

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes March 25th, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 25th, 2025, 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, Travis Kleeb, Joe Wamsley, and Paul Holland. Absent: None. Also in attendance was City Attorney Jason White. Mayor Sonnichsen announced the availability of the Open Meetings Act, followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Connor Schmidt.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Holland to approve the consent agenda for March 25, 2025. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 2025, Council Meeting, Bills to Date, February 2025 Treasurer's Report, Broken Bow Ambulance Service Official Roster, Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department Officers Effective April 1, 2025, and approval of the Amended Minutes of March 3, 2025, Council Meeting. The amended minutes reflect the correction of the Bi-Weekly Payroll on 2/12/25 to \$72,512.06 and adding the following statement. "Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley, to excuse the absence of councilmember Kleeb. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried." Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aflac \$436.46, \$119.50, Al's Lock & Safe Inc \$13,134.30, Black Hills Energy \$3,764.40, Bound Tree Medical \$2,841.13, Card Services 0591 \$3,003.67, Carquest of Broken Bow \$183.01, Central Nebraska Bobcat \$126.58, Chris Henderson \$176.11, City Flex Benefit Plan \$455.00, City of Broken Bow - Health Insurance \$4,377.59, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund \$2,795.09, \$11,599.78, \$1,549.63, Colonial Insurance \$520.88, \$282.99, Country Living \$19.97, Custer County Chief \$370.50, Demco \$146.10, EFTPS Online Payment \$3,143.84, \$8,544.49, \$13,442.88, EZ IT Solutions \$2,988.92, Eakes Office Solutions \$56.99, Family Heritage \$25.50, First Response Billing Associates, LLC \$1,467.18, Fixed Right Auto Body \$842.14, Great Plains Communications \$185.00, \$216.67, Grocery Kart \$5.74, Ingram Library Services \$1,893.06, JEO \$1,341.25, LARM \$13,354.70, Larry Harbour \$405.00, Lexipol, LLC \$1,032.46, Mead Lumber \$50.47, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center \$851.09, Nebraska Pasture Door \$105.87, OBrien's Hardware \$5.48, Pareto Health \$76.00, Paul Holland \$245.00, Platte Valley Communications \$25.00, Presto X Company \$72.49, Psychological Resources \$150.00, Psychology Today \$29.97, Ranchland Ford \$117.72, \$1,059.83, Russ Smith \$272.00, South Loup Community Pharmacy \$52.46, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment \$3,900.14, Statewide Collection LLC \$174.47, Stryker \$28.08, Travis Kleeb \$245.00, Trotter Service \$97.01, TX Child Support SDU\$ 401.00, Taste of Home \$19.36, Trotter Service \$3,251.63, Trotter Service \$349.99, Trotter Whoa & Go West BB \$2,101.87, Trotter's Whoa & Go West BB \$150.90, Trotter's Whoa & Go West BB \$115.81, Verizon Wireless \$129.68, \$314.86, Total \$109,241.69 Bi-Weekly Payroll (3/12/25) \$75,698.72, Grand Total \$184,940.41.

In new business, moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 6:03 pm regarding Ordinance 1295, providing for the placement of a designated stop sign located on the north

side of the S. 8th Avenue and S. D St. intersection in the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt read a letter from Mason Holmes, 605 N. C Street, regarding his recommendations regarding the proposed Ordinances on the agenda. Mayor Sonnichsen also explained that at the last two meetings the proposal to change Ordinance 1295 to a four-way stop had been discussed. Councilmember Russ expressed that he agreed with making that change and Councilmember Kleeb spoke about his concern regarding restricting agriculture-based businesses. Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to close public hearing at 6:10 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Attorney Jason White advised the council that if they wanted to make any changes to Ordinance 1295, Council would need to pass the amended Ordinance and waive the three readings since they have not read the amended Ordinance three times.

Moved by Smith, to approve Ordinance 1295, entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A DESIGNATED STOP SIGN LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE SOUTH 8TH AVENUE, AND SOUTH D STREET INTERSECTION IN THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE" with the amendment to change the Ordinance from a single stop sign to a four way stop at the South 8th Avenue and South D intersection. Smith also moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended for the amended Ordinance 1295. The amended Ordinance 1295 is entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A FOUR WAY STOP AT THE SOUTH 8TH AVENUE AND SOUTH D STREET INTERSECTION IN THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE." Councilmember Kleeb seconded the motion.

The Mayor stated the motion and instructed the Clerk to call the roll. The Clerk called the roll, and the following was the vote: Ayes: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. The motion to suspend the rules of said Ordinance was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for the consideration of said Ordinance. The final passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the Ordinance adopted.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to open a public hearing at 6:12 pm regarding Ordinance 1296, providing for the placement of stop signs located at S. 6th Ave and S. C St., S. 7th Ave and S. C St., a four way stop at the S. 6th Ave and S. D St. intersection and a four way stop at S. 7th Ave and S. D St. intersection in the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Mayor Sonnichsen said that Ordinance 1296 has been discussed over the last few meetings and Mr. Holmes's letter suggested that traffic be regulated going East to West instead of North and South as it is currently written. Administrator Schmidt agreed and asked council to reconsider the two proposed 2 way stops on S. C Street and change them to east and west to make it more consistent with other traffic patterns around town. Police Chief Scott recommended that the stop signs at the intersection of 6th and S. C St. be placed on the east and west and Captain Anderson agreed explaining it would help traffic see around the laundry mat on that corner. He also recommended that the stop signs at the intersection of 7th and S. C St. should stay north and south for safety around the apartments. Moved by Kleeb, seconded by

Holland to close public hearing at 6:20 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Holland, to approve Ordinance 1296, entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF STOP SIGNS LOCATED AT SOUTH 6TH AVENUE, AND SOUTH C STREET, SOUTH 7TH AVENUE, AND SOUTH C STREET, A FOUR WAY STOP AT THE SOUTH 6TH AVENUE AND SOUTH D STREET INTERSECTION, AND A FOUR WAY STOP AT SOUTH 7TH AVENUE AND SOUTH D STREET INTERSECTION IN THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE" with the amendment to change section one to say that upon the passage of this ordinance, stop signs shall be placed on the east and west sides of South 6th Avenue, and South C Street intersection. Holland also moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended for the amended Ordinance 1296. Councilmember Wamsley seconded the motion.

The Mayor stated the motion and instructed the Clerk to call the roll. The Clerk called the roll, and the following was the vote: Ayes: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. The motion to suspend the rules of said Ordinance was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for the consideration of said Ordinance. The final passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the Ordinance adopted.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to open a public hearing at 6:22 pm regarding Ordinance 1297, providing for the placement of stop signs at the N. 9th Ave and N, H St. intersection creating a four way stop in the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Councilmember Kleeb discussed the speed issues at the intersection and suggested postponing action to allow the city time to work with the county to obtain a speed tapering study before putting in stop signs. Councilmember Holland agreed that they should get with the County to work on the speed issue but felt that the stop signs still need to be added. Administrator Schmidt explained that he spoke with the County Road Supervisor, and he confirmed that if council wanted to put up an advanced notice sign, they would be fine with that and that they are also willing to work with the city on a speed tapering study. Rachel Schmidt expressed her concern that safety at the intersection is a bigger issue than the speed issue is because a church and school are nearby, and children are not safe because cars can't see them crossing. Andrew Lacy recommended that signs be put in for the traffic coming from the north but said that he feels that safety is the bigger issue due to decreased visibility and the large numbers of children crossing the intersection. Jeremy Schipe discussed the options for a speed step down but echoed his support of stop signs being installed due to safety concerns. He also noted that time is of the essence with school ending in May and the increased usage of the intersection as children will be crossing there to get to the pool. Captain Anderson explained that the main reason BBPD wanted a four-way stop at the intersection is due to the vision obstruction issues that are present there. Chief Scott ended by saying that it is less about speed and more about being proactive because there are no sidewalks available and that it is important to keep pedestrians safe as they cross there. Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 6:40 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to approve Ordinance 1297, entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF DESIGNATED STOP SIGNS LOCATED AT THE NORTH 9TH AVENUE AND NORTH H STREET INTERSECTION CREATING A FOUR WAY STOP IN THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Holland to open a public hearing at 6:41 pm regarding Ordinance 1298, providing for the speed limit change to 25 mph for all of S. B St. west of S. 10th Ave in the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Mayor Sonnichsen explained the Ordinance will bring the area back to the standard 25 mph. Jacob Holcomb confirmed that the area is zoned residential, commercial and industrial. Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to close public hearing at 6:42 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Holland to approve Ordinance 1298, entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SPEED LIMIT TO BE 25 MPH FOR ALL OF SOUTH B STREET WEST OF SOUTH 10TH AVENUE IN THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to open a public hearing at 6:42 pm regarding Ordinance 1299, amending Chapter 73, ATV and UTV usage within the corporate city limits. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held.

Administrator Schmidt explained that the state legislature has changed the weight definitions of ATV's and UTV's so we need to change those in our Ordinance to get us in line with the state but it does not change any of our local regulations regarding their usage in the City limits. Moved by Holland, seconded by Smith to close public hearing at 6:46 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. City Attorney Jason White pointed out that there was a typo on the agenda that listed Ordinance 1299 as amending Chapter 72 but that it really is Chapter 73 and that Ordinance 1299 as presented, correctly states that it is amending Chapter 73.

Moved by Wamsley, to not waive the three readings of Ordinance 1299. No second. Motion Failed.

Councilmember Smith introduced Ordinance No. 1299 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 73: PROVIDING FOR THE OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND UTILITY TYPE VEHICLES WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES OR UTILITY TYPE VEHICLES; TO ESTABLISH PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE" and moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Councilmember Kleeb seconded the motion. The Mayor stated the motion and instructed the Clerk to call the roll. The Clerk called the roll, and the following was the vote: Ayes: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. The motion to suspend the rules was

adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for the consideration of said Ordinance. Said Ordinance was then read by title and thereafter Councilmember Kleeb moved for final passage and approval of the Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Ayes: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. The passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the Ordinance adopted.

During public comments, Administrator Schmidt explained that the city was represented well at the Chamber banquet on March 22nd. Staff members Julie Toline and Jacob Holcomb were both nominated for Citizen of the Year, the Library was honored for being a 115-year chamber member, the was City honored for being a 145-year chamber member, and the Broken Bow Ambulance Service was honored as the 2024 non-profit of the year. He also gave an update on the Hwy 2 project that is starting within the next week with a tentative completion date of August 2025.

Gary Storms, 1301 North C Street, asked council to consider putting in a four way stop at the corner of N. 12th Ave and N. H Steet for the safety of children crossing to and from school. He explained that there is currently only one stop sign there and said that cars don't stop.

During Mayor and council comments, Councilmember Kleeb thanked everyone for their comments during the hearings regarding the Ordinances and Mayor Sonnichsen thanked Connor for leading the Pledge at the meeting.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:53 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.



Rodney W. Sonnichsen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer A. Waterhouse, City Clerk

