

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes December 9, 2025

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 9, 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, and Joe Wamsley. Absent: Paul Holland. Also in attendance was City Administrator David Schmidt, City Attorney Jason White, City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse, and Deputy Clerk Jacob Holcomb. Mayor Sonnichsen announced the availability of the Open Meetings Act, followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley, to excuse the absence of councilmember Holland. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

City Clerk, Jennifer Waterhouse mentioned that in the November 25, 2025, minutes distributed in the council packets, she had accidentally omitted comments made by Administrator Schmidt regarding the consent agenda accounts payable item for Ranchland Ford for the 2024 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$38,980, as well as the bid opening that took place on 11-21-25 regarding the purchase of that vehicle. She explained that the error was caught and that the minutes have been corrected to reflect those comments.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve the consent agenda for December 9, 2025. Said motion includes approval of the amended Minutes of the November 25, 2025, Council Meeting, and Bills to Date. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

911 Custom -equipment \$8,450.88, AKRS Equipment, mower repairs, \$1087.98, Aflac, insurance, \$511.52, \$119.50, \$189.30, Ag Land ATV, Oil, \$9.99, Amazon Capital Services - Equipment, Maintenance, Supplies, \$1,536.14, American Legal Publishing, Subscription, \$399.00, Andy C Holland, Ambulance Incentive, \$125.00, Around The Block Catering, catering, \$1,994.93, Auto Value Broken Bow, Shop repairs \$210.56, Rebecca Neumiller, Ambulance Incentive, \$219.00, Bill Hendricks, Ambulance Incentive, \$97.00, Black Hills Energy, Utilities-Gas, \$1,006.04, Bobbie Summerford, Ambulance Incentive, \$115.00, Breanna Holmes, Ambulance Incentive, \$130.00, Broken Bow Airport Authority, Interlocal Agreement \$1,083.33, Broken Bow Mun Utilities, Fuel Station Reimbursement, \$799.99, Fairgrounds lift station payment reimbursement, \$14,541.97, Utilities \$3,426.49, Card Services, Christmas lights \$221.42, Card Services 4834, Supplies/Maint and repairs, \$665.61, Card Services 5174, Supplies, equipment, bldg. maint, uniforms, internet, transport expenses, \$1,669.30, Card Services 0583, Zoning expenses and PD material \$1,259.96, Card Services 0609, PD purchases, office supplies, admin vehicle expenses \$2,410.53, Carroll Construction Supply, Fuel containment, \$239.60, Century Link, Basic & credit card, long distance \$138.84, \$369.26, \$110.61, Chad Hempstead, Ambulance Incentive \$397.00, Christina Watson, Ambulance Incentive \$105.00, City Flex Benefit Plan, FSA \$405.00, City of Broken Bow - Health Insurance, Insurance \$4,493.94, \$42,823.85, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund, RETIREMENT LOAN PAYMENT \$2,933.42, 414H RETIREMENT \$12,966.80, 457 RETIREMENT \$1,782.81, Cody Neville, Ambulance Incentive, \$98.00, Colonial Insurance, life insurance \$702.29, \$373.73, \$628.42, Custer County Treasurer, UTV Title Fee \$10.00, Communications Interlocal Agreement, \$19,384.45, Custer Public Power, CD Cell Power \$53.00, David Baltz, Ambulance Incentive, \$456.00, Dennis Schiller, Ambulance Incentive, \$45.00, Doyle

Wood, Ambulance Incentive, \$110.00, Dustin Watson, Ambulance Incentive, \$15.00, EFTPS Online Payment, MEDICARE, \$3,416.04, FEDERAL, \$9,892.52, FICA, \$14,606.26, EZ IT Solutions, badge \$5.00, IT Services \$7,000.00, Eakes Office Products, Office Supplies and phones \$1,001.68, Elan Financial Services, supplies/annual fee, \$143.80, Elizabeth Baumgartner, Ambulance Incentive, \$233.00, Family Heritage, insurance, \$25.50, General Collection Company, Inc, WAGE GARNISHMENT, \$329.78, Gibbons Electric, Christmas display on 10th, \$828.23, Gina Gorham, Ambulance Incentive, \$80.00, Great Plains Communications, Internet, \$289.95, \$214.95, \$150.00, \$196.04, Hometown Leasing, copier lease - \$73.57, \$291.12, \$116.65, Island Supply Welding Co, Oxygen, \$81.20, JEO, 2024 water main replacements, \$1,877.50, BB General Engineering: C&D Landfill submittal and floodplain mapping, \$1,250.00, Jason Edward Morey, Ambulance Incentive, \$95.00, Jess Hightower, Ambulance Incentive, \$45.00, Justice Data Solutions, Inc, Records management system annual fee, \$2,350.00, Kelvin Kreitman, Ambulance Incentive, \$204.00, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions, Ice melt, \$100.40, Dec 2025 Janitorial, \$3,470.00, LARM, UTV insurance, \$199.90, admin vehicle, \$503.90, Lance Oatman, Ambulance Incentive, \$60.00, Lawrence Stump, Ambulance Incentive, \$45.00, Londa Wood, Ambulance Incentive, \$110.00, Macqueen, Mounting hardware for engine 32, \$750.76, Mason Holmes, Ambulance Incentive, \$130.00, Michael Jilg, Ambulance Incentive, \$200.00, Mishele Wooters, Ambulance Incentive, \$75.00, Murphy Tractor & Equipment, Filters, \$895.92, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, CHILD SUPPORT, \$769.86, Nicholas Gaddy, Ambulance Incentive, \$105.00, Nick Jacobson, 2 - 40' Containers, \$7,600.00, Nissa Shelby, Ambulance Incentive, \$45.00, O'Reilly Auto Parts, supplies, \$22.98, Postmaster, PO box annual fee, \$198.00, Power Solutions, Stanadyne, \$39.98, RT Ace, LLC, supplies, \$26.97, \$130.16, \$112.76, Fuel tank, \$170.89, maint and repairs \$420.62, Rebeka Anderson, Ambulance Incentive \$75.00, Reed Schaefer, Ambulance Incentive \$135.00, Robert Harrold, Ambulance Incentive \$105.00, Sara J. Hulinsky, cleaning service, \$837.00, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment, STATE, \$4,302.74, Sylvia Schiller, Ambulance Incentive, \$45.00, Tracker Systems, Tracker system, Handi Bus, \$16.99, Trotter Service, Oil change, \$106.00, Tyler Edwards, Ambulance Incentive, \$105.00, Van Diest Supply Co, Chemicals, \$1,393.78, Verizon Wireless, PD wifi, \$320.08, Fire jetpack, ALS phone, EMS monitors, Handi bus phone, \$179.96, Phones and hotspots, \$280.10, Wade Williams, Ambulance Incentive, \$125.00, Wenquist, Inc, Fuel tank, \$498.72, Yankee Hill Machine Co, Inc, Suppressors, \$4,572.00, Total - \$204,999.72 Bi-Weekly Payroll (12/3/25) \$81,793.84 Grand Total \$286,793.56

In new business, moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to approve accepting JEO's proposal to assist Broken Bow with FEMA's Request For Information, required for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application. Jacob Holcomb explained that the City applied in February for a \$250,000 FEMA grant for a flood mitigation scoping project and must now provide a detailed accounting of how those funds might be used. He said that the process was completed according to state statute, advertised in the paper, and that JEO submitted the required information, while Miller and Associates declined the opportunity to do the work within the time frame needed. He explained that this is just another step in the process and that once the grant is received, the work will go out to bid and JEO will still be allowed to bid for any of that work. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve Resolution 2025-23, authorizing the paying of regular bills that would have been paid at the December 23, 2025, City Council Meeting. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

During public comments, Joe Franssen stated that he appreciates the work the city is doing regarding the flood mitigation project and encouraged finding ways to pass the information to the public, so they have an opportunity to do so to help community members understand the implications.

Stuart Fox explained that as a banker he deals a lot with flood insurance and his original hope was that the remapped was going to result in properties being removed from the flood zone, and instead much to everyone's surprise, they are actually going to add a significant amount of Broken Bow into the floodway. He said that this includes a lot of downtown properties and businesses that will likely see increased insurance costs by two to three times, with the effect of stifling growth and development in the downtown area. Fox commending the City's efforts in the flood mitigation project and expressed his hope that a plan can be developed that will remove properties from flood zones, rather than add them. He concluded by pledging any help he can contribute to the process.

Jeremiah Luebbe expressed his concern that homeowners are also likely to be impacted by the expansion of the flood zones, with mortgages forcing them to obtain expensive flood insurance policies. He said he feels that it is a real threat to the community, and that he applauds the council's efforts to do whatever they can do to help with mitigation.

Luke Wassom stated that he feels that the City needs to take the situation very seriously since no one is grandfathered in and they will potentially be forced to buy expensive insurance. He feels the outcome would limit growth in Broken Bow.

Mayor Rod Sonnichsen acknowledged the seriousness of the issue placed before the council and said that the City has been working on this since 2018. He also noted that the flood plan issue involves interactions with federal agencies, adding further complexity. City Administrator David Schmidt stated that the flood maps are currently in a preliminary phase and have already been revised once in response to comments. He said that another round of review will be upcoming, and promised to ensure public input is sought at that time.

Councilmembers Kleeb and Smith agreed that the flood zone issues are a high priority for the body, and that they will do everything they can do to help mitigate the issues.

During Mayor and council comments, Mayor Sonnichsen wished everyone a safe and merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:17 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Wamsley. Nays: None. Motion Carried.



Rodney W. Sonnichsen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer A. Waterhouse, City Clerk

