

**Broken Bow City Council  
Budget Hearing Minutes  
September 24, 2024**

The Broken Bow City Council met in a Budget Hearing on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the Broken Bow Municipal Auditorium. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Custer County Chief, the designated method for giving notice, on September 19, 2024. Availability of the agenda and related materials was communicated in the advanced notice to the Mayor and all members of the Council and shared with various media outlets. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Rod Sonnichsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, with the following Councilmembers present: Russ Smith, Luke Wassom, Chris Myers, and Paul Holland. Absent: None. Mayor Sonnichsen announced the availability of the Open Meetings Act.

Moved by Wassom, seconded by Holland, to open the Hearing at 5:02 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, Myers, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jeff Oeltjen, CPA with Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP explained the 2024-2025 Appropriation Bill. City Administrator, Dave Schmidt, highlighted the changes on the current documents that have transpired since the budget workshop. Those changes include updated Eagle Crest project numbers on the infrastructure side, updated health insurance figures, and a change to the electrical department equipment repairs for bucket truck repairs. City Clerk, Jennifer Waterhouse, also added further clarification to the estimated state department of transportation payment figures that were updated as recommended by Dana F. Cole. She also discussed the updated health insurance figures, acknowledging that the change in numbers is due to shifts in personnel, rising costs, past misunderstandings about how the figures were categorized, and joining the Pareto Health Captive.

Councilmember Myers stated that for the first time in many years the city is fully staffed and with that we should expect to see a rise in healthcare costs. Councilmember Holland also stated that health insurance is going up along with all other types of insurance. Mayor Sonnichsen concluded by thanking the city staff, council members, department heads, and Dana F. Cole for all their help and working as a team to get the budget completed.

Jeff Oeltjen concluded by stating that the previously published budget is different than the current budget proposed due to a few of the line-item changes that were discussed in the hearings. He further stated that if they are approved tonight, the city will republish a Notice of Adopted Budget with those changes.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Myers, to adjourn the City Council Budget Hearing at 5:36 pm. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, Myers, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

  
Jennifer Waterhouse, City Clerk



Rod Sonnichsen, Mayor