

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, July 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: Present, 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. CONSENT AGENDA**

3.a. Approve agenda as submitted.

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

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

3.d. Approval of minutes of regular meeting on June 15, 2026, as on file in the City Clerk's Office.

3.e. Approval of Treasurer's Report of Claims in the amount of \$1,191,566.17.

3.f. Approval of Envision Landscaping claim in the amount of \$879.00.

3.g. Approval of BASWA Report of Claims in the amount of \$38,787.71.

3.h. Approval of BPW Report of Claims in the amount of \$988,902.99.

3.i. Approval of Change Order No. 1 increase in the amount of \$2,811.82 to AHRS Construction, Inc., regarding Phase 1A Electrical Utility Relocation and April/May weather days for the Beatrice Municipal Airport Construct T-Hangar/Taxilines, CDS 3-31-0009-024 project.

3.j. Approval of Change Order #5 decrease in the amount of \$8,245.23 and Final Pay Request #10 in the amount of \$66,437.51 to Van Kirk Brothers Contracting for the 2025 Heritage Heights Addition project.

3.k. Approval of public funding request from Beatrice Noon Kiwanis Club in the amount of \$2,725.00 for the Annual MUDECAS Basketball Tournament event.

3.l. Resolution Number 7812 appointing Steven Timm to the Library Advisory Board.

3.m. Resolution Number 7813 executing revised Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to FAA Contract No. DTFACN-16-L-00196 to correct the termination date of the Lease Agreement.

3.n. Resolution Number 7814 entering into a Provider Agreement and any and all other documents necessary between the City and Nebraska Medicaid for the City to participate in the Nebraska Medicaid & Long-term Care Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Uncompensated Cost Reimbursement Program.

3.o. Resolution Number 7815 submitting Payment Request #10 to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the reimbursement of eligible costs for the Downtown Revitalization Project 23-DTR-002.

Hydo - is that in kind? TT - rent charged which is reimbursed.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the items listed under the consent agenda, be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented Eckhoff abstain from item f. McLain abstain from item o. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

#### 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS - None

#### 5. RESOLUTIONS

5.a. Resolution Number 7816 executing the Utility Infrastructure & Ownership Maintenance Agreement with Beatrice Country Club, Inc., as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

TT - City & BCC verbal agreement for decades, effluent water piped to BCC, into ponds & use to irrigate greens at their facility. questions on who owns, responsible for what items, clarifies this info.

Terry - water infrastructure, good life? TT - assume will need to deal with it something.can't speak to that, Mayor - other thing is someday with WWTF regulations may or may not be able to cointnue to do this. if comes along, we want to be sure give as long of notice as possible.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7816 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

5.b. Resolution Number 7817 executing any and all documents and taking all actions necessary to obtain and complete the requirements of the Rural Business Development Grant for the purpose of developing a Downtown Beatrice Economic Development Plan and funding a Business Recruitment Feasibility Study.

USDA grant applied for RBDG \$46,000 \$24,000 match. create strategic plan downtown what to recruit in future with improvements being made. Ted - do we coordinate with Gage Development Coor. TT - plan on working with Caleb quite closely. Ted - not listed? TT- MM wrote grant, Terry - time? June 2027, spend \$ by then

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7817 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

5.c. Resolution Number 7818 entering into an Engagement Letter for Commercial Appraisal Services between the City and Kubert Appraisal Group to provide appraisal services for real property owned by the City, commonly known as 917 South 11th Street.

discussed in past, MARS move to landfill, part of process, appraisal of current location, quote, recommended to go with Ku \$3,950?? Ted - multiple people inquiring, they have different time frames on when we plan to sell TT - looking at Sept/Oct move. waiting on baler.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7818 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

5.d. Resolution Number 7819 entering into an Engagement Letter for Appraisal Review Services between the City and RL Kieth Consultant, Inc., as required for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Chautauqua Park Pickleball Courts project.

LWCF grant, notice that we've been awarded, no agreement at this time. part of this is acquisition of property, had appraisal done, grant requires 2nd review of appraisal pursuant to grant.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7819 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

5.e. Resolution Number 7820 declaring the Mayor and City Council's support for the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) CN 13569 Project along Highway 77.

CN13569 - M&O project on Hwy 77, anytime NDOT has urban, look for safety improvement, identified initiated study to final June 29, 2026, concluded 3 lane south of Lincoln provides time travel benefits, City has committee of stakeholders, commuters, CC members, committee suggest to convert at Lincoln Street. NDOT will proceed, 3 lane, South up to North final location determined by NDOT during design, project north will remain 4 lanes. Where conversion happens will be determined. consists of Bridge 52 ft wide, 400 to 455 ft...10 ft sidewalk to both side same size as trail, reuse bridge rails will review 6th & High. City estimated \$1.7-2.5, actual cost may be higher depending upon construction.

Mayor - made clear Hwy 77 have talked about CAST initiative, however, this is not for that project.

McLain - financing how does it look? TT \_ should be able with cash, have \$1 mill street project pull those funds instead of main or reconstruction, not until 2028, will have 1-2 years, save or delay projects to have. McLain - not huge constriction? TT - will have to push off some projects

Hydo - north end, keep chaos we know, instead of what we do not know. amount of vehicles along that stretch. state was just going to repaint. that area was a concern for many in public. those living on south side with concerns, understands that, West side has & it has been ok. traffic counts are similar in those areas. if works there, should work S Hwy 77. hope it works for everyone. works for City, did not have \$6 mill to spend on this, would cripple our street sept for years if we had to come up with that money. meet needs & concerns on the north end of the project, and our concern with council to keep 4 lane & spend the \$. sat on committee, mixture of thoughts, can't change all, then it flipped that we should make it 3 lanes the entire way. good

middle ground & solution

Mike - on committee, compromise for both sides, traffic in fast food, seemed happy with solution that was come to

Ruh - this will go to our engineer so they know what to do with this. TT - ours will have nothing to do with this project. Ruh - process to approve their design? TT - NDOT will have final decision, Ruh - roundabouts? TT - no discussion on this project. Mayor - NDOT - may have open houses. Alex - time? Mayor - no, has not been designed, scheduled for 2028, bidding in 2027, start design process in August. believe NDOT will have open house. They are interested in being fair to community as well. Will strictly look at Hwy 77, restriking, bridge, City will pay for bridge rails. Why adding 10' to each side, trail, could save anyone's life on bicycle.

Gary - remind everyone everyone except Ruh voted yes. asking Duane why wont share with information from NDOT & wont share with us. Ruh - refuse to answer question. not time and place to discuss this. Gary - from NDOT got answers from Brandon - asked if plan to replace bridge, briefly discussed but not pursued. replace similar. Get info from TT

Billie - part of the committee that met twice on the project. told the budget was too tight. \$2mill per mile for \$6 mill. bridge would remain & difference between don't recall someone specifically was for 3 lanes, did discuss compromise becoming Lincoln south 3 lanes, was discussed at final meeting, NDOT countered keeping Ella south. Were never given a written comprehensive quote. you get quotes for damage, talking about millions & couldn't provide plans or quotes, after June 1st mtg, still don't understand why can't get a plan or quote like we have for CAST prior to making a recommendation. CAST proposed at 6th & Market & 6th & Court. 2 facts that listening here they were not documented here. many still asking to keep 4 lanes. still believe needs to be discussion had whether to keep 4 lanes or move to 3. it would cripple for years to come understand keeping 4 lanes is a cost understand there needs to be compromise. was recommended Ella from NDOT. Gary - petition doesn't have legal validity. Billie - understand Gary - any businesses N 6th? TT - Billie, Darin Baehr, Ryan Trauernich, Nick Simmons, Dana, Mike, Terry - ONE OTHER ONE.

Alex - what did you think the compromise was? Billie - 2nd meeting met with NDOT & they recommended Ella. understand costs can change. something in writing would be nice. Hydo - NDOT does not work like that too far out to have a solid number Billie - biggest thing, CAST were given map of design. why was something like that not provided? TT - highering private engineer for design vs NDOT

Ted - hope understand this is how NDOT works, this changes multiple times a day. why I voted to send to State because he understands. Understand we need to listen to our constituents. never received calls or emails, neither did other Members. social media attacks. Billie - she did not attack. Ted - 10' additional on both sides. Billie - didn't agree with that Mulberry to Dorsey. Ted - he wasn't as well.

Hydo - at the first meeting Rick talked about another community Darin & Ryan were both on that side as well. they were on side that we will make it work. Hydo - cripple that department, explain how that would be? TT - \$6 mill 3 years still want them to plow snow, capital projects 6 years with no capital projects not just road construction over the summer, when I say cripple, would be tough pill to swallow

Jim Nelson, hand outs, resolution has 3 components that should be voted on separately. opposed to 6th & high main intersection that pedestrians, does not increase safety. bridge do you thing removing pedestrian crossing light will remove safety. Mayor - that is why the state will be reviewing that. will removing light Mayor - they will review & look at other options and make a recommendation. yes they will look at it

Did you receive copy from NDOT? TT - have not received a final copy. S 6th Bridge - will stay same width, will traffic lanes decrease? Mayor - no South RR viaduct TT - part of the repairs  
Last thing reducing to 3 lanes Why CC make Lincoln instead of Ella? Hydo - not opposed to Ella, but would like cars to spread out more. Ella may be it. JN - why going against their recommendation of Ella? Hydo - tried to decide. TT - committee recommended Lincoln - NDOT said will look at it. TT - committee recommended Lincoln Street. JN - any weight with NDOT? Mayor - they don't have to, if you want to reach out, but do believe CC and Mayor has taken serious look after issue was raised, to come up with a compromise. JN - study on Minnesota - road diet, summary of guidelines, based on average daily traffic can be misleading. must be considered in tandem on crossroads, crucial to know side street traffic count. need to have all information. question to Doyle - backups, what have you noticed since 1987? Roundabouts is it really to accommodate 6th & court & 6th & Market - not disclosed to public that effects hwy shouldn't remove light

dave rayburn, west court to hwy 77, continue to dislike it. urge councilmembers to look at change in resolution want to change 77 from Lincoln to somewhere south, when pass resolution everything that is in there is agreeable. fear factor presented safety factor, advisory team made up of city employees - no other view, didn't get a side view. tempemeyer said we haven't discussed roundabouts, but from their line in daily sun, safety of roundabouts. cost has nothing to do with safety. with property valuation are you going to raise tax levy? whole thing is a farce, should be recalled. not with city of Beatrice, most behind are for. Mayor - there are people for 4 lanes through, also a number for 3 lanes, from south to Beatrice into city, giving me 2 lanes with turn lane,

will be safer. having a turn lane.

Callie Ideus, filly, spent last 6 months promised each one would bring concerns forward, has ag community been part of the conversations? if they have can they be? Guardrails that are being placed in? TT - no contract at this time, conversations with state improtatn, until they are. Callie - will look for safeguards in contract? TT - yes, always do. Not sure on the Ag community, NDOT is aware.

Gary - reminder NDOT will likely have an open house go express concerns to NDOT who make the decision. welcome here, but NDOT is who will decide.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7820 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

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

## 6. ORDINANCES

6.a. Ordinance vacating all of Lots 1-3 and Outlot A, Beatrice Business Campus Subdivision.

vacate beatrice business campus surrounding knowledge marketing, platted, SCC now owns all lots, helps them build out there without being over lot lines, etc. vacate & make part of entire campus.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-20 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-20 be passed and approved.  
**MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

6.b. Ordinance amending Sections 9-2 thru 9-12, and repealing Section 9-13 of the Beatrice City Code regarding fire prevention and protection

2009 adopted, staff learned, reviewed biggest change August 1-July 31, now calendar year, like pet license, etc. rid of a few things that were not done cleaning up process

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-21 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-21 be passed and approved.  
**MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

## 7. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS - None

8. MISCELLANEOUS

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

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:06 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

**Erin Saathoff, City Clerk**

**Stan Wirth, Mayor**