Broken Bow City Council

Meeting Minutes November 10, 2026

The Broken Bow City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 10, 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 Attorney Jason White, 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 November 10, 2026. Said motion includes approval of the Minutes of the October 27, 2026, Council Meeting, Bills to Date, Broken Bow Ambulance Service Official Roster, and Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Department Official Roster. Roll call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aflac, Insurance $587.80, $258.22, Ahren Finney, Ambulance Incentive $491.00, Alex McConnell, Ambulance Incentive, Oct 2026 $340.00, Andy C Holland, Ambulance Incentive $370.00, Auto Value Broken Bow, Count canister $24.99, Vehicle maintenance $481.14, Beaver Bearing Co Albion, Maintenance and repairs, equipment $192.69, Billy Hendricks, Ambulance Incentive $100.00, Black Hills Energy, Utilities $240.96, Blue Star Christmas Tree Farm LLC, Reindeer for Festival of Lights $1,100.00, Bound Tree Medical, EMS Supplies $7,151.38, Breanna Holmes, Ambulance Incentive $355.00, Brenda Mack, Ambulance Incentive $72.00, Broken Bow Airport Authority, Interlocal Agreement $1,083.33, Broken Bow Ambulance Service, Reimbursement for fuel and meals/snacks on transports $191.50, Broken Bow Municipal Utilities, Utilities $3,541.80, Broken Bow Rural Fire Board, Utilities $665.52, CDL Academy LLC, CDL Training $4,500.00, Capitol One Bank, WAGE GARNISHMENT $67.62, Card Services 4834, Equipment repairs, Fuel meter and hose, streets construction $6,931.65, Card Services 5174, Supplies, trainings, equipment, fuel, internet, maintenance and repairs $8,685.34, Card Services 0583, Office supplies, equipment, repairs, building improvements, city promotions $1,040.94, Card Services 8031, Training, meals, fuel $990.00, Card Services 7729, Website renewal, lodging and meals for POAN Conference, new patches, Halloween $3,777.73, Card Services 0609, Software fees, Admin veh maint, office supplies, city promotions, equipment $4,432.72, Carroll Construction Supply, Street Construction $2,564.44, Central Nebraska Pest Control, Monthly pest control $65.00, Century Link, Basic, Radio $86.03, Long distance $375.59, Chad Hempstead, Ambulance Incentive $332.00, Christina Watson, Ambulance Incentive $120.00, Christopher Shelby, Ambulance Incentive $89.00, City Flex Benefit Plan, SELECT FLEX-UNREIMBURSED M/D/V $769.79, SELECT FLEX-DEPENDENT CARE $192.30, City of Broken Bow, Health Insurance, $5,561.66, October 2026 health insurance reimbursement $58,405.10, City of Broken Bow Pension Fund, RETIREMENT LOAN PAYMENT $4,486.04, 414H RETIREMENT $14,388.70, 457 RETIREMENT $1,998.63, Cody Neville, Ambulance Incentive $115.00, Colonial Insurance, Insurance $744.86, $420.87, $712.28, Croell Inc Paving Division, Street Construction $1,967.65, Custer County Chief, Annual subscription renewals, $65.00, $65.00, Printing and publications $756.60, Custer County Treasurer, Communications Interlocal Agreement $22,203.53, Custer Public Power, CD Cell Power $56.00, Custer Transfer Station, Tires, trash removal $158.40, Danko Emergency Equipment Co, Rescue tools, leatherhead NY Claws $784.82, David Baltz, Ambulance Incentive $644.00, Dennis Schiller, Ambulance Incentive $75.00, Deterdings, Pool chemicals $1,951.43, Doyle Wood, Ambulance Incentive $199.00, EFTPS Online Payment, MEDICARE $3,703.52, FEDERAL $10,852.18, FICA $15,835.82, EZ IT Solutions, IT Services $7,000.00, Eakes Office Products, Office supplies and phones $399.71, Elizabeth Baumgartner, Ambulance

Incentive $135.00, Family Heritage, Insurance $25.50, Farritor Auto Parts, Maint and repairs, 2006 Silverado $60.00, Fastenal, Batteries $219.19, First Response Billing Associates, LLC, EMS Billing $2,458.93, Fiserv, Snappy Global, Campspot monthly on-file fee $10.00, Gibbons Electric, Repairs to compressor $208.33, Great Plains Communications, Internet/phone $289.95, $84.95, $196.10, $150.00, Grocery Kart, Parks shop, coffee $12.36, Hometown Leasing, Copier lease $73.57, $55.33, $291.12, $119.30, Island Supply Welding Co., Oxygen $291.80, JEO, BBow Flood Mitigation and Resiliency study $22,120.00, $24,316.25, Kearney Sew & Vac, Vacuum bags $122.36, Kelvin Kreitman, Ambulance Incentive $321.00, Londa Wood, Ambulance Incentive $195.00, Madison Siedschlag, Ambulance Incentive $150.00, Mason Holmes, Ambulance Incentive $300.00, Mead Lumber, Fuel tank $32.00, Ramp project in City Hall alley $52.41, Michael Jilg, Ambulance Incentive $505.00, Midwest Alarm Services, Refill fire extinguisher $60.00, Miller & Associates, Surveying for Eagle Crest sanitary sewer easement $632.50, Mishele Wooters, Ambulance Incentive $45.00, Myers Construction Inc., Crushed concrete for Memorial Drive $3,590.90, Nebraska Child Support Payment Center, CHILD SUPPORT-NE $336.47, Nissa Shelby, Ambulance Incentive $198.00, O'Brien's Hardware, Spray paint for hydrants $154.37, PowerManager, Software, subscription and support plan $5,966.65, RT Ace, LLC, Folding tables, totes, marking paint and wheeled sprayer $431.52, RT Ace, LLC, Hydrant paint $13.18, building repairs and maintenance $255.90, Grounds and equipment maintenance/repairs $1,134.61, $675.31, Rebecca Neumiller, Ambulance Incentive $90.00, Rebeka Anderson, Ambulance Incentive $135.00, Reed Schaefer, Ambulance Incentive $233.00, S&L Sanitary Service, Trash pick up $62.30, Sara Arnold, Ambulance Incentive $80.00, Sara J. Hulinsky, cleaning services $1,375.00, $1,245.00, Schaper and White Law Firm, Legal and filing fees $3,270.00, Site One Landscape Supply, Sprinkler wire $906.50, State Income Tax WH NE Online Payment, STATE $4,204.21, Sylvia Schiller, Ambulance Incentive $490.00, The Olson Group, Quarterly Consulting $3,800.00, Troy Mack, Ambulance Incentive $105.00, Verizon Wireless, Wifi for patrol units and new phone for officers $2,456.81, Fire jetpack, ALS Phone, Handi bus phone $115.81, Phones and hotspots $199.81, Wenquist, Inc., Maintenance and repairs equipment, pump $25.24, Total $290,901.82. Bi-weekly Payroll (11/4/26) $87,928.01 Grand Total $378,829.83.

In other communication, Emergency Services Department Head David Baltz introduced Rebecca Neumiller, the City of Broken Bow's newest full-time paramedic, and thanked the Mayor and City Council for approving the additional position. Neumiller began work this week. She previously served as the State Stroke Coordinator and has been a paramedic since 1995, with experience across multiple states and EMS systems. A Broken Bow resident for 19 years, she expressed her desire to contribute to the department's existing work and her enthusiasm for the City's direction and continued commitment to its residents.

Baltz and Assistant Chief/Paramedic Mason Holmes then provided an update on department operations and call volume. They reported that the department has responded to approximately 530 calls year-to-date, compared with 515 calls in the prior year. Based on current trends, they project total call volume in the mid-600s for the year—well above the typical annual increase of about 5 percent.

Baltz also addressed the need to begin planning for a potential 2028 ambulance replacement, an item later on the Council agenda. He noted that Unit 91 has returned to service as a priority ambulance. The 2006 unit has reached the end of its typical 20-year service life and lacks modern safety features required under current NFPA standards, particularly proper restraints that allow personnel to stand and move safely in the patient compartment while traveling at highway speeds. He further reported that the department's newest ambulance has already accumulated approximately 25,000 miles after roughly one year of service.

Holmes noted the department's plans for 2027, which include expanding community outreach and clinical programs and pursuing grant opportunities focused on preventive care. He said that the service currently has nine ALS providers, a high number for a community of the size of Broken Bow, with several providers traveling from outside the area to serve as volunteers, a fact he attributed to the ongoing support of the mayor, council, administration, and community. Mayor Sonnichsen, along with several Council members and staff, praised the department's professionalism, the quality of patient care, and the positive impact of strong Advanced Life Support capabilities have on patient survival rates.

In new business, moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to approve temporarily closing South D Street from South 8th Avenue to South 9th Avenue on June 5th, 2027, from approximately 6:00-10:00 pm for the Wheels 4 Warriors USA & Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association presentation and street dance. Jeremiah Daugherty, Sergeant-at-Arms for the organization, reported that this year's activities will include a morning poker run, a presentation, and a free community country concert by Caleb Kenner. He also expressed hope of having food trucks on the square during the event. City Administrator Schmidt explained that the street closure was being considered at this meeting and that allowing food trucks on the square would require the council to designate the event as a special city event at a future meeting. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Holland to approve the appointment of Andrew Wilshusen, PE from JEO Consulting Group, Inc., License S-1696, Class A, as the Street Superintendent for the City of Broken Bow from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027. Steve Parr of JEO Consulting Group addressed the Council. He stated that he has served as street superintendent for the City for a number of years and plans to retire from JEO next May. He explained that Andrew Wilshusen is an JEO engineer who has served as street superintendent for several communities similar in size to Broken Bow. Parr reported that he and Wilshusen had met with staff and reviewed the previously approved one and six year street plan. He recommended that the Council appoint Wilshusen as street superintendent, noting that Wilshusen would do a good job for the City. Parr expressed his appreciation for the City's past appointments and the working relationship he has had with staff and the Council. Mayor and Council members thanked Parr for his years of service and the work he has accomplished with the City staff, administration, and Council. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to approve Resolution 2026-30, authorizing the signing of the year-end certification of City Street Superintendent. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Kleeb to approve the appointment of JEO Consulting Group, Inc, as the City Engineer for the City of Broken Bow for 2027. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Holland to approve Resolution 2026-31, Ambulance Purchase 2028. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Sonnichsen introduced Ordinance 1323, entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA, A CITY OF THE SECOND CLASS, AMENDING CHAPTER 93 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SECTIONS 93.60 THROUGH 93.66 REGULATING THE KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION IN TITLE XVII; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES TO THE EXTENT OF THE CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE." Moved by Holland, seconded by Wamsley to open a public hearing at 6:19 pm regarding said Ordinance. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Administrator Schmidt reported that the final version of Ordinance 1323 is now before the Council and summarized the changes made since the prior meeting and earlier drafts. He explained that the allowed number of chickens or quail was increased from six to twelve; peafowl and guinea fowl were removed from the prohibited list species while quail were added back in; geese, turkeys, and pheasant remain prohibited. The section allowing slaughter was removed because it conflicted with another ordinance, and subsequent sections were renumbered. The 4-H exception permitting a single animal was eliminated after comments that keeping one animal alone was inhumane. A new exception was added for businesses such as Tractor Supply to hold seasonal sales like chick days. The grandfathering process was revised so that properties currently keeping animals that would conflict with the ordinance must register once within 45 days of passage and will remain grandfathered as long as they stay in compliance; the status transfers with the property upon sale if compliance continues, and

yearly inventories are no longer required. Residents starting a new backyard flock must register and consent to compliance inspections with at least 24 hours' notice. All other provisions are unchanged. Mayor Sonnichsen stated that the Ordinance has been discussed for roughly two and a half months to this point.

Public comment included Cheryl Taylor of 1450 South H Street, who thanked the mayor, council, and staff for their work and willingness to listen to affected parties. She also stated her support for the ordinance as written. Steve Weatherly of 1336 South F Avenue thanked the council and suggested requiring neighbor consent before establishing a backyard flock to avoid future disputes. Mayor Sonnichsen concluded by thanking the public for their input and noted that the open-door policy had produced valuable comments, many of which had been incorporated into the final version of the Ordinance. Moved by Wamsley, seconded by Kleeb to close public hearing at 6:28 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Holland, to not waive the three readings of Ordinance 1323, Livestock and Poultry in Town. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The first reading of Ordinance 1323 was performed by City Clerk Jennifer Waterhouse.

There were no public comments.

During mayor and council comments, Mayor Sonnichsen thanked the public for their attendance at the meeting and participation in the public hearing.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Wamsley, to adjourn into Closed Session at 6:30 pm for the purpose of discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices, to include the Mayor, City Council members, City Administrator, and City Attorney. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Holland, to exit closed session at 6:52 pm. Roll Call Vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley, and Holland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kleeb, seconded by Wamsley, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 6:52 pm. Roll Call vote: Voting aye: Smith, Kleeb, Wamsley and Holland. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Rodney W. Sonnichsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Waterhouse

Jennifer A. Waterhouse, City Clerk

CITY OF BROKEN BOW CORPORATE SEAL NEBRASKA