

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes March 11th, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, in the Broken Bow Municipal Auditorium. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof as required by law by posting in three public places: Broken Bow Municipal Building, Broken Bow Post Office, and the Custer County Courthouse. 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. Mayor Sonnichsen announced the availability of the Open Meetings Act, followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve the consent agenda for March 11, 2025. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2025, Council Meeting, Bills to Date, and the January 2025 Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aflac \$108.18, Broken Bow Airport Authority \$1,083.33, Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce \$6,150.00, Broken Bow Mun Utilities \$8,553.35, Capital One \$2,921.72, Card Services 4834 \$3,674.69, Card Services 0591 \$1,965.68, Card Services 0583 \$775.27, Carquest of Broken Bow \$110.30, Century Link \$86.03, \$136.68, \$344.87, \$102.41, City of Broken Bow \$7,817.00, City of Broken Bow - Health Insurance \$34,554.52, \$609.06, Custer County Treasurer \$19,386.68, Custer Public Power \$105.59, EZ IT Solutions \$2,940.00, \$1,300.00 Eakes Office Products \$1,066.90, Great Plains Communications \$84.95, \$154.84, \$150.00, HAMILTON MEDICAL \$1,121.79, Hometown Leasing \$116.65, \$73.57, \$291.12, Island Supply Welding Co. \$5.04, JEO \$2,293.75, Jacob Holcomb \$74.86, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions \$799.28, \$3,470.00, \$65.43, Kully Pipe & Steel \$458.13, La Quinta by Wynham Kearney \$479.80, League of NE Municipalities \$3,721.00, Melham Medical Center \$95.63, Mid-States Organized Crime Info. Center \$100.00, Mt. Custer Truck Sales \$111.35, Murphy Tractor & Equipment \$9,322.72, NEMSA \$2,385.00, NMC Inc \$33.84, Nebraska Dept of Environmental Quality \$40.00, Nebraska State Patrol \$569.50, O'Reilly Auto Parts \$53.96, Paul Cunningham \$51.86, Powermanager \$720.67, RT Ace, LLC \$484.50, S&L Sanitary Service \$58.30, Sandhills Custom Creations \$62.31, Sara J. Hulinsky \$837.00, Schaper and White Law Firm \$3,088.00, Steve Scott \$153.90, TRAVIS KLEEB \$27.00, The Olson Group \$3,800.00, Tracker Systems \$16.99, Trotter Service \$25.00, \$36.00, \$791.36, Verizon Wireless \$320.08, Wenquist, Inc. \$1650.42, \$300.00, Total \$132,287.86 Bi-Weekly Payroll (2/26/25) \$77,720.42, Grand Total \$210,008.28.

In other communication, Emergency Services Director David Baltz gave an EMS update and explained that in 2024 they received a new record of 502 calls resulting in 3,496 service call man hours. 78% were 911 calls, 14% transports, 6% standbys, and 2% ALS intercepts. He reported that during the first two months of 2025 they are already at 106 service calls and that the roster consists of 7 Paramedics, 4 advanced EMT's and 21 EMT's. He also explained that the new ambulance will

arrive in late May or early June and that the department has three people enrolled at CCC to become paramedics. Mayor Sonnichsen commended the department for all they do.

Electrical Superintendent Blake Waldow also gave an update regarding the power plant explosion on February 20, 2025. He said that on the morning of the explosion, generation was called for by the Southwest Pool and all engines were online by 5:30 am. After the event happened, at 6:43 the town lost power with the majority of the town resuming power at 7:16 am. Left without power were approximately 240 residential and 60 commercial meters. NPPD quickly sent a mobile substation to aid in restoring temporary power but at 11:00 pm the call to not energize was made due to a mechanical failure. The next morning a new unit was sent out and power was restored around 2:00 pm on February 21st.

Mr. Waldow said that moving forward, to get these meters off of the mobile sub, the voltage conversion project that was going to happen over the next couple of years has now been moved up and they are pushing to have it done in the next 2-4 months. They will start on the north side then they will move to the south side where most of the businesses are. He also thanked everyone that helped during the outage. They included: the City Electrical Department, NPPD, Custer Public Power, BB Fire Department, EMS, MEAN, BNSF, City Staff, local motels, and the people and businesses who donated food and supplies during the event. He also ended by discussing the outages during the next two days as they begin the voltage conversion and stated that all the information and a map is posted on the City of Broken Bow Facebook page. He said that they plan to give as much advance notice as possible to those affected but explained that it is hard to give exact times in situations like this. He finished by saying that the City of Ord and the Village of Stewart are also helping provide mutual aid over the next few days. Mayor Sonnichsen concluded by reminding everyone that the portion of the town that was without power is on temporary electricity so that the sooner we can get them switched over, the better off we will be.

In new business, moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley, to approve the designation of the BRAN host community event on June 3, 2025, as an official city special event. During discussion Scotti Ross of the CEDC and Stephanie Grafel of the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce spoke about the background of the event, the current plan for the 300-600 BRAN riders while they are in the City of Broken Bow and the scholarship available for the host community. Administrator Schmidt also explained that by approving this as an official city special event, it also allows food trucks to park on the square if the committee decides that they need to utilize the square during the event. 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 6:23 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. Captain Anderson of BBPD reiterated that they have had complaints regarding trucks speeding through and not paying attention to pedestrian traffic as they go by the city square causing a safety concern. He also explained that this road is a straight path to the highway and that is why there is so much truck traffic. Mayor Sonnichsen expressed that this has been problem area in the past and that there is a lot of pedestrian traffic around the square, especially during market on the square.

Stephanie Grafel of the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce stated that she thought that the stop sign would be on the south side and that she is in favor of the intersection having a 4 way stop instead because she witnesses semi traffic gunning the intersection to try to make green lights. Jeremy Shipe of KCNI, expressed listener concerns relayed to him centered around the idea that it may be confusing only being a 3 way stop rather than a 4 way stop at this intersection. Chief Scott stated that he would be in support of a 4 way stop instead of a 3 way stop at this intersection as well. Moved by KleeB, seconded by Wamsley to close public hearing at 6:33 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, KleeB, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Wamsley, to not waive the two readings of Ordinance 1295, providing for the placement of a designated stop sign located on the north side of the So. 8th 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.

The second reading of Ordinance 1295 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Smith to open a public hearing at 6:35 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 reiterated that two intersections addressed in the Ordinance have proposed 4 ways stops due to increased pedestrian traffic around the library and increased usage as school children are being bused to the library. He also explained that the intersection at S. D St and S. 7th Ave is a blind intersection going to the North and that the two intersections on South C Street have been suggested due to population growth in the area and traffic congestion centered around the Legacy Apartments, where it has grown from 4 occupied residences to 42. Captain Anderson added that many of the intersections addressed in the Ordinance are really difficult intersections that contribute to lots of accidents and the police department would like to control these intersections better with the additional stop signs. Discussion was held regarding if the stop signs proposed on the North and South sides of So. C Street should instead be on the East and West sides of the intersections.

Corey Clay, a resident at 911 Nome Street, spoke in support of the Ordinance referencing the safety of pedestrians and the speeding he has observed in the area. Moved by Holland, seconded by KleeB to close public hearing at 6:45 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, KleeB, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by KleeB, to not waive the two readings of 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.

The second reading of Ordinance 1296 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to open a public hearing at 6:46 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. Administrator Schmidt started by presenting some alternative options to stop signs for this intersection. He explained that Darren Marten, Overseer of Streets found a speed limit sign with radar that cost \$4,000- \$5,200 depending on the features, and a flashing solar sign for \$1,200-\$1,800. The possibility of putting a cross walk and pedestrian sign at the intersection was also discussed. Captain Anderson stated that the Police Department is willing to look at all options but that their concern is that driver's still must drive partly out into the intersection to be able to see across causing a concern for public safety. Andrew Lacy also pointed out that there are no East and West sidewalks by this intersection. Jeremy Shipe mentioned how on street parking on N. 9th Ave may contribute to a bottle neck issue. Corey Clay expressed his concern regarding pedestrian safety at the intersection.

Installing better signage near the intersection and the DOT Traffic Standard were also discussed. Mayor Sonnichsen explained that the DOT Traffic Standard states that stop signs can not be installed for speed control and that they can only be used for safety reasons. The speed limit and speed transition going south into town as well as possibly coordinating different signage with the township was also discussed. Mayor Sonnichsen stated that there may need to be some adjustments to the Ordinance as it is currently written. Chief Scott ended by stating that he feels that the four-way stop needs to be installed as it forces vehicles to stop and gives children a chance to safely cross the road at this intersection. Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 7:06 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley, to not waive the two readings of 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.

The second reading of Ordinance 1297 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Holland to open a public hearing at 7:08 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. Captain Anderson stated that the Ordinance would be returning the residential street back to 25 mph which has been confusing to the public as they expect all residential streets to be 25 mph. Mayor Sonnichsen also said that this change would put the speed limit in sync with the rest of the residential speed zones in Broken Bow. Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to close public hearing at 7:10 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

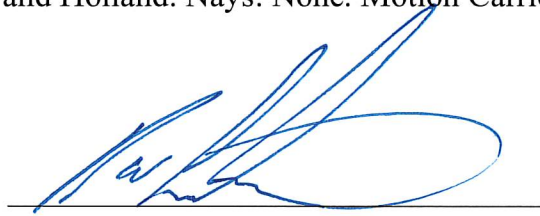
Moved by Smith, seconded by Wamsley, to not waive the two readings of Ordinance 1298, providing for the speed limit change to 25 mph for all of S. B St. west of S. 10th Ave in the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The second reading of Ordinance 1298 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

There were no public comments.

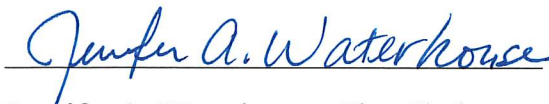
During Mayor and council comments, Administrator Schmidt explained that a payment listed in the consent agenda for maintainer repair under the parks department got coded to miscellaneous expense on accident but that it has already been correctly reallocated to the parks department snow budget. He also explained that the City of Broken Bow will be waiving all utility account late fees this month due to a postal mix up that caused citizens to receive their utility bills very late. Mayor Sonnichsen concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the council meeting and offering their comments.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:13 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

