



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 17th, 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

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

Present: 4, Absent: 2.

3. Consent Agenda

3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

Approved Meeting Minutes Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

3.A.1. March 3rd, 2026 City Council Minutes

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- 3.A.2. March 3rd, 2026 Public Works Minutes**
- 3.A.3. March 3rd, 2026 Finance Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.4. March 3rd, 2026 Legislative Development Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.5. March 3rd, 2026 Personnel Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.6. March 3rd, 2026 Public Safety Committee Minutes**
- 3.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report**
- 3.C. Approve the Payment of Claims Against the City**
- 3.D. Mayor's appointment of Tom King to the Library Advisory Board**
- 3.E. NLC, LLC Contractor's Application for Payment in the Amount of \$71,645.44 for the 2024 Crete Street and Alley Improvements**

4. Items of Business

4.A. Public Hearing to hear testimony for or against the Class I Liquor License Amendment Application on the Manager Change Amendment from STAAB PH Units LLC DBA Pizza Hut of Crete.

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that the City Council makes a recommendation to the Liquor Control Commission.

Opened Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m. to hear testimony for or against the Class I Liquor License Amendment Application on the Manager Change Amendment from STAAB PH Units LLC DBA Pizza Hut of Crete. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Kyle Frans. Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

Closed Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m. to hear testimony for or against the Class I Liquor License Amendment Application on the Manager Change Amendment from STAAB PH Units LLC DBA Pizza Hut of Crete. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Tom Crisman. Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.B. Consider a recommendation to the Liquor Control Commission on the Class I Liquor License Amendment Application on the Manager Change Amendment from STAAB PH Units LLC DBA Pizza Hut of Crete.

Mayor Dave Bauer stated that the City Council makes a recommendation to the Liquor Control Commission and the commission decides if they approve the license.

Approved a recommendation to the Liquor Control Commission on the Class I Liquor License Amendment Application on the Manager Change Amendment from STAAB PH Units LLC DBA Pizza Hut of Crete. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.C. Public Hearing to hear testimony for or against the Special Exception Application for a Church at 969 W Highway 33

Mayor Dave Bauer stated that this is out at the strip mall on Highway 33 there is a unit that is being remodeled for a church. City Administrator Tom Ouada added that the property owner is present.

Opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. to hear testimony for or against the Special Exception Application for a Church at 969 W Highway 33 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle

and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

Closed the Public Hearing at 6:05 to hear testimony for or against the Special Exception Application for a Church at 969 W Highway 33 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.D. Consider the Special Exception Application for a Church at 969 W Highway 33

Mayor Dave Bauer stated that this also went to the Public Works committee and there are 8 findings that you have to go through. The committee did go through all 8 findings and did not find any problems with any of them. Council member Tom Crisman stated that most people that apply for a special exception usually attend the meeting to explain what they are going to do. City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that if there is a concern, the City Council has granted a special exception on a year-by-year basis. Council member Anthony Fitzgerald asked if they could match what the lease term is.

Approved the Special Exception Application for a Church at 969 W Highway 33 Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dale Strehle.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

Approved the Special Exception Application for a Church at 969 W Highway 33 with the additional requirement that the special exception is only good for the five year lease term or sooner if the lease is terminated. Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dale Strehle.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.E. Consider the South Crete Sports Complex Park Planning Proposal

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this is to do some preliminary planning on the land that the City purchase for a sports complex. This planning proposal is completely funded through a Brownsfields grant.

Approved the South Crete Sports Complex Park Planning Proposal Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Kyle Frans.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.F. FY2026 Grant Application for Project No. 3-31-0022-019/020-2026 at Crete Municipal Airport

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this is for a 2-Bay Box Hangar and this item also went to the Public Works committee.

Approved the FY2026 Grant Application for Project No. 3-31-0022-019/020-2026 at Crete Municipal Airport Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.G. Consider Resolution 2026-04 Approving the Execution of An Agency Agreement With Nebraska Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics for Project No. 3-31-0022-019/020-2026 To Be Submitted By The Department To The Federal Aviation Administration To Obtain Federal Assistance For The Development Of The Airport

Adopted Resolution 2026-04 Approving the Execution of An Agency Agreement With Nebraska Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics for Project No. 3-31-0022-019/020-2026 To Be Submitted By The Department To The Federal Aviation Administration To Obtain Federal Assistance For The Development Of The Airport Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.H. Authorize Mayor to sign the National Museum Of The U.S. Air Force Inventory Report

Approved to Authorize Mayor to sign the National Museum Of The U.S. Air Force Inventory Report Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.I. Crete Ace Hardware claims in the amount of \$4,095.77

Approved the Crete Ace Hardware claims in the amount of \$4,095.77 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Kyle Frans.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.J. Ordinance 2266 Amending 2-1514 Dead or hazardous tree removal

Tabled Ordinance 2266 Amending 2-1514 Dead or hazardous tree removal Tabled with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.K. Ordinance 2271 Amending Salaries and Wages in Ordinance 2257, 2263, 2267, and 2270

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that this Ordinance for the parks groundskeeper and the cemetery groundskeeper. This lowers the wage a little to conform with minimum wage and it extends it through four seasons instead of five since there has never been someone who has returned for a fifth year and very few return for a fourth year.

Introduced Ordinance 2271 and moved that the Statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Kyle Frans.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2271 Amending Salaries and Wages in Ordinance 2257, 2263, 2267, and 2270 Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Kyle Frans.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.L. Consider the beacon quotes

Approved the beacon quote from IES in the amount of \$20,748. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.M. Consider the unclaimed properties as of 09/30/2025

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that these are unclaimed properties that our auditor suggested we take formal action on and turn over to the state. The best effort was made to contact the people who have unclaimed properties. There was a discussion on how long it would take to turn over to the state which would be a couple weeks and give people time to claim that property. This item also went to the Finance committee.

Approved the unclaimed properties as of 09/30/2025 Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.N. Consider vacating easement on lots 1 and 2 of Pine Ridge 4th Addition.

Mayor Dave Bauer explained that this did not go to the committee and it went to full council. City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this is to remove an easement in between two lots so they can purchase both lots. Ourada further explained that there are two components to this. One is asking the city staff to create an ordinance to officially deal with the property and the second is that for tax purposes that the lots have a common PID number. The PID will be issued by the county not the city. This was also going to the Public Works committee but since there was a conflict of interest there was not a quorum. The city staff recommends, since the easement has no occupancy, in it that the easement be vacated to facilitate the construction. Mayor Dave Bauer voted Aye on this item as well. Bauer also explained that since there are only four members of City Council and there has to be four votes to approve an item he is authorized to vote in a situation like this.

Approved vacating easement on lots 1 and 2 of Pine Ridge 4th Addition and direct City Attorney to develop an Ordinance. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Kyle Frans.

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

Aye: 3, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

4.O. Consider forwarding Tamela Chodosh's claim to the League Association of Risk Management (LARM)

Mayor Dave Bauer stated that Tamela's Chodosh's vehicle was backed up by a snow plow. City Administrator Tom Ourada added that a citation was issued for illegal parking and the League Association of Risk Management will sort that out.

Approved forwarding Tamela Chodosh's claim to the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.P. Consider the 2025 CLG Annual Report

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that this is a function of the Historic Preservation Commission and they are required to annually submit a report of their activities for the year. The City Council does not have to approve it but this is for the council's information of the commission's activities.

Approved the 2025 CLG Annual Report Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Tom Crisman.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

5. Petitions - Communications - Resident Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

- Chief of Police Gary Young stated the Crete Police Department was awarded a \$16,000 grant to help with the CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies)
- Library Director Jessica Wilkinson showed the City Council a dinosaur she created using the laser machine at the library and added that the Summer Reading Program is going to be dinosaur themed. Wilkinson attended The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Advocacy Day 2026 on March 16th, 2026 and provided the City Council with a fact sheet and mentioned that there were over 5 million library visits in 2024 in Nebraska.
- The Libby program costs the Crete Public Library about \$750 right now and if state funding for libraries is reduced that cost would be much more and the library would not be able to afford it.
- Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody stated the following:
 - Introduced Clara Walstad as the new full-time Groundskeeper
 - 2025 IRA UCF Funds are now available for Crete which help fund tree work in parks and city-maintained public green-spaces.
 - Summer hires are open for aquatics and parks seasonal positions.
 - Campgrounds open on April 1st.
 - Fields are already available for use by reservation
 - Youth soccer ongoing- with some snow delays. Micro Soccer starts in April. Coaches welcome.
 - Micro T-Ball and T-Ball Registration will open at the end of the month.
- City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:
 - Explained that the municipal equalization fund and LB1072 there have been legislation proposals to do away with municipal equalization and various amendments to reduce the MEF.

This year Crete's was about \$777,000 and with some projections indicating that Crete could be eligible for over \$1 million in 2027 the reduction could be a reduction of almost \$50,000 proposed with LB1072 amendments. There seemed to be some confusion over the source of that

data. Ourada explained he provided testimony to the legislature of the adverse effect that would have to the City of Crete.

- The food truck that was on Hawthorne Ave is gone for two weeks in compliance with City Ordinance and will locate back in a couple of weeks.
- Tom and Nancy participated in a virtual meeting with the Nebraska Department of Roads conducting interviews for the pedestrian bridge design. The consultants each had a partner. JEO is partnering with WSP, Schemmer partnering with FHU, and Wilson partnering with Confluence. Confluence did the City of Crete's Comprehensive Plan.
- Interviewed candidates for the police officer position. Extended one conditional offer and there will be another interview on Thursday, March 19th, 2026.
- Council President Dale Strehle asked about highway 103 and if the overlay be taking place this summer. Ourada stated that the overlay project would be from Crete to Wilber and traffic will be detoured through Crete on Main Street for a portion of the project.
- Mayor Dave Bauer wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and good luck on the next Library Puzzle Race.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 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)