

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes October 14, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 14, 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, and Joe Wamsley. Absent: Paul Holland. 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, followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to approve the consent agenda for October 14, 2025. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the September 23, 2025, Council Meeting, Minutes of the September 23, 2025, Budget Hearing, and Bills to Date. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

AKRS Equipment \$277.99, AKRS Equipment-Parks \$303.54, Aflac \$417.44, \$119.50, \$108.18 Amazon Capital Services \$293.40, Andy C Holland \$580.00, Auto Value Broken Bow \$82.78, \$3.62, \$722.87, Becka Neumiller \$1,195.00, Benchmark Governmental Solutions \$853.10, Bill Hendricks \$200.00, Black Hills Energy \$501.70, Blue 360 Media, LLC \$107.95, Bobbie Summerford \$210.00, Bound Tree Medical \$2,273.49, Breanna Holmes \$990.00, Broken Bow Airport Authority \$1,083.33, Broken Bow Ambulance Service \$107.00, Broken Bow Mun Utilities \$1,670.84, Broken Bow Municipal Utilities \$6,254.53, Buffalo Outdoor Power LLC \$58,435.00, Card Services 4834 \$4,189.14, Card Services 5174 \$2,185.60, Card Services 0583 \$1,266.25, Card Services 0609 \$105.68, Century Link \$137.52, \$365.83, \$101.03, Chad Hempstead \$230.00, Christina Watson \$240.00, City Flex Benefit Plan \$405.00 City of Broken Bow - Health Insurance - \$4,312.30, \$33,569.34 City of Broken Bow Pension Fund \$3,128.36, \$11,858.82, \$1,509.11 Cody Neville \$320.00, Colonial Insurance \$534.49, \$318.48, \$586.86 Community Leasing Partners \$12,046.15, Credit Management Services Inc. \$457.62 Custer County Chief \$319.50, Custer County Treasurer - \$19,384.45, Custer Public Power \$54.76, DWEE - Fiscal Services - IWM \$750.00, David Baltz \$650.00, Dennis Schiller \$105.00, Doyle Wood \$230.00, Dr. Jordan Homan \$3,500.00, Dustin Watson \$30.00, EFTPS Online Payment \$3,218.12, \$8,200.59, \$1,3760.12 EZ IT Solutions \$10.00, \$7,000.00, Eakes Office Products \$426.34, Elizabeth Baumgartner \$385.00, Family Heritage \$25.50 Farritor Auto Parts \$300.00, General Collection Company, Inc \$117.55 Gibbons Electric \$3,049.30, Great Plains Communications \$150.00, \$214.95, \$289.95, \$195.78, Hinckley Medical Inc. \$12,210.00, Hometown Leasing \$116.65, \$73.57, \$291.12, ImageTrend \$3,062.00, Island Supply Welding Co. \$81.20, JEO \$1,719.85, Jason Edward Morey \$20.00, Jess Hightower \$80.00, Kelvin Kreitman \$75.00, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions \$3,627.12, LARM \$991.46, \$252,797.49, Lance Oatman \$95.00, \$7,500.00 League of NE Municipalities \$11,669.00, Londa Wood \$230.00, Marten Heating & Air \$209.54, Mason Holmes \$1,100.00, Mead Lumber \$162.82, Michael Todd Industrial Supply \$1,956.87, Mike Jilg \$550.00, Miller & Associates \$508.90, Mischele Wooters \$60.00, NSA/POAN Conference \$220.00, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center \$769.86 Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association \$150.00, Nebraska Pasture Door \$80.00, Nicholas Gaddy \$135.00, Nissa Shelby \$100.00, OBrien's Hardware \$1.89, Paper Tiger Shredding \$45.00, Positive Concepts \$215.00, Power Solutions \$1,253.81, Psychological Resources \$150.00, RJ Meyer & Associates \$3,500.00, RT Ace, LLC \$62.54, RT Ace, LLC \$25.10, \$40.69, \$642.76, Ranchland Ford \$19.99, Rebeka Anderson \$165.00, Reed Schaefer \$90.00, S&L Sanitary Service \$148.30, Sandhills Custom Creations \$425.00, Sara J. Hulinsky \$837.00, Schaper and White Law Firm - \$3,000.00, Schumacher Fencing \$25.00, Site One Landscape Supply \$811.28, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment \$3,740.72 Sylvia Schilelr \$90.00, TSYS Merchant Solutions \$6.27, Time Management

Systems Inc. \$6.00, \$3,339.00, Tracker Systems \$16.99, Trotter Service \$231.53, Trotter Service \$85.95, Tyler Edwards \$30.00, V-Bar Sales & Service \$25.22, \$3,350.00, Verathon Inc \$8,212.00, Verizon Wireless \$115.88, \$280.10, \$320.08, Wade Williams \$280.00, Wenquist Inc. \$23.99, \$391.94, Total – 549,702.23 Bi-Weekly Payroll (9/24/25) \$78,188.56, (10/8/25) \$72,461.04, Grand Total \$700,351.83

In new business, moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb, to approve the appointment of Chris Henderson to Broken Bow Police Captain. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

During the ceremony that followed, Administrator Schmidt highlighted Henderson's achievements and his dedicated service to both the local citizens and the greater police community. He went on to speak about Henderson's dedication to the community by further stating, "Chris brings to this role not just years of exemplary service, but a deep rooted commitment to our town that embodies the very spirit of Broken Bow." Administrator Schmidt concluded by saying, "I know Chris will continue to weave those relationships into every aspect of our work, fostering trust, safety and pride in our town."

Captain Henderson was welcomed to his new role by receiving his bars during the official pinning ceremony completed by his father, former Custer County Sheriff Ted Henderson.

Councilmember Holland joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Wamsley to approve Resolution, 2025-19, approving and ratifying the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Broken Bow, Nebraska, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local Union No. 1597. Administrator Schmidt explained that the negotiations to the three year contract were an agreeable and positive experience. He stated that the changes to the union contract included the addition of a yearly wage opener that will allow for the review of wages and the COLA according to inflation and that some new positions were also added. He explained that there was also a change to the maximum number of vacation accrual hours allowed for employees and said that the maximum number allowed was increased to 324 hours for all employees. Other changes included the addition of the volunteer fire department excused absence for employees, changes regarding how hours are paid that revert the language back to the 2019 contract, and the addition of mutual aid incentives for the electrical department when they help other communities in need. All other changes were minor grammar, spelling, and date adjustments. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Administrator Schmidt left the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 6:10 pm regarding Ordinance 1302, Electric Use Fees. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Electric Superintendent Blake Waldow explained that in April of 2025 MEAN raised their rates by 9% and that due to that he is proposing that the City raise the residential general service/commercial rates by 2% and the large power/industrial by 7% because they are based on a wholesale rate. He stated that the rate increase is needed so that we do not get behind and that the city has not increased rates for large power/industrial since 2017. Administrator Schmidt also highly advised that council not waive the readings for public transparency. Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 6:12 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland, to not waive the three readings of Ordinance 1302, Electric Use Fees. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The first reading of Ordinance 1302 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to approve moving the first council meeting in November 2025 to Monday, November 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm due to Veteran's Day activities. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

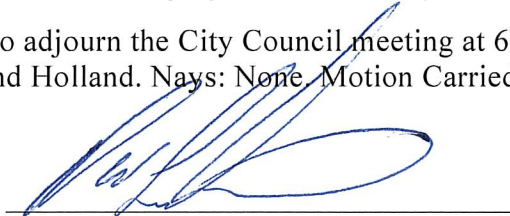
Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to approve the Application for Administrative Subdivisions. Zoning Administrator Jacob Holcomb explained that although the process for subdivisions was already laid out in the Zoning Ordinance, it has never been done before and that the application and fee is a new edition to the process. He said that there are two projects coming up that will be required to create a subdivision and that this application allows the City to be proactive. When questioned about the \$100 fee, Holcomb explained that he researched other communities before settling on the amount and took into consideration the costs associated with the various documents and filing fees that will need to take place during the process. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve the use of fireworks after the Safranek/Uhling wedding at the Cobblestone Event Center on November 15, 2025, at approximately 9:50 pm ending at 10:00 pm. Josh Page will be facilitating. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

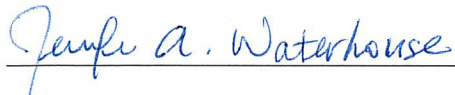
During Mayor and council, comments, Mayor Sonnichsen thanked Captain Henderson for being a part of the Broken Bow Police Department and said that he earned the promotion. Councilmember Smith also congratulated Henderson and said that there are not enough good words to say about him.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:20 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

