



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 3rd, 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

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

Present: 5, Absent: 1.

3. Consent Agenda

Approved the Consent Agenda 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, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

3.A.1. February 17th, 2026 City Council Minutes

3.A.2. February 17th, 2026 Public Works Minutes

3.A.3. February 17th, 2026 Public Safety Minutes

3.A.4. February 17th, 2026 Legislative Development 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 Sarah Brown to the Board of Health

3.E. Mayor's appointment of Gary Young to the Board of Health

4. Items of Business

4.A. Consider the Audit

Approved the Audit 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, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.B. Consider the amended LB840 Application from Heath Sports

Approved the amended LB840 Application from Heath Sports 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, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

City

4.C. Consider City of Crete LB840 funds to cover 5% for Downtown Revitalization Program (DTR) to make it 80/20

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that this was previously approved for the past rounds of the Downtown Revitalization Program.

Approved City of Crete LB840 funds to cover 5% for Downtown Revitalization Program (DTR) to make it 80/20 Carried with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Dale Strehle.

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

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.D. Consider the LB840 Application from Gary and Denise Lothrop for Business Infrastructure Improvements

Council member Tom Crisman asked what the City's obligation is for the alley projects.

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that it would be half of the applicants' projects, and it wouldn't exceed half of the alley. Mayor Dave Bauer asked if other than LB840 if the City would be paying more money into the project. Ourada stated that the City of Crete has no cost in it.

Approved the LB840 Application from Gary and Denise Lothrop for Business Infrastructure Improvements Carried with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Kyle Frans.

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

Fitzgerald: No
Aye: 4, No: 1
Anthony Fitzgerald: No

4.E. Consider the LB840 Application from Edith M Cabrera for Business Infrastructure Improvements

Approved the LB840 Application from Edith M Cabrera for Business Infrastructure Improvements Carried with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Kyle Frans.
Tom Crisman: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: No
Aye: 4, No: 1
Anthony Fitzgerald: No

4.F. Consider the LB840 Application from The 1206 LLC for Business Infrastructure Improvements

Approved the LB840 Application from The 1206 LLC for Business Infrastructure Improvements Carried with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Kyle Frans.
Tom Crisman: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: No
Aye: 4, No: 1
Anthony Fitzgerald: No

4.G. Consider the LB840 Application from Yoidier Rodriguez and Mary Alvarez for Business Infrastructure Improvements

Approved the LB840 Application from Yoidier Rodriguez and Mary Alvarez for Business Infrastructure Improvements Carried with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Kyle Frans.
Tom Crisman: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: No
Aye: 4, No: 1
Anthony Fitzgerald: No

4.H. Consider the Application for Special Event Permit for a Tractor Safety Course from the Saline County 4-H, NE Extension

Approved the Application for Special Event Permit for a Tractor Safety Course from the Saline County 4-H, NE Extension Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Tom Crisman.
Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.I. Consider the Crete Freightliner Chassis Purchase Agreement

Approved the Crete Freightliner Chassis Purchase Agreement Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Kyle Frans.
Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.J. Consider authorizing the Crete Volunteer Fire Department to apply for the grants from Gary Sinese Foundation, Firehouse Subs, USDA and Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

Approved authorizing the Crete Volunteer Fire Department to apply for the grants from Gary Sinese Foundation, Firehouse Subs, USDA and Burlington Northern Santa Fe. Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Kyle Frans.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

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

Tabled 2266 Amending 2-1514 Dead or hazardous tree removal Tabled with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Dale Strehle.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.L. Ordinance 2269 amending Section 2-1204 of Crete Municipal Code To In Accordance With State Law, Changing The Individual Who Can Remove Individuals From The Commission From Mayor To The Appointing Authority

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that this amendment is to comply with state law. Introduced Ordinance 2269 and moved that the Statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended 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, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2269 amending Section 2-1204 of Crete Municipal Code To In Accordance With State Law, Changing The Individual Who Can Remove Individuals From The Commission From Mayor To The Appointing Authority 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, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.M. Ordinance 2270 Amending Salaries and Wages in Ordinance 2257 2263 and 2267

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the amendments to the salary scale are for some of the Parks and Rec positions that are going up with the minimum wage.

Introduced Ordinance 2270 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, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

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

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.N. Consider the AirMethods Agreement

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that City Attorney Anna Burge helped to make some changes to the agreement.

Approved the AirMethods Agreement 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, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.O. Consider authorizing to apply for the Adrian Smith FY 2027 Appropriations Request for Community Project Funding for Roundabout Infrastructure Project

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the City of Crete is going to be submitting a request to Congressman Adrian Smith's FY2027 Appropriations Request for Community Project Funding for a Roundabout Infrastructure Project that would include two roundabouts and a pedestrian underpass.

Approved to authorize to apply for the Adrian Smith FY 2027 Appropriations Request for Community Project Funding for Roundabout Infrastructure Project 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, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.P. Consider authorizing to apply for the Adrian Smith FY 2027 Appropriations Request for Community Project Funding for Doane Substation Project

Approved to authorize to apply for the Adrian Smith FY 2027 Appropriations Request for Community Project Funding for Doane Substation Project 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, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

5. Petitions - Communications - Resident Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

- Library Director Jessica Wilkinson stated that the Crete Public Library was awarded \$20,000 and it will be used to purchase braille books, audio books and shelving.
- Chief of Police Gary Young stated Officer Noah Zach was recognized by the local legion on his Nebraska American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. This summer Zach will be attending the state meeting in Columbus, NE. Young stated that he will be out of service for about a week and Captain Jon Pucket will be helping.
- Council member Anthony Fitzgerald asked Young about officer interviews and City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that they are scheduled for March 12th and 19th, 2026.

- Building Inspector Trent Griffin provided the February Permit Log and stated that he and Planning Commission Chair Dave Jurena will be attending the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association Conference in Kearney, NE.
- Council member Anthony Fitzgerald asked City Administrator Tom Ourada about a damaged utility building at Tuxedo Park. Ourada explained that there is no equipment stored and there had been chalk and other things that have now been moved to the baseball field shed. Ourada added that the school would like to add building there.
- City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that the City of Crete is participating in a Brownfields grant that SENDD wrote and was awarded. Park planning for the south Crete Sports Complex might be able to be done through this grant. They are checking with the EPA. The quote that Ourada received was a range from \$50,000 to over \$100,000.
- Ourada stated that the City is getting a new airport beacon. The City received a 0% interest loan to be paid back over 5 years.
- Ourada stated that the Historic Preservation Commission had a meeting and there were concerns with park improvement activities at City Park. Some of the commission members were concerned that the bandstand would be demolished. There isn't a plan to demo the bandstand and instead the City is looking at possibly relocating it. Ourada spoke with the Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission and Mayor Bauer and they were both happy with the possible solution.
- As part of the Reconnecting Communities Grant that the City of Crete is also participating in the Paths to Connections that teaches to navigate the federal grants. Ourada and City Clerk Nancy Tellez will be participating in a Zoom meeting in March and a person training in Maryland in April, and another Zoom meeting in May. All the expenses are paid for by the grant. Ourada and Tellez will not be at the April 21st 2026 City Council meeting and Finance Director Wendy Thomas will be helping during that meeting. Mayor Dave Bauer added that he will also not be able to attend the April 21st, 2026 City Council meeting.
- Ourada stated that he met with a person that had questions about the LB840 Program. She had mentioned that many of the people that have been awarded funds can afford to do the projects. Ourada provided information on how the state statutes are structured and how aid is to be used and how this makes money available for people who may or may not be able to afford to do the projects. People have to submit their financials and proof they have financial backing to do so. There was also conversation on this topic during the Legislative Development Committee. LB840 is a good program and it does what the legislature intended it to do.
- Ourada stated that the Business Alley Paving is a solution to a problem that really doesn't have another workable solution. Business expenses are allowed by LB840 and follow several review processes in order to ensure they conform with the program. The City Council can also place limits on project qualifications. The votes being what they were was good as it shows that the City Council is staying on top of things and doing what people were expecting. The City Council reviews things thoroughly.
- Ourada met with Dr. Brown and she discussed some grants she would work on, and she will be a tremendous asset to the Fire Department. There was discussion of the USDA grant and she will be helping with that.

- Ourada stated that the City of Crete gets a lot of grants but don't necessary show up on the audit because they show up on past years or future years.
- Ourada spoke to JEO about doing a mill and overlay project on Boswell and Hawthorne. These projects are going to be really expensive. You can't create districts with these projects. By state law these are considered maintenance and are operations activities You can't assess them and use state funding. When you are doing ten or twenty blocks it is very expensive.
- There was also discussion on the bid projects that JEO has been doing in other towns and they stated that the bids have been between 52% and 60% of the engineers estimate. Ourada asked them to redo 15th Street estimate to get some updated costs numbers.
- Council member Tom Crisman asked if any of the streets can be armor coated. Ourada stated that those are not great for municipalities because they shed a lot of rock and that goes into the gutters and storm sewer. They are also not popular as they can be hard on vehicle finishes.
- Ourada added that the City of Crete is financially conservative. We have to be since we are on the low end of property taxes. Ourada added that revenue-wise, we are not comparable to the communities we typically get compared to.

6.A. February Permit Log

6.B. Planning Commission Minutes

6.C. Airport Minutes

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 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)