwy 136, funded by RAISE grant, sign JEO as engineer . 7 progress meetings with JEO & City; 4 meetings with PCM - 3 utility coordination meetings, not just electric, telecommunications, etc., 1 public meeting, 10 stakeholder meetings to meet with smaller business owners, in addition, JEO will have project website & provide info to City to disburse. contract _____, does not include _____, will be a separate contract. this is through design. 12/28.

Mayor - a lot riding on for JEO as well, lot of people watching. JEO confident they will move through & get one

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7757 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.b. Resolution Number 7758 approving and accepting the bid submitted by Danielle’s Approach, LLC, for the purchase and installation of new navigational assistance equipment at the Beatrice Municipal Airport, Grant No. 3-31-0009-025/026/027, subject to and contingent upon the FAA’s concurrence in award and offer of an Airport Improvement Program grant.

NAVID lights upgrades, combo of federal \$ & _____ \$ 3 bids, \$670 - 945 - ENg Est 883. most importantly 95/5 split. Fed pickup 95%, state aid grant - about \$16,000 - 2% leaves city 3% - \$20,000. worked with Daniel's Approach on taxiway. hope to get done this fall. Mayor - another nice asset for our airport. Dana - how nice it is to have these grant funds. Engineer on the project - very thorough & easy to understand.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7758 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.c. Resolution Number 7759 executing Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement dated October 13, 2021, between the City and Alfred Benesch & Company adding supplemental construction and special material testing phase services to assist with the additional observation to take place during the construction phase of the Reconstruct Taxiway ‘C’ & Apron project.

Taxiway project - longer than budgeted, Benesch had additional labor hours & testing on concrete, supposed to be 182 calendar days, 278 calendar days additional fees \$ _____ this change order for benesch, the contractor had liquidated damages on this project, will reduce \$ _____

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7759 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8. ORDINANCES

annexation of 10 acres by industrial park, adjacent, rezoned to GI, contingent, suburban, 2nd reading, 3rd in 2 weeks.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that read 2nd time. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.a. Ordinance Number 26-10, **second reading**, on the proposed annexation of Gage County Parcel No. 004342100 into the corporate limits of the City of Beatrice.

8.b. Ordinance amending Section 303 of Article III of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Beatrice, relating to Agricultural Use Types; Table 4-2 of Article II of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Beatrice, relating to Permitted Uses by Zoning Districts; and Section 602 of Article VI of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Beatrice, relating to Supplemental Use Regulations: Agricultural Uses.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-12 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-12 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.c. Ordinance vacating a portion of Lots One (1) and Six (6) and all of Lot Five (5), Beatrice Retirement Village Addition, City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska.

beatrice retirement village addition, good sam, when good sam was built, over lot lines, when good sam wants to sell off to beatrice commons, need to vacate portion of lot 1 and 6 & lot 5, next beatrice commons, replant 32 lots & apartment complex for senior living 35-40 units, _____, north of trail. excel acquire by 4/15, by time ready to file with deeds office to proceed with purchasing property &

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-13 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-13 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.d. Ordinance approving the plat of Beatrice Commons Addition to the City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska.

approving plat discussed previously

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-14 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-14 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.e. Ordinance vacating all of Progress Boulevard lying in Beatrice Business Campus Subdivision, City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska.

next 3 related. SCC grow & expand to add onto Ag Hall. Progress Blvd, SCC acquired property, but Progress Blvd is a city street. noticed, part of addition on city row, hae a road to go on back side of wished to have a private road, proposing to vacate project blvd & sell Progress Blvd to SCC so they own & maintain, clear line of demarkation. step 1 vacate.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-15 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-15 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8.f. Ordinance conveying real estate owned by the City to Southeast Community College Area.

this & resolution - sell prpoerty to SCC, best for SCC to have their expansion project.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-16 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-16 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

9. RESOLUTIONS

9.a. Resolution Number 7760 entering into a Contract for Sale of Real Estate with Southeast Community College Area.

no futher discussion

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7760 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10. PUBLIC FORUM

11. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS

11.a. 2025 Beatrice Police Department Annual Report.

page 3 - russ promoted. 2 new hires

page 3 - k9 shift, license plate readers, backup 911, project lifesaver - autistic kids trying to get word out;

calls for service - 9600 include wymore, Crete & Richadson

maloley's award - actions in homicide case

Trianing summary - continuing education 32 hours now - at least 2 hour in service each month. 1864 hours in 2025 for all.-
trainings listed - Ted - all onsite or webinars

calls responded to in 2025 - not 11,575, to 12____, usually pretty steady - disturbance domestic -assaults victim assistance director - as well as traffic stops up by 1000 - want officers to keep busy

citations & warnings - educate public - fair split - have to educate with arrest or ticket

arrests - 664 - doing good job & bottom of 18 - possession of controlled substance, fire arms - pg 19 narcotics - \$ _____
- get Murphy's info

2024 - 198?? 67% 252 in 2025 - arrests 252 146 arrests 57% in 2025

Thomas - 8 -
toro - 35 in 2025

depends on who is available - Thomas was on k9 shift 12-10 in 2025 - rough estimate both have 2-3 years left

SRO - in Middle, High, and officer at Elementary school 1 day a week

calls for service - 57 in middle school 64 last year; HS 14 last year, 50 i 2025 -

Drone Program - night vision drone on order - last year had a smaller drone - 11 different times
Victim Assistnace 1128 people 1258 in 2024. steady both years -
also victimisations

community policing - do a good job - special Olympics, night of great pumpkin, lighted parade, basketball schrimage, practice football, torch run, tip a cop bussed tables - free ride home - 618 to 650 in 2025, steady program.
national night out - last year big success 34 booths, stuff the cruisers - 250 to 405 in 2025 & increased monetary donations.

already good start to 2026.

Terry - in city audit - 30,000 contacts

Ted - is there something in the department that may be lacking that we can help with? pretty happy, have ups & downs, try to educate public & officers on how we want to operate. door open & hae sefveral

dana - vehicle mileage - drive un til don't go? Jay - split shifts, repairs. How often do we replace? TT - asks every year, fall under when we issue PSD - Dana - mental health assessment went up? JM - not sure on why; what happens when assessment is done? JM - BCH has started to do assessments or we have online zoom assessment with TASK in Lincon - Dana - drugs #1 issue for policing or something else? JM - have our share & do best to have someone specialized in. not saying have a drug problem, can lead to other.

Mayor - have to remember advocate is grant position - savings we get for work she does - encourage this body to figure out how to fund that position what she does is is
Hydo - report on website? TT - will make sure it is if it is not.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Contract Negotiations

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the Beatrice City Council go into closed session at 7:42 p.m., for the protection of public interest to discuss contract negotiations. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Absent, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

13. MISCELLANEOUS

13.a. The next regular City Council meeting is April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the BPS Administration Building Board Room.

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor