



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

May 5th, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Crete City Hall, 243 East 13th Street

MINUTES

Notice of the meeting was given by posting, the appointed method for giving notice as shown by the attached notice, at the following locations:

City Hall, 243 East 13th Street
Post Office, 1242 Linden Avenue
City Bank and Trust, 1135 Main Avenue

Advance notice of the meeting was also given to committee members. Pursuant to Section 84-1412(8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the City has posted a current copy of the Open meetings Act, Laws of the State of Nebraska, in the back of the council chambers. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Open Meeting

2. Roll Call

Tom Crisman: Present
Anthony Fitzgerald: Present
Kyle Frans: Present
Ashley Newmyer: Present
Dan Papik: Present
Dale Strehle: Present
Present: 6.

3. Consent Agenda

Approved the Consent Agenda Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 6, No: 0

- 3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes**
- 3.A.1. April 21st, 2026 City Council Minutes**
- 3.A.2. April 21st, 2026 Public Works Minutes**
- 3.A.3. April 21st, 2026 Public Safety Minutes**
- 3.A.4. April 21st, 2026 Legislative & Economic Development Minutes**
- 3.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report**
- 3.C. Approve the Payment of Claims Against the City**

4. Items of Business

4.A. Arbor Day Proclamation

Approved the Arbor Day Proclamation Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.B. Public Hearing to hear testimony for or against the Class C Retail Liquor License for El Acapulco on 1245 Main Ave

Opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. to hear testimony for or against the Class C Retail Liquor License for El Acapulco on 1245 Main Ave Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

El Acapulco owner Angie Adame explained that the bar is located at 1245 Main Ave, Crete, NE 68333. She plans to have the bar open from Wednesday-Sunday from 5: p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and will be selling beverages, alcohol, and non-alcoholic and they are also going to have pool leagues a couple nights a week. Adame explained that she is waiting to open until she has the bar as an Limited Liability Company.

Closed the Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m. to hear testimony for or against the Class C Retail Liquor License for El Acapulco on 1245 Main Ave Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.C. Consider a recommendation to the Liquor Control Commission on the Class C Retail Liquor License for El Acapulco on 1245 Main Ave

Approved a recommendation to the Liquor Control Commission on the Class C Retail Liquor License for El Acapulco on 1245 Main Ave Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Dale Strehle.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.D. Consider the Zoning Amendment Ordinance 2272 Chapter 11 Planning and Zoning Article 5 Dwelling Units, Special Types Shouses

City Administrator Ourada stated that these are like a shed house and the Planning Commission did table this one month and then made a recommendation to the City Council for consideration. Shouse homes shall be permitted by Agriculture Zoning and by special exception use in R-1 and R-2 if lot area is three or more acres.

Introduced Ordinance 2272 and moved that the Statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

Enact the Zoning Amendment Ordinance 2272 Chapter 11 Planning and Zoning Article 5 Dwelling Units, Special Types Shouses Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.E. Consider Resolution 2026-08 Interlocal Agreement with the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that the City of Crete has done a number of purchases through their agreement, and they asked for a resolution to be completed.

Adopted Resolution 2026-08 Interlocal Agreement with the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.F. Consider the Prior to 2019 Write Offs

City Administrator explained that the City Council does write offs from time to time and they did one last fall. Ourada explained that these write offs are for utilities when they have gone through on deposits and uncollectible that haven't shown up their standard list. These are prior to 2019 and uncollectible.

Approved the Prior to 2019 Write Offs Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.G. Consider the Lincoln/Lancaster County LLCHD Interlocal Agreement

Approved the Lincoln/Lancaster County LLCHD Interlocal Agreement Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.H. Consider the Master Fee Schedule amendments

Approved the Master Fee Schedule amendments Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Ashley Newmyer.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.I. Consider the Hochstetler Subdivision 1st Addition

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that this is two lots and it is simply moving the plotted line. The form was reviewed and accepted.

Approved the Hochstetler Subdivision 1st Addition Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.J. Consider the Crete Ace Hardware claims in the amount of \$136.38

Approved the Crete Ace Hardware claims in the amount of \$136.38 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Dan Papik: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

5. Petitions - Communications - Resident Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody stated the following:

- There are 63 children registered for micro t-ball and t-ball
- Swim Team will start practices on May 18th, 2026
- Introduction of new Groundskeeper AJ Novak
- The Wildwood Pool will be opening on May 23rd, 2026
- Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:
 - After signing the CALEA efforts they are well into self-assessments and have most of the policies taken care of. The software works well with CALEA system.
 - Detour has been running smoothly
- Building Inspector Trent Griffin stated that for the month of March there were 31 permits including two new home permits for a total of 3 new homes for the year. Griffin will have the April permit log at the next City Council meeting. Griffin stated there will be 16 new weed letters that will be mailed out.
- Council member Anthony Fitzgerald asked if the Street Department could get the work on 9th and Boswell completed before Doane University's graduation.
- City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:

- On Thursday, May 7th, 2026 the City of Crete will be remediating a nuisance property by the 6th and Pine Ave area.
- The City of Crete Annual Spring Cleanup is going on this week.
- There were some changes made to the Main Ave detour.
- Ourada explained that with the Municipal Equalization Fund (MEF) shortfall of \$638,000 and budget issues it creates, the City Council has hard choices to make. With the budget shortfall, we have to cut from within for the next year or two, and will have to raise the levy in order to avoid this happening every year. There is not a way in discussing it with State Agencies and the League of Municipalities that we can avoid that. Ourada pointed out that the City of Crete is not losing the most. Grand Island is losing the most but proportionally we are impacted the most, as it is 15% - 16% of our entire budget. It would be nearly impossible for the City to function and provide services as usual while absorbing that scale of deficit.
- Ourada explained that he provided various scenarios to the Mayor and Council and there is no way of making that up and no way of making it up with revenue only. It would necessitate making it up next year with raising the levy and making cuts. You can't do one and accomplish it and you can't do the other and accomplish it. We will have to raise the levy at least a few cents. There will be serious decisions that we will have to make on cutting services all the way across the board in order to get through the next year.
- The Council's direction as we understand it is to take the steps necessary to execute the internal measures and report back to the City Council with the results and projections of what is going to happen yet this fiscal year, and communicate the outlook for the next fiscal year aside from the levy consideration. Ourada stated that he will work with Mayor Bauer to do this.
- The next steps will be a couple-month process because we won't have our new valuations until the end of June and that will tell us a lot. Still we are looking at making significant modifications to the levy. The Mayor and the City Council will continue to meet on this for the actual budget portion of it.
- Mayor Dave Bauer stated that on May 5th, 2026 at 8:15am he received a call asking him to please not putting meter parking downtown because there was an article on social media on the City of Crete putting meters downtown. It was an unknown source that started it. Mayor Bauer let the person that called know that it was not true. The frustrating part is that people can make comments on the social media post but when someone goes on there to try to put the truth out there it gets taken down and they don't let the comment stay. Mayor Bauer stated that he wants people to know the City of Crete is not putting meters downtown and we have never talked about it and that was just a rumor someone started.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Mayor

(SEAL)

City Clerk

I, Nancy Tellez, City Clerk for the City of Crete, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council. I hereby certify that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the back of the Council Chambers. I certify that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk. I certify that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting and that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public. I certify that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of the City Council. I certify that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of the City Council were provided with advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed.

City Clerk

(S E A L)