

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the BPS Administration Building Board Room, 320 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska 68310.
Mayor Wirth led those in attendance in Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wirth announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

3. MAYOR FOR A DAY

4. PROCLAMATION – Public Service Recognition Week, May 4-10, 2025

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.a. Approve agenda as submitted.

5.b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting.

5.c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.

5.d. Approval of minutes of regular meeting on April 21, 2025, as on file in the City Clerk's Office.

5.e. Approval of Treasurer's Report of Claims in the amount of \$218,795.17.

5.f. Approval of BASWA Report of Claims in the amount of \$598,252.82.

5.g. Approval of Pay Request #4 in the amount of \$109,008.00, to Genesis Contracting Group for the BASWA South MSW Landfill Site Entrance Facility project.

5.h. Award of Bid for the 2025 Corral Crossing Addition project to Van Kirk Brothers Contracting in the amount of \$979,364.75, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

5.i. Award of Bid for the 2025 Heritage Heights Addition project to Van Kirk Brothers Contracting in the amount of \$1,324,909.05, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

5.j. Approval of public funding request from Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$6,250.00 for the Annual Homestead Days event.

5.k. Approval of public funding request from Beatrice Noon Kiwanis Club in the amount of \$2,725.00 for the Annual MUDECAS Basketball Tournament event.

5.l. Resolution Number 7546 approving a request from the Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce to close Highway 136, which is also known as Court Street, from 3rd Street to 19th Street, on Saturday, June 21, 2025, between 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for the Homestead Days Parade.

5.m. Resolution Number 7547 granting the Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce and their designees, permission to sell or offer for sale or peddle goods, wares, or merchandise upon the City Property located in Charles Park, 5th Street, between High Street and Ella Street, the alley to the south and the parking lot near the Carnegie Building, 4th Street, between Court Street and High Street, Beatrice Water Park, and Chautauqua Park, as part of the annual Homestead Days event on the dates of June 19, 2025 through June 22, 2025.

5.n. Resolution Number 7548 granting Tabitha Jurgens-Frank permission to sell or offer for sale or peddle goods, wares, or merchandise upon the public streets or public parking lots in various City parks.

5.o. Resolution Number 7549 granting Food4Hope, and their designees, permission to sell or offer for sale or peddle goods, wares, or merchandise upon the City Property located in the Tabernacle in Chautauqua Park on June 1, 2025, July 6, 2025, and August 3, 2025, between 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., as part of their Local Palooza event.

doyle - h & i - bidding of utility infrastructure at corral crossing & heritage heights. 8 bids on both sites, low van kirk bros, has done other work with JEO, most recently in Geneva, JEO said did good. James also worked with in past. award bid for stormwater, street paving, grading, and sanitary sewer. begin June & substantial completion october - final by November. doyle lots? 1 stopped by Gary - thanked committee on this

Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that the items listed under the consent agenda, be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

6. ORDINANCES

7. Ordinance authorizing the issuance by the City of Beatrice, Nebraska of its General Obligation Highway Allocation Fund Pledge Bonds, Series 2025, in aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,600,000, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

approved bids earlier, look at highway allocation funds, pledge as part of ordinance, paving, grading, construction oversight, sewer, stormsewer.

Jay Spearman, Northland Securities, should have ready within couple weeks, close by mid-june. 10 year financing 4.4% current rate.

Ted - using funds as sell lots, pay back. can we pay off earlier. TT - ord says up to \$2.6 mill, paying off early, will hold to be

used to make bond payments. Jay - 5 year call.
Mayor - bidding climate was good, 8, below engineer's estimates, glad to be moving forward.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that said ordinance be given number 25-14 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0 Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that Ordinance Number 25-14 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS - None

9. RESOLUTIONS

9.a. Resolution Number 7550 executing the First Amendment to the Pole Agreement dated November 10, 2015, between the Board of Public Works and Charter Communications Operating, LLC, in order to provide for subsequent extensions of the Agreement's term and to add compensation amounts for any and all future five (5) year terms of said Agreement, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

utility poles through town. fee to attach. written in 2015, renews every 5 years, next renewal did not have price per pole. \$0.50 increase. name changes & city signing instead of board

Moved by McLain, seconded by Barnard, that Resolution Number 7550 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

9.b. Resolution Number 7551 executing an Agreement for Professional Services between the City and JEO Consulting Group, Inc., to provide engineering and material testing services related to the construction of the street and utility improvements for the 2025 Corral Crossing project, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

part of construction, jeo provide observation, ensure installing correctly, testing, etc., not to exceed \$ _____, bill for hours put in, if additional, will come back some work will be completed by the City.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that Resolution Number 7551 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

9.c. Resolution Number 7552 executing an Agreement for Professional Services between the City and JEO Consulting Group, Inc., to provide engineering and material testing services related to the construction of the street and utility improvements for the 2025 Heritage Heights project, as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

heritage, for \$ _____ same services as corral crossing

Moved by McLain, seconded by Barnard, that Resolution Number 7552 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

9.d. Resolution Number 7553 executing the First Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement dated September 20, 2024 for the redevelopment of the Lincoln Elementary School Site, between the City and the Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA), to amend the legal description of the Premises included in the Redevelopment Project.

tif agreement for heritage heights, amend to change legal description since has been replatted, normally done at CRA, to CC since we are redeveloper,

Moved by McLain, seconded by Barnard, that Resolution Number 7553 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

9.e. Resolution Number 7554 executing the First Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement dated September 20, 2024 for the redevelopment of the Paddock Lane Elementary School Site, between the City and the Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA), to amend the legal description of the Premises included in the Redevelopment Project.

same, for corral crossing

Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that Resolution Number 7554 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

9.f. Resolution Number 7555 executing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Beatrice Community Hospital Foundation, Inc., to work together for the development of a Cancer Memorial Garden to be located between Grant Street and Ella Street, lying adjacent to the Trail directly east of 2nd Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

leadership beatrice class partnered with bch foundation, cancer garden, 2nd & 3rd, ella to grant, 9 acres, dirt path, 3rd street, 25 ft off that path. over 3 year time. city will mow, they are responsible for upkeep,
19, met with contrators, garthering funds, will move forward

mclain - how much? total? not sure how much has been pledged, hope to have project be self sufficient. inspiration for at humbolt, bike racks, is a project, but want to have impact on beatrice.

hydo - care of plants & flowers? BCH foundation Hydo concern - shelly watson, director of foundation, adams - knew needed to be sustainability, do provide some services at hospital, multiple interactions with those who foundation board in full support, will work with local landscaper to help with that & maintain.

doyle - thank for taking on this project, cancer has affected everyone & will be a beautiful addition to the community.

shelly? oversight committee - 10 out of 15 staying on to make sure happens. community collaboration - working with SCC as well, 1st phase & work with SCC to move forward

Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that Resolution Number 7555 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

10. ORDINANCES

10.a. Ordinance repealing the following sections of the Beatrice City Code: Section 17-111 regarding the carrying of concealed weapons; and 17-117 regarding the possession and discharge of weapons on city-owned property; and amending Section 17-112 of the Beatrice City Code regarding the discharge of weapons within the City.

3 different ordinances dealing with firearms, state changed to make firearms a state issue, cleaning up code sections. rid of 111 & 117 & 112 amend to add: exemption for vet clinics or _____ euthinasia. police officer noted may want to include

ruh - since open carry, what restrictions do we have? TR - no laws regarding open carry. concealed carry - can be prohibited if posted, nothing for open carry.

hydo - not changing discharge? and includes bb, _____ TT _ correct

ted- inside city limits, excludes fairgrounds.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Barnard, that said ordinance be given number 25-15 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0 Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that Ordinance Number 25-15 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

10.b. Ordinance amending Section 13-38 of the Beatrice City Code regarding the sale of goods on public property, streets, parking lots, and parks

currently sell on city property come before this body, had some tonight, working through process, why not make administrative process, closing streets, fireworks, parade, no longer approval, instead handled administratively, mayor & tt - request to notify CC. idea to speed up & make user friendly, not always meet deadline for meetings.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Barnard, that said ordinance be given number 25-16 the title thereof be approved, the rules be suspended and said ordinance be read by number only three (3) times tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0 Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that Ordinance Number 25-16 be passed and approved. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

11. PUBLIC FORUM

12. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS

12.a. 2024 Beatrice Fire Department Annual Report.

year review of 2024

calls for service - close to 3000 for last several years. 350-60 calls, ambulance 1500, increased, operations now in 3000

incident type, based on day 3 slowest day, average 7-9 calls per shift

incidents per month

day of the week

alarm time analysis - calls during certain hour, 6am 64 calls throughout year

consistency - last three years of alarm
2024 overlapping ____ 2 calls or more at same time. last year 10 at same time. march this year blew out of water 42-43% more than 1 at same time. doyle how many average shift? Daake - 7-9 shift, 24 hours 7a-7a
10 per month
average time spent on incidents -
total instances time of calls & staff hours, etc
wymore responses in 2024 - primary 6a to 6p -
transport locations
ems runs by city - agreement with county cover bottom 2/3 of county

barnard - wymore? TT_ if transport have agreement in place, for variety of mechanisms
fairbanks - transport calls? daake - call on way, tell to take to lnk, one call, if drop off & come back later to transport somewhere,
2 calls
cms levels - ALS - ambulance; bls - first aid heavy, other - no patient found, no transport,

operation/training/public education - go out to community great time to interact,
ruh - training superb, trouble keeping employees here? Daake -

daake - thanked council, community members
mayor - dempster fire, saw working young dedicated & moving here now - gratifying to see how much they do
ted - everyone got to watch

12.b. 2024 Beatrice Police Department Annual Report.

thank for support
24 much smoother than 23
best part - accomplishments
stats: communications - last 3 years, had richardson county & crete, 2023 lost richardson co
11,500 calls others 987 - gage county rural fire, richardson, crete - drastically dropped in 2024 lost 5,000 calls - lost about 7000,
but others have picked up some
been pretty steady - not 1 call has increased, combination of all
arrests - increased 10% in 24; 580-640;
logistics - communications director, 9 fte, 1 pte - in 2024; 26 agencies, now 25 agencies
police - 25 certified; 2 fte civilians, ____; 1 out of field training, newest hire in field training, full staffed & within 2-3 months on
own full
investigations - 3 sro - 2, k9 - 2 & other as assigned
10 marked patrol cars

2nd page - accomplishments in 2024:
5 hired to bring to full staff
2 assigned to community relations officers - community events, etc., flows well
promoted sgt to investigations
replaced both SROs
added investigator - he left void - officer stepped up
1 day a week at BES - communicate with kids & be there so they get used to officer presence
FTO?? new
internal drug task force -
1 patrol vehicle
wrapped all with new design
added 2 license plate readers - communicate with other depts that have them, good for interdiction, alerts, amber alert, etc., stolen
vehicles,
sponsored YRI baseball & coached
started coffee with a cop - still trying to get going, handful, hope will grow
working with SCC to start up internship - used to have

McLain - 5 new officers, speaks volumes of department. word got out that new & improved & everyone gets along
Eskra - call responding close where rank in other cities? states? JM - not sure, 4-6 years, one of top in nebraska. were above lnk
10 years ago, don't think there now
Ted - appreciate how officers handle, officers on staff find median that works, appreciate the nudge - that's what. appreciate
calmer approach. JM- how treat to get things done
Ruh - license plate readers, can they catch back plate? JM - some read both, not all do have to double check accuracy will read

both sides

hydo - juvenal services- child neglect, very few arrest, those families need intervention - think of police coming in to arrest, rather than doing softer approach to make sure things are done. JM - rare on child abuse/neglect, try to help out families
hydo - concern - VOC - losses?? JM - grant funded, very busy & does a great job serving victims, protection orders, etc., court system, etc., restitution. stay with them during court process.

fear will go away? JM - will work as hard to keep up

doyle - sound like a small thing, animal control officer - animal complaints huge, what is process? JM - animal bite, respond to bite, depending upon if dog quarantined if current license & rabies - normally ACO not called out, unless have to transport animal. another instance dog at large, get call & dispatch ACO to have him collect. Barking we take, ACO normally if have to physically get animal

drone update? JM - current drone doesn't have nighttime capabilities - accident scenes, trying to upgrade \$25,000, donations or budget

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Contract Negotiations and Real Estate

Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that the Beatrice City Council go into closed session at 7:13 p.m., for the protection of public interest to discuss contract negotiations and real estate. **MOTION: Carried.**

Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eckhoff: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0

14. MISCELLANEOUS

14.a. The next regular City Council meeting is May 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the BPS Administration Building Board Room.

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor