

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 22, 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, City Administrator David Schmidt, City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse, Deputy Clerk Jacob Holcomb, and City Treasurer LeeAnn Morgan. 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 April 22, 2025. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2025, Council Meeting, Minutes of the April 10, 2025, Special Council Meeting, Bills to Date, March 2025 Treasurer's Report, and Ka-Boomer's Inc. Fireworks Application. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

911 Custom \$211.64, AKRS Equipment-Parks \$524.37, Aflac \$436.46, \$119.50 Ahren Finney \$97.89, Beaver Bearing Co Albion \$17.14, Biblionix \$2,090.00, Black Hills Energy \$2,587.07, Booklist \$184.95, Bound Tree Medical \$1,016.40, Card Services 4834 \$1,471.77, Card Services 0591 \$1,772.37, Card Services 0591 \$1,772.37, Central Nebraska Bobcat \$1,039.31, Century Link \$86.03, City Flex Benefit Plan \$455.00, City of Broken Bow - Health Insurance \$4,377.59, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund \$2,714.51, \$11,790.74, \$1,621.62, Colonial Insurance \$520.88, \$282.99, Custer County Chief \$36.70, \$355.29, Custer County Construction Inc. \$3,886.87, Custer Transfer Station \$289.40, EFTPS Online Payment \$3,312.48, \$9,433.71, \$14,163.86, EZ IT Solutions \$21,563.48, \$799.96, Eakes Office Products \$178.17, Eakes Office Solutions \$87.97, Family Heritage \$25.50, First Response Billing Associates, LLC \$2,828.79, Grocery Kart \$106.60, Hometown Leasing \$116.65, \$291.12, Ingram Library Services \$1,605.60, Island Supply Welding Co. \$5.58, JEO \$7,297.25, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions \$191.55, \$109.45, Mead Lumber \$568.68, Michael Todd Industrial Supply \$2,410.00, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center \$851.09, Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center \$90.00, \$142.00, Nebraska Pasture Door \$100.00, O'Reilly Auto Parts \$11.81, Pareto Health \$76.00, Presto X Company \$72.49, \$155.10, Ranchland Ford \$64.18, \$102.06, Readers Digest \$27.98, Science News \$59.00, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment \$4,189.87, Stryker \$1,118.31, TX Child Support SDU \$401.00, Taste of Home \$19.36, The New Yorker \$26.00, Time \$16.00, Travel + Leisure \$26.00, Trotter Service \$808.88, \$297.74, \$1,352.38, \$215.56, \$103.56, Trotter's Whoa & Go West BB \$509.39, \$67.73, Unitech \$913.00, Verizon Wireless \$129.67, \$371.11, Wenquist Inc. \$373.42, \$471.66, Total - \$114,773.47 Bi-Weekly Payroll (4/9/25) \$79,977.03, Grand Total \$194,750.50.

In new business, moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to approve the re-appointment of Kristine Moninger to the Broken Bow Library Board for a term ending February 2029. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to approve the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Annual Report for 2024. City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse explained that this yearly report lists all active TIF projects and information pertaining to each of the projects. The report is required to be sent to any governing body or political subdivision whose property taxes may be affected by the TIF projects by May 1, 2025. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to approve the updated Broken Bow Public Library Collection Development Policy. Library Director Megan Svoboda explained that the policy has been updated to give a clear policy and procedure regarding handling challenged books and it has been approved and endorsed by City Attorney Jason White. Administrator Schmidt said that the challenge was to create a process for a book that is truly inappropriate, versus a book that someone doesn't like. The new policy gives the needed tools and process for removing something that is truly inappropriate, while still protecting first amendment rights. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to approve temporarily closing off South 8th Ave, South 9th Ave, and South D Street around the square on Saturday, July 12th, 2025, from 6:00 am - 4:00 pm for the 2nd Annual Custer County Historical Society Car Show. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Smith to approve temporarily closing South D Street from South 8th Avenue to South 9th Avenue on July 12th, 2025, from approximately 4:00 pm-11:59 pm for a concert on the square and beer garden during Crazy Days and the Broken Bow Alumni weekend. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland to approve temporarily closing five parking spaces on the north side of South D, in front of Brunning Bank, on June 6th, 2025, from approximately 8:00 am-2:00 pm for their 20th Anniversary lunch event open to the public. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Change Order #3, one of two options with JEO Consulting Group Inc. for an area inlet for Eagle Crest. Option A is for \$11,314.38 and option B for \$6,551.10. During discussion, Ryan Kavan of JEO Consulting Group made the correction that the change order is with Myers Construction Inc., not JEO Consulting Group. He also gave a brief status update regarding the project and explained that concrete work is taking place this week with the cul-de-sac pavement, Linden Ave and Maple Drive being poured as weather permits. He also said that the substantial completion date is scheduled to be May 15, 2025.

He further explained that the change order options are for the storm culvert just north of Memorial Drive on Linden Avenue and that the pipe was built to plan but the grading got built up a little more than was originally intended. He explained that the consensus is that the grading looks better than the original plans and that the two change order options would allow them to keep the grading where it is and instead correct the storm pipe. Option A for \$11,314.38, is to put an area inlet at the end of the pipe that brings it up to grade and allows the storm water to go under Linden, or option B for \$6,551.10 extends the pipe and moves the flared end further to the east to collect the water. He explained that JEO is recommending option A because it isn't good practice to put that much water across a street, especially as you are coming

down a hill to a stop. He said that it is better to collect the water before the street and in order to do that they would have to grade even further up the hill to eliminate the collection of water. Mayor Sonnichsen explained that the project is coming in under budget and he highly recommends that this be changed.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to approve option A in the amount of \$11,314.38 for Change Order #3 with Myers Construction Inc. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland.

Abstain: Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve Resolution 2025-06, authorizing the expenditure of KENO funds for Community Betterment projects in the City of Broken Bow, NE, not to exceed \$65,000, with a sunset date of December 31, 2025, for any unspent funds. Administrator Schmidt explained that in preparing for a beatification meeting he was brainstorming different options regarding the limited budget that was available and remembered that we had Keno funds available for community betterment purposes. He said that in researching the funds he found that the balance was \$151,000 and feels that we can put some of that money to work for the community. He explained that Keno was adopted under the same guidelines as the state guidelines, and the funds are regulated and restricted to community betterment projects and if approved tonight the projects they are looking at include things like flowers and mulch around the square, welcome signs, repairs to the signs at Melham, and Christmas lights. Mayor Sonnichsen explained that there haven't been any Keno fund requests in the last few years and by using Keno funds for these projects will help the city budget because it will keep them from having to use tax dollars for those projects and repairs. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to approve Resolution 2025-07, authorizing the City Administrator, David Schmidt, to close bank account xxx639 at Nebraska State Bank for the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to approve Resolution 2025-08, authorizing the City Administrator, David Schmidt, to close bank account xxx091 at Nebraska State Bank for the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Sonnichsen called a short recess at 6:25 pm. He reconvened in open session at 6:28 pm.

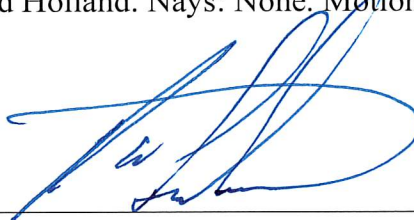
During public comments, Stephanie Grafel, Executive Director of the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce, gave an update regarding recent chamber events and the upcoming projects and ribbon cuttings. She also thanked council for the approval of the street closure during Crazy Days and discussed the newly updated visitor guides.

There were no Mayor and council comments.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland, to adjourn into Closed Session at 6:32 pm for the purpose of entering a strategy session with respect to pending litigation to or by the public body, to include the Mayor, City Council members, City Administrator David Schmidt, and City Attorney Jason White. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland, to exit closed session at 7:02 pm. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:02 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

