

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 10, 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. These items were also given to various local 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 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 November 10, 2025. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the October 28, 2025, Council Meeting, Bills to Date, and the Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department Roster. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

AKRS Equipment, Mower blades \$437.21, Aflac, Insurance \$189.30, \$511.52, \$119.50, Ag Land ATV, Four wheeler maintenance \$71.93, Andy C Holland, Ambulance Incentive \$845.00, Reimburse for wall mount holder \$15.18, Auto Value Broken Bow, Vehicle repairs \$4.99, Equipment repairs \$8.99, Becka Neumiller, Ambulance incentive \$155.00, Bill Hendricks, Ambulance incentive \$580.00, Black Hills Energy, Utilities-Gas \$534.00, Bobbie Summerford, Ambulance incentive \$100.00, Bound Tree Medical, Medications \$531.94, Breanna Holmes, Ambulance incentive \$90.00, Brian Keezer, Safety boots \$159.99, Broken Bow Airport Authority, Airport Interlocal Agreement, \$1,083.33, Broken Bow Mun Utilities, Fuel Reimbursement \$1,733.05, Broken Bow Municipal Utilities, Utilities \$3,948.16, Broken Bow Rural Fire Board, Grant Reimbursement for slip on tanker \$20,625.00, Aug-Oct 2025 Utilities and expenses \$3,699.09, Card Services 4834, Repairs, supplies, and title \$1,720.32, Card Services 5174, Transport expenses, 5k expenses, supplies, internet, equip, uniforms, training \$4,261.89, Card Services 0583, Zoning expenses, Christmas supplies, city promotions, office supplies, Police \$678.34, Card Services 0609, City Hall bldg maint, PD radios, office supplies, admin meals, admin fuel \$2,329.90, Century Link, Basic, Long Distance & credit card \$138.84, \$370.22, \$102.44, Chad Hempstead, Ambulance incentive \$385.00, Chris Anderson, Reimbursement for trunk or treat candy \$89.70, Christina Watson, Ambulance Incentive \$145.00, City Flex Benefit Plan, SELECT FLEX-UNREIMBURSED M/D/V, \$405.00, City of Broken Bow, Health Insurance \$4,312.30, October health insurance reimbursement \$41,882.60, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund, RETIREMENT LOAN PAYMENT \$3,241.41, 414H RETIREMENT \$12,759.36, 457 RETIREMENT, \$1,769.67, Cody Neville, Ambulance Incentive \$390.00, Colonial Insurance, Insurance \$627.50, \$648.70, \$335.22, Custer County Chief, subscription- City hall \$65.00, subscription- PD \$65.00, Printing and publications \$298.35, Custer County Treasurer, Communications Interlocal Agreement, \$19,384.45, Custer Public Power, CD Cell Utilities \$53.00, David Baltz, Ambulance Incentive \$230.00, Dennis Schiller, Ambulance incentive \$80.00, Dinges Fire Company, Structure gloves \$799.33, Doyle Wood, Ambulance incentive \$100.00, EFTPS Online Payment, MEDICARE \$3,413.46, FEDERAL \$9,646.14, FICA \$14,595.40, EZ IT Solutions, IT Services \$7,000.00, Eakes Office Products, Office supplies and phones \$334.37, Elizabeth Baumgartner, Ambulance incentive \$430.00, Evans Feed Co. Fish food - Melham Lake \$21.90, Family Heritage, Insurance \$25.50, General Collection Company, Inc, WAGE GARNISHMENT \$417.11, Great Plains Communications, Internet \$289.95, \$214.95, \$196.04, \$150.00, Hamilton Sales and Service LLC,

Equipment repairs \$356.93, Hometown Leasing, copier lease \$291.12, \$73.57, \$116.65, Island Supply Welding Co, Oxygen \$27.28, JEO, Flood Risk Reduction \$928.75, Mud Creek LB Levee Restoration \$1,064.30, Jason Edward Morey, Ambulance Incentive, \$75.00, Jess Hightower, Ambulance incentive \$105.00, Kelvin Kreitman, Ambulance Incentive \$390.00, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions, Janitorial \$3,470.00, LARM, Equipment and Auto Insurance \$143.15, \$1,688.93, Lance Oatman, Ambulance Incentive \$110.00, Lawrence Stump, Ambulance Incentive \$60.00, Londa Wood, Ambulance Incentive \$80.00, Mason Holmes, Ambulance Incentive \$90.00, Melham Wellness Center, memberships \$14.00, Michael Jilg, Ambulance incentive \$450.00, Midland Telecom, radios \$4,482.06, Midwest Alarm Services, Maintenance \$155.00, Midwest Hydraulic Service & Equipment Co, Equipment maintenance and repairs \$453.79, Mishele Wooters, Ambulance Incentive \$75.00, Murphy Tractor & Equipment, Roller Packer \$83,300.00, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, CHILD SUPPORT-NE \$769.86, Nicholas Gaddy, Ambulance Incentive \$205.00, Nissa Shelby, Ambulance Incentive \$135.00, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Maintenance \$45.28, Paper Tiger Shredding, shredding \$45.00, Pentair Aquatic Eco Systems, Compressor \$1,584.00, Petty Cash, Postage and supplies \$156.05, Police Officers Assn of NE, Annual membership \$240.00, RT Ace, LLC, building and equipment maint/repairs, Supplies \$56.89, \$29.97, \$14.99, \$207.03, \$193.94, Rebeka Anderson, Ambulance Incentive \$125.00, Reed Schaefer, Ambulance Incentive \$125.00, S&L Sanitary Service, Trash \$58.30, Sunset Law Enforcement, Ammunition \$3,934.20, Sandhills Custom Creations, Engraving \$42.96, Sara J. Hulinsky, Cleaning Service \$837.00, Schaper and White Law Firm, Legal fees \$3,000.00, Site One Landscape Supply, Grounds Maintenance Supplies \$1,117.49, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment, withholdings \$4,245.50, Stryker, Lifepack lease payment \$22,474.39, Stuart C. Irby Co, Electrical supplies for Eagle Crest \$1,725.00, Super Vacuum Manufacturing, Graphics for new police vehicles \$788.20, Sylvia Schiller, Ambulance Incentive \$75.00, TSYS Merchant Solutions, Credit card processing/fees \$450.00, Tim Eggleston, Safety boots \$179.99, Tracker Systems, Handi bus tracking \$16.99, Trotter Service, Tire replacement \$114.00, Tyler Edwards, Ambulance incentive \$160.00, V-Bar Sales & Service, Defender for 2006 Ambulance \$2,989.00, Verizon Wireless, PD wifi for patrol units \$320.08, Phone and hotspots \$280.10, Fire jetpack, ALS phone, Handi bus phone \$115.88, Wade Williams, Ambulance Incentive \$165.00, Wenquist, Inc. Equipment repairs \$128.31, Total \$314,997.47 Bi-Weekly Payroll (11/5/25) \$81,776.64 Grand Total \$396,774.11

During Other Communication, Emergency Services Department Head David Baltz gave an EMS update and recap of the first year with added Advanced Life Support (ALS) care. He explained that to date they have received 484 calls and are on track to end the year with around 580, resulting in a 15% increase. He also stated that 41% percent of the calls have included some level of ALS care, 96% had ALS staff available if needed, and 97 included inter-facility transfers. He further projected that the inter-facility transfer totals will be around 115 transports by the end of 2025.

Baltz also spoke about the 2025 equipment improvements by highlighting the new ambulance, ventilator, and the upgraded life packs that had reach their end of life expiration dates. He explained that the equipment upgrades have been very helpful to the department resulting in improved patient care. He also said that Starlink communication had been added to the three ambulances and it has greatly aided in helping them stay in communication while they are on calls and out of cell phone range in Custer county. He also explained that the Broken Bow Ambulance Service reached a recent milestone by having all three ambulances staffed and out on calls at the same time, which had never been done before.

Baltz also highlighted the personnel within the department saying that it is staffed by thirty two professional EMT's, Advanced EMT's, and two paramedics. He explained that multiple individuals are currently taking classes for advanced training and the department is constantly working on recruitment. He went on to praise his team by explaining that by covering 3 shifts a day, the department has provided over 26,000 hours of continuous volunteer coverage for the community.

Baltz concluded by mentioning that the department will be hosting the Lincoln Fire and Rescue Resuscitation Academy on December 13th and 14th to provide advanced cardiac training in western Nebraska. Mayor Sonnichsen thanked the Broken Bow Ambulance Service for all they do and explained that by adding ALS it gave them an opportunity to fill a void and gives citizens a better chance at surviving serious medical emergencies.

In new business, Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1302, entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA ESTABLISHING ELECTRIC USE FEES, REPEALING THE SECTIONS OF ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE, AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.” Moved by Holland, 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. There were no public or council comments. Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to close public hearing at 6:11 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland to approve Ordinance 1302, entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA ESTABLISHING ELECTRIC USE FEES, REPEALING THE SECTIONS OF ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE, AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.” Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. The 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 Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to approve Police Chief Chris Anderson as an authorized signer for the Broken Bow Animal Shelter and Police Department Grant Money Bank Accounts held at Nebraska State Bank. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to approve the reappointment of Steven Parr of JEO Consulting Group, Inc, license number S-859, as the Street Superintendent for the City of Broken Bow from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve Resolution 2025-22, authorizing the signing of the year-end certification of City Street Superintendent. Administrator Schmidt explained that this is part of our annual housekeeping and is required yearly to receive our highway allocation funds. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Holland to approve the appointment of JEO Consulting Group, Inc, as the City Engineer for the City of Broken Bow for 2026. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Smith to approve temporarily closing two intersections at South 13th Ave and the South side of Hwy 2 and South 15th Ave and the South side of Hwy 2 until December 5, 2025, to facilitate underground utility work for the 2024 Water Main Replacements project. Ryan Jones, Water Sewer Superintendent explained that the closings are needed to complete the concrete tear out that will allow them to tie the new main to the old main. He also explained that the Utility Board agrees as well. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

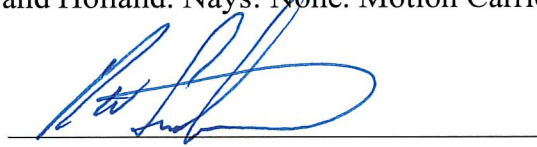
Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve Change Order #1 with Myers Construction, Inc., extending the substantial completion date to December 31, 2025, for the 2024 Water Main Replacement Project. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Abstain: Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve Change Order #2 with Myers Construction, Inc., installing a 8" tapping tee with 8" tapping tee valve and box on 11th Ave at the connection to the 8" water main on South F Street for a net change of \$8,712.50 for the 2024 Water Main Replacement Project. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Abstain: Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

During public comments, Administrator Schmidt spoke about the 97 inter-facility transfers by EMS thus far this year. Schmidt explained that if we use the low end average wait time of 3 hours for another agency to get to Broken Bow, it amounts to just under 300 hours that we have saved citizens that are waiting for medical transfer. He further stated that he doesn't know how you can put a measure on the amount of crucial time that has been saved for citizens in those situations. Mayor Sonnichsen agreed and added that you can't really put a price to that first critical hour either.

There were no Mayor or council comments.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:22 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

