

Broken Bow City Council
Budget Hearing Minutes
September 23, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in a Budget Hearing on Tuesday, September 23, 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 on September 18, 2025. 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 4:30 pm, with the following Councilmembers present: Russ Smith, Travis Kleebe, Joe Wamsley, and Paul Holland. Absent: none. Also in attendance was 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.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleebe to open the Hearing at 4:31 pm. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleebe, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Bob Meyer of RJ Meyer and Associates LLC began the Budget Hearing by presenting a detailed review of the City's budget. He also explained the budget submission process and went through the state forms that will be submitted to the State of Nebraska by the September 30, 2025 deadline.

During his presentation he highlighted the following aspects of the 2025-2026 City budget:

- Operating budget is set at \$25,164,819.17, up 9 percent from \$23.1 million in the previous year.
- 11 percent rise in the city's property valuation from the previous year.
- Property tax request remains unchanged from the previous year at \$1,141,541.39.
- Levy ask decreased from 0.43 in 2024-2025 to 0.39 in 2025-2026.
- Overall cash position of the City is "pretty good" despite going down the previous year due to the completion of some big infrastructure projects.
- 5.3 million in bond debt at the start of fiscal year.

Bob Meyer concluded by saying that even though this is his first year helping with the city's budget, the city finances seem to be in good health, and he commended the staff for the effort they took in putting the budget numbers together.

City Attorney Jason White arrived at 4:59 pm.

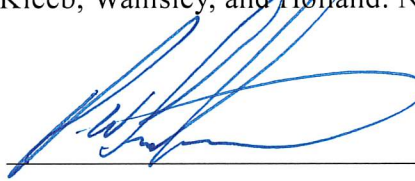
City Administrator Dave Schmidt also noted that included in the current budget is a 3% COLA raise for all appointed and union employees and if council wished to change that they will need to do that via motion in the council meeting following the budget hearing. He explained that the 3% was settled upon after negotiating with the Union. He also mentioned that a change that they would like to make to the budget includes adding \$152,500 in funds for storm water drainage projects, and \$20,000 to complete the pickleball fencing. He explained that these changes will not change the total disbursements because they were able to reallocate some depreciation funds after talking with our accountant Bob Meyer.

Mayor Sonnichsen thanked the administration and staff for all the work that went into the budget process and commended them for standing their ground amid evaluations going up 11% and power plant explosions.

There were no public comments.

Moved by KleeB, seconded by Wamsley to close the Hearing at 5:13 pm. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, KleeB, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley, to adjourn the City Council Budget Hearing Meeting at 5:13 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

