

Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes May 12, 2026

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Broken Bow City Council Chambers. 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, City 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 May 12, 2026. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the April 28, 2026, Council Meeting and Bills to Date. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

AKRS Equipment, Mower repairs \$93.22, Aflac, Insurance \$189.30, \$511.52, \$119.50, Ag Land ATV, Flag for Equip \$15.99, Andy C Holland, Ambulance Incentive \$727.00, Auto Value Broken Bow, Maint/repairs, supplies \$164.84, \$113.31, Beaver Bearing Co Albion – Maint on equip \$205.30, Black Hills Energy, Utilities \$1,041.43, Bobbie Summerford, Ambulance Incentive \$45.00, Bound Tree Medical, EMS Supplies \$158.73, Breanna Holmes, Ambulance Incentive \$148.00, Broken Bow Airport Authority, Airport Interlocal Agreement \$1,083.33, Broken Bow Mun Utilities, Fuel station reimbursement \$2,781.43, Utilities \$4,894.73, Broken Bow Rural Fire Board, Reimb for utilities \$674.93, Capitol One Bank, WAGE GARNISHMENT \$67.62, Card Services 5174, shipping \$52.18, Card Services 0609, Software fees \$604.27, Central Nebraska Bobcat, Coupler for skid steer \$85.72, Central Nebraska Sod Supply, Grounds maint Paul Brown \$490.00, Central Valley Electric, Inc, Tools \$449.98, Century Link, phone/internet \$86.03, \$138.55, \$374.57, \$110.22, Chad Hempstead, Ambulance Incentive \$218.00, Christina Watson, Ambulance Incentive \$90.00, Christopher Shelby, Ambulance Incentive \$345.00, City Flex Benefit Plan, SELECT FLEX-UNREIMBURSED M/D/V \$769.79, SELECT FLEX-DEPENDENT CARE \$192.30, City of Broken Bow-Health Insurance, Insurance \$5,561.66, insurance reimbursement \$44,838.15, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund, RETIREMENT LOAN PAYMENT \$3,231.86, 414H \$1,2475.70, 457 \$1,834.35, Colonial Insurance, Insurance \$712.18, \$384.81, \$629.34, Custer County Treasurer, Communications Interlocal Agreement \$19,384.45, Custer Public Power, CD Cell Power \$56.00, David Baltz, Ambulance Incentive \$257.00, Dennis Schiller, Ambulance Incentive \$30.00, Dewey's Implement & Welding, Cement/gravel hopper bucket build \$1,295.02, Dinges Fire Company, Training equipment, forcible entry \$4,000.00, Doyle Wood, Ambulance Incentive \$125.00, EFTPS Online Payment, MEDICARE \$3,359.06, FEDERAL

\$9,408.02, FICA \$14,362.64, EZ IT Solutions, IT Services \$7,000.00, Eakes Office Products, Office supplies and phones \$265.77, Elan Financial Services, Supplies, tools, Tomahawk rest room repairs, fuel tank, sprayer for creek - 3262.40, Elan Financial Services, supplies, fuel, transport expenses, training, internet \$4,469.63, Elizabeth Baumgartner, Ambulance Incentive \$113.00, Family Heritage, Insurance \$25.50, First Response Billing Associates, LLC, Ambulance billing \$2,497.40, Frontier Family Pharmacy, EMS Supplies \$91.47, G4C, LLC, Hotel rooms for citizens during outage after power plant explosion \$3,467.50, Gibbons Electric, Repairs at Fire Hall \$1,060.04, Gina Gorham, Ambulance Incentive \$460.00, Godwin's Advanced Auto Diagnostics, Handi Bus a/c repairs \$1,804.22, Great Plains Communications, Internet \$150.00, \$195.98, \$289.95, \$214.95, Hometown Leasing, copier leases \$73.57, \$291.12, \$55.33, Island Supply Welding Co, Medical oxygen \$104.75, JEO, BBow Stormwater Drainage Evaluation (SE) \$4,392.00, (NW) \$4,331.00, BBow Low Water Crossing \$5,700.00, Jacob Holcomb, Register of Deeds variance filing fee \$10.00, Jason Edward Morey, Ambulance Incentive \$60.00, Jess Hightower, Ambulance Incentive \$15.00, Kelly Gorham, Ambulance Incentive \$652.00, Kelvin Kreitman, Ambulance Incentive \$65.00, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions, Roll towels \$46.36, Lance Oatman, Ambulance Incentive \$105.00, Londa Wood, Ambulance Incentive \$125.00, Macqueen, Repairs to tower truck \$2,204.66, Marten Heating and Cooling LLC, New a/c and heating system \$11,040.08, Mason Holmes, Ambulance Incentive \$409.00, Mead Lumber, Maint/repairs bldg \$79.98, Maintenance grounds \$21.50, Michael Jilg, Ambulance Incentive \$337.00, Mishele Wooters, Ambulance Incentive \$75.00, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, CHILD SUPPORT-NE \$336.47, Nebraska Dept of Revenue, Amended return for Oct-Dec 2025 \$462.58, Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Lodging at training \$150.00, Nebraska Machinery Company, Equip repairs \$1,095.63, Nicholas Gaddy, Ambulance Incentive \$299.00, Nippon Sanso Matheson, Inc, equipment \$112.80, Nissa Shelby, Ambulance Incentive \$230.00, O'Reilly Auto Parts, FOB Batteries \$25.98, O'Brien's Hardware, Adapter \$3.49, Paper Tiger Shredding, shredding \$48.00, Paulsen Inc, Cement for pickleball court \$8,690.10, Presto X Company, Pest control \$173.71, Pye-Barker Fire Safety, Repairs to backflow water main in building \$1,974.44, RT Ace, LLC, tow kit \$49.99, tow kit, tie down straps \$73.98, building/cleaning supplies \$214.03, blades for truck \$79.98, tools, grounds maintenance \$2,613.27, Radar Shop, Inc, recertification of radars \$512.00, Ranchland Ford, Handi bus repairs \$460.80, Vehicle repairs and maint \$1,564.12, Rebecca Neumiller, Ambulance Incentive \$128.00, Rebeka Anderson, Ambulance Incentive \$125.00, Reed Schaefer, Ambulance Incentive \$109.00, Robert Harrold, Ambulance Incentive \$193.00, S&L Sanitary Service, Trash \$58.30, Sara J. Hulinsky, Cleaning service \$837.00, Schaper and White Law Firm, Legal fees \$3,000.00, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment, STATE \$3,705.85, Tracker Systems, Handi Bus tracking \$16.99, Trotter Service, Fuel \$120.62, water pump \$371.14, Trotter Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel/Diesel \$1,225.85, \$111.98, \$117.47, \$134.56, Verizon Wireless, Wifi in patrol units \$560.24, Fire Jetpacks, phones, hot spots \$155.91, \$280.07, Wade Williams, Ambulance Incentive \$178.00, Wenquist Inc, Maint/repairs equip \$194.37, \$88.96, Wesco Distribution, Eagle Crest materials \$1,194.00 Total \$226,624.87 Bi-Weekly Payroll (5/6/26) \$81,448.51 Grand Total \$308,073.38

In new business, moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 6:02 pm regarding Ordinance 1308, establishing mandatory monthly trash assessments on utility bills of residential properties and business properties within the corporate limits of the City of Broken Bow.

Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt explained that the city was approached by the lawyer for S&L Sanitation regarding a requested trash rate increase of \$2 per month for residential service and \$4 per month for small, medium, and large businesses in the City of Broken Bow. Joseph Roach of S&L Sanitation explained that the rate increase is due to Custer Transfer Station increasing his dumping fee which is a direct result of their increased costs to dump at the two landfills they use. He further explained that request is also due to the rising cost of fuel that was \$3.34 per gallon when he took over the business and it is currently sitting at \$5.25 per gallon. He also explained that he researched the rates of other communities like Ogallala, Gothenburg and Ashland and that even with the rate increase, the rates are still substantially lower than the other communities. Mayor Sonnichsen also added that there has been three separate rate increases at the two landfills that the Custer Transfer Center uses since the last rate increase took effect.

Councilmember Holland raised the question as to whether the most recent contract between S&L and the city had stipulated whether tipping fees could even increase in the future. Mayor Sonnichsen said that his understanding was that all the contract did was to go from two separate contracts to one. City Attorney Jason White said that he would look into that question and report back to the council members. Mayor Sonnichsen recommended that the council not waive the three readings of the Ordinance to allow the council time to get all the information they need to make a decision. Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 6:10 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Wamsley, to not waive the three readings of Ordinance 1308, establishing mandatory monthly trash assessments on utility bills of residential properties and business properties within the corporate limits of the City of Broken Bow. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The first reading of Ordinance 1308 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to postpone action regarding the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Custer County Communications Center. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt explained that he received information late in the day from the County regarding their review of the Interlocal Agreement. He recommended that council postpone taking any action on the agreement until they have had the opportunity to review their comments. Mayor Sonnichsen encouraged the councilmembers to make a decision regarding the agreement at the next City Council meeting so that the figures could be worked into the county budget. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to approve Resolution 2026-08, approving the sale of real property, property locally referred to as the "the armory," parcel ID 001236600 in Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt explained that since taking ownership of the property, several ideas for the building have been explored by the city but that none of them have come to fruition due to the high renovation costs, as well as the cost to maintain the building. He further mentioned that there has been some outside word of mouth interest in the building and that this

would be the first step in getting the ball rolling. City Attorney Jason White also mentioned that this resolution is not the approval of a sale, it is merely the approval to entertain the idea of a sale.

Mayor Sonnichsen added that when the Armory was purchased there were intentions of consolidating two city departments in the building. He explained that due to the high renovation costs, they felt that it was an “unjust” cost to the taxpayer, especially when coupled with the 2025 power plant explosion. He concluded by saying that he feels that the cost to renovate the building would greatly stress the tax base of the citizens of Broken Bow.

Joe Linder of 926 North 10th Avenue asked council to delay the passage of the Resolution so that he could talk to the YMCA in Kearney regarding the cost of an indoor swimming pool. Administrator Schmidt explained that although they are not looking at putting a rec center in the armory, they are looking at new rec center ideas for Broken Bow. He concluded by saying that if this Resolution is approved tonight and they do get bids on the property, it is still going to be about a two month process, so nothing is going to happen overnight. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

During public comments, Scotti Ross, Executive Director of Custer Economic Development Corporation and Stephanie Grafel, Executive Director of the Broken Bow Chamber came before the board on behalf of patrons and businesses to express their safety concerns regarding electric bike usage in the city. The two cited several examples of witnessing close calls between both pedestrian and vehicle collisions due to riders travelling at high speeds on sidewalks and not obeying traffic laws. They further asked the City and Police Department to look into reviewing the situation and pass an Ordinance with the end goal of keeping everyone safe. They also recommended that the Police Department partner with BBPS and put on a safety assembly like Sheriff Osmond recently did in Arnold to increase communication regarding safety.

Nancee Coufal of 807 S. 10th Ave discussed the electric bike classifications and the potential for significant injury to children if they wreck at the speeds that the bikes are capable of going. She encouraged council to enact something that puts a little bit of responsibility back on the parents due to the substantial potential for injury and the increased numbers of injury cases being seen in places as close as North Platte. She also encouraged parents to make sure that their kids know the traffic laws.

Mayor Sonnichsen thanked everyone for their comments and explained that this is an issue that council has been aware of, and that Police Chief Chris Anderson has been working on a rough draft of an Ordinance that addresses the issues that have been brought up. Chief Anderson explained that BBPD has been receiving more and more complaints on this issue but currently the main obstacle is that they must catch an offender in the act to be able to issue a citation for not obeying traffic laws. He said that with that in mind, he started putting an Ordinance together for City Council to address the complex issues involved.

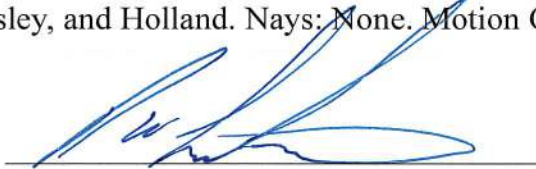
Mayor Sonnichsen encouraged patience as the Ordinance will take time to be reviewed with legal and also welcomed collaboration with those that spoke at the meeting. City Attorney Jason White also mentioned that he specifically liked the idea of confiscating the bike when someone is caught

committing a traffic violation so that parents have to come to the police station to get the bike back. Mayor Sonnichsen also urged the local media to help the city get the information out to the public once an Ordinance is passed as school will be out for the summer break at that time.

During Mayor and Council comments, Councilmember Smith stated that at the end of the day they don't want to restrict kids from having fun, but they do want to keep kids from getting hurt or injuring others while using electric bikes. He explained that with that in mind, they will do their best to be fair to everyone regarding the issue and work quickly on an Ordinance.

Administrator Schmidt also highlighted the City Wide Clean Up on Saturday May 16th and explained that the free collection site will be between Tomahawk Park & Paul Brown Field from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and that the Tree Dump will be open for free on May 16th and 23rd.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:38 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

