Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes September 22, 2026

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, in the Broken Bow City Council Chamber. 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 Paul Holland. Absent: Joe Wamsley. 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 September 22, 2026. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the September 8, 2026, Council Meeting, September 8, 2026, Budget Hearing, Bills to Date and the August 2026 Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

911 Custom, Lights for City Admin vehicle $2,395.45, AKRS EQUIPMENT, Oil and seals $324.84, Aflac, Insurance $511.52, $119.50, Amazon Capital Services, EMS clothing $289.65, Auto Value Broken Bow, TruFuel $76.93, Benchmark Governmental Solutions $100.55, Broken Bow Ambulance Service, Reimburse for transport snacks $16.73, Buffalo Outdoor Power LLC, Sod cutter $5,261.65, Callaway District Hospital, Epinephrine $127.32, Capitol One Bank, WAGE GARNISHMENT $67.62, Card Services 5174, Transport meals, fuel, supplies, rooms for conference, starlink internet $1,022.06, Card Services, EMS Transport Card 8031, Fuel, training meal $248.23, Card Services, Library 9965, Maint/repairs grounds, supplies $3,156.91, Card Services, 7729 Police, Supplies, uniforms, equipment $3,805.80, Card Services 0609, Office supplies, city promotions, building improv., keno funds, admin veh $17,680.80, Carroll Construction Supply, Road building material $35,977.17, Central Nebraska Bobcat, Grapple bucket $5,200.00, Central Nebraska Pest Control, pest control $120.00, Christopher Shelby, Driver transport, Omaha $298.50, City Flex Benefit Plan, SELECT FLEX-UNREIMBURSED M/D/V $769.79, SELECT FLEX-DEPENDENT CARE $192.30, City of Broken Bow, Health Insurance, HEALTH INS $5,561.66, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund, RETIREMENT LOAN PAYMENT $3,359.00, 414H RETIREMENT $13,054.26, 457 RETIREMENT $1,811.25, Colonial Insurance, Insurance $698.56, $396.72, Custer County Construction Inc., Repairs to upstairs office $8,656.00, Custer Transfer Station, Trash removal $93.40, Demco, Supplies $30.94, EFTPS Online Payment, MEDICARE $3,471.10, FEDERAL $9,926.34, FICA $14,841.92, Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, copy paper $61.99, Family Heritage, Insurance $25.50, Frontier Family Pharmacy, Ambulance supplies $41.73, Good Housekeeping, Materials, subscription $35.00, Graham Tire Co, Tires for pick-up $784.00, Great Plains Communications, Police, Wifi, BBPD $185.00, Pool, Internet $64.97, Grocery Kart, Concessions, cleaning, water $260.70, Hinckley Medical Inc., One dose $1,150.00, Ingram Library Services, Materials, Library books $1,981.71, JEO, Broken Bow 2026 Bridge inspections $3,500.00, Jeffres Sand and Gravel, Road gravel and rock $11,010.00, Jessica Bruha, Mileage reimbursement $262.96, Kirkpatrick Cleaning Solutions, Paper products at Library $138.21, Macqueen, Rope clip, Storz coup strap, wrenches $1,103.28, Marten Heating and Cooling LLC, Ice machine maintenance and filter $908.79, Mary Larson, Dirt $2,067.00, Melham Wellness Center, New employee enrollment $42.00, Murphy Tractor & Equipment, Blades and bolts $6,986.40, Loader, Down payment $70,000.00, Myers Construction Inc., Crushed concrete $3,182.48, NMC, LLC Nebraska Machinery Company, Maintenance on loaders and maintainer $19,938.17, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, CHILD SUPPORT-NE $336.47, Nicholas Gaddy, Reimbursement for transport $20.82, O'Brien's Hardware, Flag pole rope, $52.82, Bushing, PVC Pipe Fitting $8.97, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Maintenance, Wiper blades $77.93, Over Drive, Materials, Libby/Digital books $1,300.00,

Pareto Health, Cost management, Aug 2026 $76.00, Paulsen Inc., Concrete $30,000.00, $1,160.95, Petty Cash, Postage and supplies $179.95, Platte Valley Communications, Radio mount in Admin vehicle $2,245.18, Presto X Company, pest service $98.41, RT Ace, LLC, Mop handle, paint, duct tape, weed killer $154.01, Spray paint for hydrants $33.00, RT Ace, LLC, Tools for garage $482.97, RT Ace, LLC, Weed eater $1,118.45, Ranchland Ford, Oil changes and battery $205.45, Oil change, 2018 Explorer $80.26, Sara J. Hulinsky, Cleaning service and supplies reimbursement $1,332.25, South Loup Community Pharmacy, Nitroglycren $23.00, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment, STATE $3,868.02, Stryker, PM checks on Power load system and cot $1,515.00, TSYS Merchant Solutions, Credit card processing fee, Pool $241.74, The Garden Center, Trees $637.50, Trotter Service, Fuel Tires $4,561.17, Trotter Tire Service, Oil change 2023 Explorer $96.00, Trotter Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel $1,544.19, Trotter's Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel $158.19, Trotters Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel $54.17, Trotter's Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel $434.59, Trotter's Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel $912.78, Unitech, Insect killer $159.00, Van Diest Supply Co, Biomist mosquito spray $5,820.75, Verizon Wireless, Fire jetpack, ALS phone, Handi Bus phone $155.90, Phones and hotspots $280.07, Wenquist, Inc, Ambulance, Mount/washer $13.96, Wesco Distribution, Eagle Crest, Materials $2,015.00, Total $324,849.28, Bi-Weekly Payroll (9/9/26) $83,931.79, Grand Total $408,781.07.

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

Under other communications, Mark Rempe, Custer County Emergency Manager, updated the city on communications and equipment changes taking place at the County. He explained that the county board approved budget additions to relocate the dispatch center from its current location at the sheriff's office to a much larger space in the courthouse. The move and related equipment upgrades will appear in the county budget but will not change the agreement with the city. The larger room will support a full third dispatch position, improve handling of power-outage calls, and separate dispatchers who currently work side by side. A new generator was included in the project and will serve the whole building. Building accessibility, including elevator access, was also discussed. Mayor Sonnichsen thanked Mr. Rempe and noted that the county's success supports the city's as well.

The Council continued discussion of draft Ordinance 1323 on livestock and poultry in town. Administrator Schmidt presented a redline of the prior draft, with deletions in red strike-through and additions in blue underline, mainly in sections 93.62 and 93.65 and the related forms. Changes reflect comments from the last meeting and subsequent office discussions, including pen-size standards for larger animals drawn from general internet guidance, and he explained that they are still open to revision. Councilman Walmsley suggested treating cattle and horses the same rather than using different standards. Added language would let grandfathered status follow a property on sale if compliance conditions are maintained. The draft has not had a full legal review. Schmidt also noted there are currently no livestock or poultry limits in town because Ordinance 1023 (2007) banned listed livestock and all poultry, but an attempt in passing an Ordinance in 2010 with registered grandfather rights failed, and with that they also repealed the 2007 ban. He explained that a nuisance ordinance alone allows repeat offenders to do the minimum and resume the problem again, while this draft would let noncompliance end grandfather status and support removal of the animals.

Steve Weatherly, 1336 South F, asked that the 4-H sheep and goat exemption require neighbor notice, that noisy geese and guinea fowl be reconsidered in the poultry definition, that the 12-month registration window and cleanup periods be shortened, and that grandfathered sites have number caps so hobby operations cannot become small feedlots. Schmidt explained that registration is already required in the draft, the 12-month period matches other city code, grandfathered properties could not expand, and that floodplain rules also apply. Taylor Gonzalez, 634 North 6th Avenue, who keeps two dairy goats and quail in town, said that six birds will not supply a large family, and that problem properties should be handled through neglect and nuisance enforcement rather than broad limits.

Mayor Sonnichsen noted legal questions still need addressed so the city does not have to revisit the issue and invited further public comments at the office. The item is still in discussion before a first reading. Council members asked that the Ordinance be ready for first reading at the next meeting on October 13, 2026.

In new business, Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1322, entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, DESIGNATING A HANDICAP PARKING STALL ON THE WEST SIDE OF SOUTH 10TH AVENUE, BEING THE FIRST PARKING SPACE NORTH OF THE SOUTH 10TH AVENUE AND SOUTH C STREET CROSSWALK; PROVIDING FOR SIGNAGE AND MARKING PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND NEBRASKA REVISED STATUTES §§ 18-1736 AND 18-1737; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE." Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Holland to open a public hearing at 6:29 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. City Administrator Schmidt explained that a handicapped parking stall was proposed for a single space in front of Steffen's building on the west side of South 10th Street, near a sidewalk ramp. The idea came from the Chief as there are currently no handicapped stalls on the west side between Highway 2 and the railroad tracks. Schmidt explained that the only nearby stall is in front of the municipal building, on the opposite side of the street. Moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 6:31 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland that the statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance 1322 on three different days be suspended. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, 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 1322, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, 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 1324, entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, DESIGNATING A HANDICAP PARKING STALL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SOUTH D STREET, BEING THE FIRST PARKING SPACE EAST OF THE SOUTH 9TH AVENUE AND SOUTH D STREET INTERSECTION, IN FRONT OF LEGENDS NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL; PROVIDING FOR SIGNAGE AND MARKING PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND NEBRASKA REVISED STATUTES §§ 18-1736 AND 18-1737; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE." Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to open a public hearing at 6:33 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. City Administrator Schmidt explained that a handicapped parking stall was also proposed on the north side of the street near Legends, where no nearby stalls currently exist. The request came from Bill and Keeley Butler, and the site was considered a strong candidate because of its proximity to a ramp. During the hearing, it was suggested that the stall be moved around the corner onto 9th Avenue to improve visibility. That idea was set aside after it was noted that the alternate location would place users out in traffic. Moved by Holland, seconded by Smith to close public hearing at 6:34 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland that the statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance 1324 on three different days be suspended. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, 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 1324, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Kleeb. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, 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.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to approve Resolution 2026-26, approval of an updated official shoulder patch for the Broken Bow Police Department. Chief Anderson presented a proposed update to the officers' shoulder patch and explained that the department has discussed refreshing the patch for some time. The new design was developed in-house by department staff at no cost, using their own ideas and computer design tools rather than outside design services. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Smith to approve Resolution 2026-27, approving a professional services agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for the Broken Bow City Hall elevator and reception area improvements project and authorizing the expenditure of funds therefor. Administrator Schmidt reported that he had recently met with JEO. Original building plans found in storage were turned over to JEO, which will digitize them. JEO is developing several concept approaches, with the goal of meeting the city's needs at the most efficient overall cost. Schmidt noted that a little more than $200,000 remains in this year's building-improvements budget. The proposed resolution would commit $100,000 of those funds to JEO, with about 40 percent for concept work and the balance for design. Any unused amount would be carried into project funds. The work is currently limited to concept and design, with elevator construction hoped for soon. Spreading the project over a couple of years would lessen the impact on the city budget. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

During Mayor and Council comments, Mayor Sonnichsen gave a debrief on the recent bicycle safety event and reported that it was a success and extremely well received. He explained that about 135 children were counted in the first hour of the three-hour event, with total attendance estimated at more than 200. New bicycle helmets distributed at the event have since been seen in use. Thanks were extended to the Rotary, Jeremy Walton, council members, Police and EMS who were on hand at the event. He explained that continued outreach is taking place in other communities as well.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:42 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Rodney W. Sonnichsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer A. Waterhouse

Jennifer A. Waterhouse, City Clerk

CITY OF BROKEN BOW CORPORATE SEAL NEBRASKA