

RESOLUTION NO. 2026

COUNCIL MEMBER ----- INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INITIATION OF THE 100-YEAR CEMETERY PROJECT AND DIRECTING PUBLIC NOTICE AND RELATED ACTIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Blair owns and operates the Blair Cemetery for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Legislature has recently enacted legislation authorizing cemeteries to reclaim and resell burial spaces that have had no activity for a period of at least thirty (30) years, provided that proper notice is given and a sixty (60) day waiting period is observed to allow any person with a legal claim to come forward; and

WHEREAS, City staff have undertaken a review of cemetery records and burial spaces in light of this new law and have focused specifically on burial spaces purchased one hundred (100) years ago or more, in order to provide ample time and opportunity for lawful use or claims by descendants; and

WHEREAS, many burial spaces were historically purchased in large family groupings, some of which remain unused due to family relocation, marriage, burial elsewhere, or the absence of complete documentation evidencing lawful transfer of ownership across generations; and

WHEREAS, the review conducted by City staff has identified approximately 2,600 burial spaces purchased prior to 1926 that meet the statutory requirements for reclamation under the new law; and

WHEREAS, reclamation and potential resale of these burial spaces will allow for increased infill capacity at the Blair Cemetery, help address long-term space constraints, and provide opportunities for descendants of Blair's oldest families to purchase burial spaces near relatives; and

WHEREAS, there is no direct financial impact associated with initiating the public notice and review process for the 100-Year Cemetery Project.

WHEREAS, the Blair Cemetery, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Board has reviewed this matter and concurs with staff's recommendation to proceed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAIR, NEBRASKA: The City Council hereby approves and authorizes The City Administrator, Deputy City Administrator of Public Works, and applicable City staff are hereby authorized and directed to publish public notice of the identified burial spaces proposed for reclamation, including publication in the Blair Enterprise and any other notice required by law. Upon completion of the notice and waiting period, and subject to compliance with all statutory requirements, City staff are authorized to take such additional actions as are reasonably necessary

to reclaim and, where appropriate, resell qualifying burial spaces. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

COUNCIL MEMBER _____ MOVED THAT THE RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED AS READ, WHICH SAID MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____. UPON ROLL CALL, COUNCIL MEMBERS _____ VOTING "AYE" AND COUNCIL MEMBERS _____ VOTING 'NAY," THE MAYOR DECLARED THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

CITY OF BLAIR, NEBRASKA

BY: _____
MELINDA K. RUMP, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BRENDA WHEELER, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss:
WASHINGTON COUNTY)

BRENDA WHEELER, hereby certifies that she is the duly appointed, qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Blair, Nebraska, and that the above and foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of said City, held on the 28th day of April 2026.

BRENDA WHEELER, CITY CLERK