

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes March 24, 2026

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 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, Deputy City 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 Wamsley to approve the consent agenda for March 24, 2026. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the March 10, 2026, Council Meeting, approval of Bills to Date, approval of February 2026 Treasurer's Report, and approval of the Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department Officers. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aflac, Insurance \$511.52, \$119.50, Benchmark Governmental Solutions, Meals for training \$27.90, Black Hills Energy, Utilities \$3,421.13, Capitol One Bank, WAGE GARNISHMENT \$67.62, Century Link, Basic & Long distance \$368.09, City Flex Benefit Plan, SELECT FLEX-UNREIMBURSED M/D/V \$869.79, SELECT FLEX-DEPENDENT CARE \$192.30, City of Broken Bow Health Insurance, HEALTH INS \$5,766.38, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund, RETIREMENT LOAN PAYMENT \$3,065.38, 414H RETIREMENT \$12,826.80, 457 RETIREMENT \$1,790.19, Colonial Insurance, Insurance \$678.16, \$358.90, Custer County Chief, Printing and publications \$270.66, EFTPS Online Payment, MEDICARE \$3,335.10, FEDERAL \$9,440.84, FICA \$14,260.22, EVOLV3D Creations, T-shirts \$27.49, EZ IT Solutions, Firewall for pool, back-up dock \$903.35, Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies \$113.98, Elan Financial Services, Transport exp, training, equipment, repairs, starlink internet, and title exp. \$2,456.15, Transport expenses \$514.03, equipment, training \$3,998.00, Maint./repairs grounds, programming, and supplies \$801.06, Family Heritage, Insurance \$25.50, First Response Billing Associates, LLC, Ambulance billing \$1,836.13, Great Plains Communications, internet/phone \$185.00, Highstreet Insurance & Financial Serv, Life Insurance \$1,559.04, Hometown Leasing, Copier lease \$291.12, \$55.33, Ingram Library Services, Materials \$2,430.08, JEO, BB Stormwater Drainage Evaluation (SE) \$4,800.00, BB Stormwater Drainage Evaluation (NW) \$3,552.00, BB 2025 Custer County Recreation Center \$3,625.00, LVNV Funding LLC, Wage Garnishment, \$684.74, Macqueen, supplies \$312.00, Maly Marketing, website design \$3,046.67, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, CHILD SUPPORT-NE \$769.86, Nebraska Library Association, Dues \$225.00, Nebraska State Patrol, MACH & TRACS annual fees \$598.50, Pareto

Health, Cost management \$76.00, Police Chief Assn of Nebraska, Annual membership \$120.00, Presto X Company, pest control \$82.01, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment, STATE \$3,705.02, The Atlantic, subscription \$85.55, Tracy Rademacher, Mileage for EMS Education \$62.35, Trotter Service, Tires and fuel \$253.24, Trotter Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel \$875.56, \$27.69, \$32.68, Verizon Wireless, phones/hot spots \$155.92, \$280.10, Wifi for patrol unites \$561.23, Wenquist Inc, Maint/repairs equipment \$1,131.63, Total \$97,629.49 Bi-Weekly Payroll (3/11/26) \$79,596.06 Grand Total \$177,225.55

Mayor Sonnichsen requested to move up New Business agenda item a. Board Appointment; before Other Communications. Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Todd Trost and made a recommendation for the City Council to approve the appointment. Mr. Trost stated he has a background in the Air Force, and his experience makes him a good candidate for this position. Mr. Trost said he wanted to help locally, and the Airport Authority Board was a great fit. At the end of discussion, moved by Kleeb, seconded by Holland to approve Todd Trost to the Broken Bow Airport Authority. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

In other communications, Streets and Parks Supervisor Darren Marten presented a department update. Mr. Marten stated the mild winter allowed his department to focus on other projects like, trimming trees, Melham Pond cleanup, pickleball courts, updates to Tomahawk women's bathroom, installation of new frisbee golf baskets, and repainting the swimming pool. Future projects include more work on the pickleball courts and replacing concrete panels on Memorial Drive. Mayor Sonnichsen stated he was at the park for 5 hours and took note of many great things. He observed many people playing frisbee golf, 7 boys fishing at Melham Pond, children reading at the story walk, and many people utilizing the walking trail. Mayor Sonnichsen took note of the new public bathroom on the square and thanked everyone involved.

In new business, Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1305, entitled "Establishing a Franchise Fee on Energy Providers Operating in the City of Broken Bow, Nebraska." Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 6:17 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt said franchising this service to Black Hills Energy allows the natural gas needs of Broken Bow to be met. Mr. Schmidt also stated the therm rate remained unchanged. Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to close public hearing at 6:20 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 1305 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 1305, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Kleeb. 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.

Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1306, entitled "AN ORDINANCE GRANTING BLACK HILLS NEBRASKA GAS, LLC D/B/A BLACK HILLS ENERGY, A DELAWARE CORPORATION, ITS LESSEES, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, A NATURAL GAS FRANCHISE AND THE AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, AND EXTEND A NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PLANT AND SYSTEM, AND GRANTING THE RIGHT TO USE THE STREETS, ALLEYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THE PRESENT OR FUTURE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA" Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Holland to open a public hearing at 6:22 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 6:23 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland that the statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance 1306 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 Holland moved for final passage of Ordinance 1306, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Kleeb. 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.

Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1307, entitled "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SPEED LIMIT TO BE 40 MPH FOR ALL OF MEMORIAL DRIVE EAST OF MELHAM HOSPITAL, BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY 1,868 FEET EAST OF THE MEMORIAL DRIVE AND NORTH 5TH INTERSECTION (center of intersection), EXTENDING EAST TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS IN THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THE ORDINANCE." Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 6:25 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt said the City of Broken Bow has partnered with Custer County to address the speed limit on Memorial Drive east of Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center. JEO did a traffic study and determined it would be beneficial to lower the speed limit. Councilman Russ Smith stated 40 mph was a good starting point and they can always make adjustments at a later time. Stephanie Grafel commented that she thought it was a good decision. She said it isn't safe going from the current speed of 55mph down to 30mph in such a short distance where many hospital employees cross. Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to close public hearing at 6:31 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 1307 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

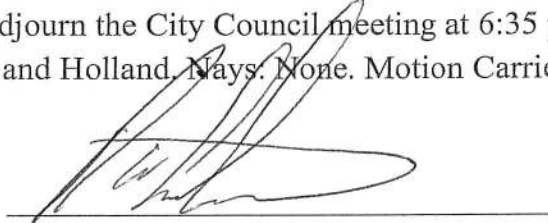
adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for the consideration of said Ordinance.

Said Ordinance was then read by title and thereafter, Councilmember Holland moved for final passage of Ordinance 1307, 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.

During public comments, Stephanie Grafel from the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce stated she is working to get the Children's Easter Egg Hunt on the Square ready. Mrs. Grafel also said Market on the square will start the first week in June. Lastly Mrs. Grafel congratulated the city nominees for citizen of the year and customer service.

During Mayor and Council comments, May Sonnichsen stated the council needs to start thinking about setting a date for a potential spring city wide cleanup.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:35 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.



Rodney W. Sonnichsen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jacob Holcomb, Deputy City Clerk

