Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes October 27, 2026

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 27, 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, Joe Wamsley, and Paul Holland. Absent: none. Also in attendance was City Administrator David Schmidt, City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer LeeAnn Morgan, and City Planner Jacob Holcomb. 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 October 27, 2026. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the October 13, 2026, Council Meeting, Bills to Date, and September 2026 Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aflac, Insurance $587.80, $258.22, $189.30, Benchmark Governmental Solutions, Meals for new officer academy $516.15, Bon Appetit, subscription $10.00, Bound Tree Medical, EMS Supplies $2,657.86, Broken Bow Mun Utilities, Reimbursement for Scholarship $1,209.39, Capitol One Bank, WAGE GARNISHMENT $67.62, Card Services, Library 9965, Supplies $82.24, Cengage Learning, Gale, Chilton Database annual subscription $386.77, Central Nebraska Bobcat, Skid Steer Part $619.62, Central Valley Electric, Inc., Street construction equipment $654.23, 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 $4,378.30, 414H RETIREMENT $14,127.88, 457 RETIREMENT $1,988.34, Colonial Insurance, Insurance $725.22, $409.21, Custer County Chief, Annual subscription, Library $65.00, Custer Transfer Station, Tires Disposal $158.40, Demco, Supplies, Book jackets $145.95, EFTPS Online Payment, MEDICARE $3,684.16, FEDERAL $10,924.87, FICA $15,753.04, EZ IT Solutions, Pool Project $21,245.38, Exterior cameras, City Hall $120.88, Family Heritage, Insurance $25.50, Fastenal, Maintenance and repairs equipment $219.19, Frontier Family Pharmacy, Medical supplies $67.00, Great Plains Communications, Internet $185.00, $64.97, Heartland Clerks Association, membership/dues 2026-27 $20.00, Ingram Library Services, Materials, Library books $1,475.67, Island Supply Welding Co., Oxygen $63.50, JEO, BBow Mud Creek Low Water Crossing $2,517.00, BBow Stormwater Drainage Evaluation NW $2,065.00, BBow Streets Parks Department Drainage Improvements $1,825.00, BBow Eagle Crest Drainage Improvements $1,940.00, Knox Company, Knox Connect cloud license $584.00, Library Journal, Materials, book reviews, journals, annual subscription $159.00, Macqueen, 4 sets of structure bunker gear $15,650.50, Midwest Alarm Services, Fire extinguisher testing and refilling $115.00, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, CHILD SUPPORT-NE $336.47, Nebraska Library Association, NLA and MPLA Conference $600.00, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Overdrive subscription $650.00, Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association, NMCA Dues $150.00, Presto X Company, pest service $98.41, Quill Corporation, Supplies, Copy paper and labels $67.38, RT Ace, LLC, Heater and door guard $85.58, RT Ace, LLC, Hydrant paint, fuses, air compressor parts $170.99, Ranchland Ford, 2018 Ford Explorer repairs $933.46, 2016 Ford F-450 oil change $141.12, Tire rotation and maintenance on K9 unit $205.20, Ryan Bowland, Reimbursement, Safety boots $128.39, Sara J. Hulinsky, Cleaning services and supplies reimbursement $1,459.30, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment, STATE $4,211.56, Stryker, Agmt# 975-8265085-000 Life pack lease $22,474.39, TSYS Merchant Solutions, Credit card processing fees $10.57, Trotter Service, Fuel $3,728.58, $135.76, Fuel supplies $8.25, Repairs to engine 32 and floor dry $1,587.42, Fuel $729.80, Trotter Tire Service, Oil change $96.00, Trotter Whoa & Go West BB, Fuel $1,336.49, $119.87, $101.12, $616.73, Total $154,648.75, Bi-Weekly Payroll (10/21/26) $87,491.45, Grand Total $242,140.20.

In new business, moved by Holland, seconded by Kleeb to approve Resolution 2026-29, authorizing waiving payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) obligations of the Broken Bow Housing Authority for fiscal years 2024, 2025 and 2026, and establishing an automatic waiver for the subsequent three fiscal years subject to notice. Discussion was held. Camryn Hall of the Broken Bow Housing Authority provided a brief update on recent changes at the agency and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program. She explained that the City of Broken Bow last waived PILOT funds in 2024 for the 2023 fiscal year, which was brought to council by the previous director. Following that director's departure, the Broken Bow Housing Authority (BBHA) was managed by the Hall County Housing Authority. During that interim period, neither tax payments were made nor was the PILOT waiver addressed.

Since assuming the role of director, Hall has been working with her board to resolve outstanding issues and strengthen the agency's overall financial position. She noted that approving the proposed resolution would allow BBHA to use the waived funds toward those efforts.
Hall reported that the Housing Authority currently manages more than 80 income-based units throughout Broken Bow and fills an important need in the community. The current vacancy rate is approximately 20%, which has contributed to the need to draw on reserves. She is actively working to reduce that rate to a more sustainable 5%.

Mayor Sonnichsen mentioned that BBHA's PILOT funds have historically been waived by city council for as long as he can recall. He recommended that the council approve the resolution as written, requested that Ms. Hall provide annual updates to the Council, and thanked the Housing Authority for its work providing affordable housing in the community. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

During public comments, Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Stephanie Grafel thanked the Council for its ongoing support and partnership on community events. She highlighted the upcoming Sidewalk Spooks in downtown Broken Bow on October 30, when 65 local businesses and organizations will hand out candy to children from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Municipal Building Auditorium will serve as the alternate location in case of rain.

Grafel also noted the start of the holiday season, including the Festival of Lights on November 30 and the second annual Holiday Lane decorations along the 10th Avenue medians.

During council comments, Councilmember Paul Holland thanked city workers for their concrete work on Memorial Drive and expressed appreciation for the public's patience and attention to safety during construction.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Wamsley, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:15 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

CITY OF BROKEN BOW CORPORATE SEAL NEBRASKA