

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes September 23, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session 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. 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 5:25 pm, with the following Councilmembers present: Russ Smith, Travis KleeB, Joe Wamsley, and Paul Holland. Absent: none. Also in attendance was City Administrator David Schmidt, City Attorney Jason White, 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 September 23, 2025. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the September 9, 2025, Council Meeting, Bills to Date, and the August 2025 Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, KleeB, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aflac \$417.44, \$119.50, Al's Lock & Safe Inc \$29,088.76, Auto Value Broken Bow \$57.47, \$9.87, Axon Enterprise Inc. \$5,696.04, Black Hills Energy \$569.12, Bound Tree Medical \$2,695.31, Brittany Rozman \$90.00, Broken Bow Mun Utilities \$2,032.53, Chief Road Supply \$52,500.00, Callaway District Hospital \$156.67, Card Services \$383.47, Card Services 4834 \$4,066.90, Century Link \$86.03, Chris Anderson \$231.40, City Flex Benefit Plan \$405.00, City of Broken Bow - Health Insurance \$4,312.30, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund \$3,128.36, \$12,096.96, \$1,487.29, Colonial Insurance \$548.10, \$320.25, Credit Management Services Inc. \$177.81, Custer County Chief \$65.00, Custer County Chief \$134.55, Dewey's Implement & Welding \$1,198.50, Demco \$164.55, Dept Correctional SVCS \$2,570.00, EFTPS Online Payment \$3,196.82, \$8,944.71, \$13,669.46, EZ IT Solutions \$2,039.99, \$10,400.00, Eakes Office Solutions \$113.98, Fredrick Benzel \$225.00, Family Handyman \$10.00, Family Heritage \$25.50, General Collection Company, Inc \$117.55, Good Housekeeping \$29.97, Great Plains Communications - Police \$185.00, Grocery Kart - \$148.44, Hamilton Sales and Service LLC \$6,577.16, Holmes Plumbing & Heating \$1,088.10, Ingram Library Services \$1,759.23, Kansas State Bank \$15,000.00, Kim Blackburn \$90.00, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions \$837.90, \$42.85, Larry Harbour \$53.95, Legend Holdings, LLC \$36,100.00, Macqueen \$2,550.00, Marten Heating & Air \$364.99, Mead Lumber \$683.37, Midland Telecom \$5,753.94, NSA/POAN Conference \$220.00, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center \$769.86, Nebraska Dept of Revenue - 25.00, O'Reilly Auto Parts - 22.18, Over Drive - 1200.00, Petty Cash \$84.52, Pareto Health \$76.00, Paulsen Inc. \$2,722.00, Presto X Company \$79.01, Prime Plumbing \$2,068.00, RT Ace, LLC \$1,500.82, Ranchland Ford \$397.35, \$1,442.55, \$4,797.10, Rod's Body & Paint, Inc \$850.04, S&L Sanitary Service \$58.30, South Loup Community Pharmacy \$29.51, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment \$3,974.64, TSYS Merchant Solutions \$296.37, The Garden Center - 724.00, Tnemec Company Inc \$8,120.00, Trotter Service \$257.00, Trotter Whoa & Go West BB \$730.28, \$92.91, \$164.38, Ty Taylor \$34.00, VK Electronics & Appliances \$32,608.00, Van Diest Supply Co \$4,771.25, Verizon Wireless \$115.87, \$280.07, Wenquist Inc. \$28.98, \$28.99, Total \$303,386.07, Bi-Weekly Payroll (9/10/25) \$76,716.50, Grand Total \$380,102.57

In new business, Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1300, entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE." Moved by KleeB, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 5:29 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, KleeB, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. There were no questions or comments. Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Holland to

close public hearing at 5:29 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb that the statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance 1300 on three different days be suspended. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: 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.

Said Ordinance was then read by title and thereafter, Councilmember Smith moved for final passage of Ordinance 1300, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Wamsley. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried. 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 Holland, seconded by Smith to open a public hearing at 5:30 pm regarding Resolution 2025-16, Setting the Property Tax Request for 2025-2026. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. There were no questions or comments. Moved by Smith, seconded by Wamsley to close public hearing at 5:31 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to approve Resolution 2025-16, Setting the Property Tax Request for 2025-2026. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1301, entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA, AMENDING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; PAY PLAN FOR ALL CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN THE CITY; AND MONTHLY SALARY OR HOURLY WAGE RANGES FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CLASSIFICATION."

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Holland to open a public hearing at 5:32 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Administrator Schmidt noted that adjustments were made on the Wage Ordinance to reflect the 3% COLA increase previously mentioned during the Budget Hearing, as well as a minimum wage increase to \$15.00. He explained that the minimum wage increase officially takes effect in January 2026, but they plan to increase it now. Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 5:33 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb that the statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance 1301 on three different days be suspended. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: 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.

Said Ordinance was then read by title and thereafter, Councilmember Smith moved for final passage of Ordinance 1301, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Wamsley. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried. 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 Holland, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 5:34 pm regarding Resolution 2025-17, One and Six Year Street Plan. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Administrator Schmidt explained that the One and Six Year Street Plan is the plan for the coming year and that it is unchanged from what was presented by Street Superintendent Steve Parr at the City Council meeting on August 12, 2025. He also noted that the resolution is a requirement of the state for highway allocation funds but that the plan can be amended at any time and the city is not locked into any project listed in the plan. Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to close

public hearing at 5:35 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Smith to approve Resolution 2025-17, One and Six Year Street Plan. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to approve Resolution 2025-18, authorizing the City Treasurer to invest surplus funds in a certificate of deposit at Nebraska State Bank. Administrator Schmidt explained that the term "surplus funds" comes from state statutes and that the \$2,155,275.50 was received from the initial insurance payout after the power plant explosion. He stated that the plan is to use these funds for infrastructure and rebuilding the power plant but because the funds will not be spent immediately, they would like to invest them into a CD at Nebraska State Bank with a 4.04% interest rate that is expected to generate \$84,000 while plans are finalized. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb, to approve the appointment of Chris Anderson to Broken Bow Police Chief. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

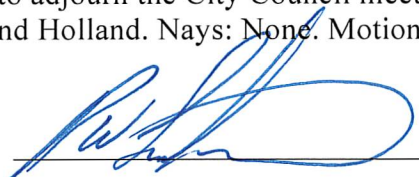
During the ceremony that followed, Administrator Schmidt highlighted Anderson's more than 15 years of dedicated law enforcement experience, including 7 years of supervisory roles. He explained that he advanced to the role of Broken Bow Police Captain in 2023 and has shown a proven commitment to our town in the areas of crisis management, K9 operations, field training and community outreach. Administrator Schmidt stated that what stands out most is his deeper dedication to building trust and fostering collaboration. He concluded by saying, "As a veteran of the Nebraska Army National Guard with 24 years of service, he's honed skills in strategic planning, budget management and relationship building that will strengthen our team's ability to serve and protect. From designing comprehensive training programs that prepare officers for real world scenarios to volunteering with our local fire department, Chris embodies the values of reliability, adaptability and community focus that define Broken Bow."

Chief Anderson was welcomed to his new role as Chief of Police with the official pinning ceremony completed by his Grandfather, Ronald Anderson.

There were no public comments.

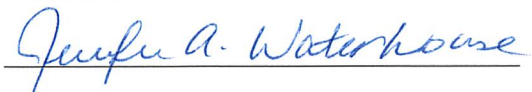
During Mayor and council comments, Councilmember Smith thanked Sergeant Henderson for throwing his hat into the ring regarding the Police Chief position and thanked him for being a fine police officer. Mayor Sonnichsen also thanked the Administration, staff, and department heads for their dedicated effort put forth during the budgeting process and commended them for their support of the taxpayers.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 5:45 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

