

## Broken Bow City Council

### Meeting Minutes November 26, 2024

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 26, 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. Advance notice of the meeting, a copy of the agenda, and related council materials were given to the Mayor and all members of the City 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 6:00 pm, with the following Councilmembers present: Russ Smith, Luke Wassom, and Chris Myers. Absent: Paul Holland. Mayor Sonnichsen announced the availability of the Open Meetings Act, followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Wassom to approve the consent agenda for November 26, 2024. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the November 12, 2024, Council Meeting and Bills to Date. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers, Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aflac \$563.75, \$119.50, Al's Lock & Safe Inc \$12,760.00, Axon Enterprise Inc. \$4,320.00, Black Hills Energy \$354.79, Blue Star Christmas Tree Farm LLC/ BB Chamber of Commerce \$1,100.00, Brittany Rozman \$64.00, Broken Bow Municipal Utilities \$728.83, Carquest of Broken Bow \$280.43, City Flex Benefit Plan \$225.00, City of Broken Bow \$25.50, City of Broken Bow - Health Insurance \$3,661.81, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund \$2,353.56, \$11,567.48, \$1,636.77, Colonial Insurance \$577.42, \$332.10, Custer County Chief \$212.60, EFTPS Online Payment \$3,128.90, \$8,551.82, \$13,379.02, Eakes Office Solutions \$314.79, Fyr-Tek \$93.85, Great Plains Communications \$185.00, Highstreet Insurance & Financial Serv \$147,475.77, Hometown Leasing \$116.85, Huffman Diesel \$3,040.00, Ingram Library Services \$2,130.83, JEO \$12,970.00, \$27,345.00, Josh Townsend \$857.69, Kim Blackburn \$40.08, Kinetic Leasing, Inc. \$54,538.00, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions \$185.00, Megan Svoboda \$117.03, Mid Plains Community College \$421.85, Midwest Alarm Services \$325.50, Murphy Tractor & Equipment \$15,217.24, NMC Inc \$511.02, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center \$851.09, Pareto Health \$76.00, Paulsen Inc. \$729.12, \$10,299.53, Presto X Company \$72.49, Ranchland Ford \$845.30, RT Ace, LLC \$116.91, \$35.50, \$32.46, \$25.73, Readers Digest \$13.92, Rolling Stone \$29.95, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment \$4,202.04, Statewide Collection LLC \$15.95, Trotters Whoa & Go West \$157.15, TSYS Merchant Solutions \$229.00, TX Child Support SDU \$410.23, Taste of Home \$13.79, The Grand Island Independent \$214.99, The Olson Group \$4,550.00, Tim Eggleston \$114.98, Trotter Service \$503.87, \$1,953.54, \$132.21, \$25.00, \$43.92, Trotter Whoa & Go West BB \$554.92, \$193.55, \$388.62, Total \$358,660.54. Bi-Weekly Payroll (11/20/24) \$75,358.71, Grand Total \$434,019.25.

Under new business, moved by Myers, seconded by Smith to approve the Amendment Application for Class I Liquor License Application for Henry F. Schumacher, Sylvester's Bar & Lounge. Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wassom, seconded by Smith to approve Eagle Crest Change Order #2 with JEO Consulting Group Inc., moving the "substantial completion" milestone date from December 31, 2024, to May 1, 2025. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt explained that the timeline

extension did not come as a surprise as the original timeline was a bit aggressive for fall paving and the weather turning cold. He recommended approving the extension as the date does not change the project completion date. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Smith to open a public hearing at 6:03 pm regarding Ordinance 1293, Water Rates. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt explained that he has had a few questions regarding reserve funds. He said that although the Eagle Crest Project would have qualified for the use of the reserve funds, we have not used any reserve utility funds for that project and instead are using sales tax infrastructure funds. He further explained that the city is in a good position with over a million in reserve funds, but we are not able to build reserves on the water and sewer side. He said that the city would like to be in a position where we can build those funds approximately 7%-10% every year so that when we have a large 6.5-million-dollar project we do not have to leverage as much. Mona Weatherly asked for clarification on the reserve funds. Administrator Schmidt explained that we have several different accounts earmarked for specific things and when you total them all up the city is sitting pretty good, but we still have projects coming up that will be funded out of the current reserves. Future projects include the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue water lines, sewer extensions on South E Street/Hwy 2, and repairs to well house #6. He explained that projects like these will use about half of those reserve funds, and by continuing to build reserve funds, the city will be able to fund future repairs and projects without having to pass bonds. Administrator Schmidt also reiterated that the proposed increase amounts to a 2.5% increase annually over the past four years, as no increase took place since 2020. Moved by Wassom, seconded by Smith to close public hearing at 6:09 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Wassom, to not waive the two readings of Ordinance 1293, Water Rates. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The second reading of Ordinance 1293 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Wassom to open a public hearing at 6:13 pm regarding Ordinance 1294, Sewer Rates. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Mayor Sonnichsen stated that everyone wants their toilets to flush, and he believes that we do not have sufficient backup equipment at the sewer plant for emergencies. He said that some of these reserves would allow them to build stock and prepare for anything bad to happen. He also added that in the future the councilmembers will be considering an Ordinance to address the rates that allows them to gradually step up each year, instead of having a large jump every four years. He feels that this would be a better option going forward and encourages them to consider it in the future. Moved by Wassom, seconded by Myers to close public hearing at 6:13 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried.



Moved by Myers, seconded by Wassom, to not waive the two readings of Ordinance 1294, Sewer Rates. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The second reading of Ordinance 1294 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

Moved by Wassom, seconded by Myers, to approve cancelling the City Council Meeting that was to be held December 24, 2024. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Smith, to approve Resolution 2027-18. Said resolution approves the authorization of paying the regular bills that would have been paid at the December 24, 2024, City Council Meeting. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion carried.

During public comments Stephanie Grafel, Executive Director of the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce thanked the city and police department for their help during the upcoming Festival of Lights on December 2, 2024. She stated that without the street crew blocking off the streets and police officers directing traffic, this public event would not be possible.

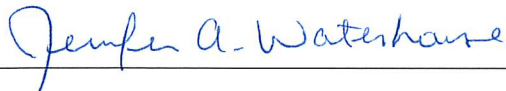
Under Mayor and council comments, Luke Wassom asked for a status update on the city restrooms. Administrator Schmidt said that they are currently tying up some minor loose ends for things like paper towel dispensers. He said that the restrooms will temporarily be open to the public during the Festival of Lights on December 2, 2024. He also stated that he is waiting for cleaning bids to come in, and after that happens an official grand opening will take place at that time. Mayor Sonnichsen stated that the restrooms are very much needed for the community, and he looks forward to them officially being open.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:18 PM. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wassom, and Myers. Nays: None. Motion Carried.



Rodney W. Sonnichsen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer A. Waterhouse, City Clerk

