

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, March 2, 2026 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. PROCLAMATION - Proclaiming March 2026 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month"**

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

4.a. Approve agenda as submitted.

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

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

4.d. Approval of minutes of regular meeting on February 17, 2026, as on file in the City Clerk's Office.

4.e. Approval of Treasurer's Report of Claims in the amount of \$589,160.93.

4.f. Approval of BASWA Report of Claims in the amount of \$20,289.14.

4.g. Approval of BPW Report of Claims in the amount of \$1,591,474.29.

4.h. Approval of Manager Application for David Staab, License #122385, in connection with Staab PH Units, LLC, dba Pizza Hut of Beatrice, 2400 North 6th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

4.i. Resolution Number 7733 executing the Agreement with Iowa Western Community College, and any and all other documents necessary for the City, through its fire department, to partner with Iowa Western Community College to provide clinical and/or field educational services for students.

Ted - great program, explain to public

TT - Iowa Western has program of EMS, then go to cities to provide hand on training, pipeline between us & Iowa to come here for their training, show them how great Beatrice is. Not unique have others, some in NE City that would like to come here for training.

Ted - sell the City.

Mayor - daughter graduated from Iowa, Coop & internship one of greatest test drive employee before

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the items listed under the consent agenda, (with the exception of item(s) I), 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 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that item i. **MOTION: Carried.**

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

## 5. PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS - None

## 6. RESOLUTIONS

6.a. Resolution Number 7734 setting a public hearing date for the proposed annexation of a tract of land located on a part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 4 North, Range 6 East of the 6th P.M., City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska, Parcel No. 004342100.

TT - last meeting rezoned to GI at property owner request. propose to annex. resolution sets hearing, 2 weeks discuss & move forward if so desire.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7734 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

6.b. Resolution Number 7735 requesting a contract extension request for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development CDBG Downtown Revitalization Project, 23-DTR-002, from the original deadline date of May 14, 2026 to May 14, 2027.

DTR grant, deadline May this year, approval process, select, burn 2023-24 construction season. continue to have issues getting on bid schedule. 8 awarded \$400,000 in funds. 2 projects have been completed, but 6 more need to be finalized

Moved by McLain, seconded by Ruh, that Resolution Number 7735 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

6.c. Resolution Number 7736 executing the Second Amendment to the Union Contract with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 1536, A.F.L.-C.I.O., to establish a comp time – qualified and comp time – non-qualified bank.

came from big beautiful bill - no tax on overtime, if meet federal law. we allow federal OT, next year have to provide # OT earned. calculate under federal law. 2 calculations for OT. have to have 2 separate comp time, one that qualifies and the other that does not qualify.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7736 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

6.d. Resolution Number 7737 executing the Agreement between the City and Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) to retain SENDD to administrate the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Stateside Assistance Program for the purpose of constructing new pickleball courts at Chautauqua Park.

LWCF notice that we will be awarded. grant agreement likely in May. this agreement hires SENDD to administrate the grant. they administrate our current LWCF grant.

Ted - currently need is ran out of room, 6 outdoor courts, association has 120 members, 20-30 regular who are not members. early to late at night 10-11pm. application to build exact replica 50/50 matching grant, tourism for remaining. added seating last year, pickleball public/private agreement, as well as shading paid by Association \$47,000 - will be paying 100%; all said & done, PBA paid for 1/2 of improvements. site a & site b. join bruhn, runs leagues, mixed, mens, women, youth added last summer.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7737 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

## 7. ORDINANCES

7.a. Ordinance recodifying all the ordinances of the City of Beatrice, Nebraska adopting and enacting a new code for the City.

recodification & reorganization of city code TR & ES, CivicPlus, clean up, no substantial changes, removed anything that state statute addresses, changed some wording, gender neutral, typically supposed to do every 10-20 years, last done in 1987. 556 total pages.

Terry - thank you 4 times.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-6 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 Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-6 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

7.b. Ordinance amending Sections 2-56, 3-27, 9-67, 13-69, 13-70, 13-71, 13-73, 13-74, 13-78, 13-79, 19-8, 19-13, 20-52, 26-229, and Chapter 27 and repealing Sections 2-314 and 13-45 of the Beatrice City Code.

cut off July 7, 2025. after is not included in code book. new things that have been passed, largely so section numbers match up. camping, stormwater, peddler permits. 2-56 added or acting mayor, rid of journal referance. added right-of-way. 9-67 used to chief of the fire department, now fire chief. 13 - peddler permits, readopting to match numbers; 19 - camping if park on stall too long, booted passed a couple months ago; 9-13 - removed extra language. 20-52 - already said wastewater - added water & electric. DWEE - 27 - all stormwater, deleted 2 sections 2-134 - publish annual public report 13 - peddler if they don't leave, falls under criminal trespassing.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-7 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 Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-7 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

7.c. Ordinance vacating All of Lots Nine (9) through Fifteen (15), Jamestowne Square, City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska.

christ community church, figured out property owners along elk street have encroached upon church property. cleaning up property line, platting their property & replatting property 10-15 ft to property owners, vacate current lines  
Hydo - church very kind, wondered how this happened.

Doyle - lesser of 2 evils

Mayor- giving up property & cleaning up line, thank you for helping clean up proeprty.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-8 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 Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-8 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

7.d. Ordinance approving Jamestowne Square First Addition plat.

replatting P&Z recommended approval when church put in plat, had them plat in the other part of the right of way, road won't go in at this time, but if land developes along lincon street, have access.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said ordinance be given number 26-9 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 Fairbanks, that Ordinance Number 26-9 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 FORUM

Larry Wolken, 1921 irving street, load of limbs cleaning up properties, want \$50 for each load since it's residential? Not for hire, just take them himself cleaning up proeprties.

## 9. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS

9.a. Gage Development Coalition Update - Caleb Fjone, Director

cleaning out, want to add to tools data analytics, enhance economic development, as well as tourism. when at ashland, cell phones always in pockets,  
app - real estate, events, attendance, helpful in grant reporting,  
retail - spit out runs through algorithym, not 18 & younger.  
visit counts are physical visits, able to see how many visits & repeat visits as well

plug & play with data - traffic, businesses,  
will take general populations of district - demo used for Indian creek mall, what type of individual shopping there. restaurants - Texas roadhouse, great data to have to help get foot in door, marketing grants.  
If city would Like to \$19,000 for NGage, difference under Gage development coalition wants to coop, under same program, offered to County they want to just call Caleb - is chance if want to hop in, could always access

App for entire county. designed to be tourism piece, but also use  
Gage Connect - instead of advertising every event, goal is to have everyone push the app to find out what is going on. public featurer that will generate an itinerary, Caleb goal to get outsiders to stay in county longer. broken down by communities, this is where more detailed piece, zip codes, population, view profile blurb upcoming activities, calendars can be filtered out. predominately tourism app, public will get people to know what is going on.

Terry - will business be able to go on themselves? Caleb - will have to go through Coalition. Idea is to have all together & then filtered out by what people want.

Ted - target? Caleb - touside county lines, but needs to be functional for insdie  
Mike - Warnings as well? Caleb - yes likely to have each town have access to make those updates, such as pot holes, accidents  
Eskra - generated by weather service? Yes - generated from them & will fall off, but want to also have.  
caleb - keep simple & easy for back end user as well

Ted - is app just on phone? or laptop also? Caleb - great question, predominately app on phone, as far as desktop widget, could look into it, other thought was to embed into website, wanting to make free app

Hydo - information could be helpful for what we are missing in the downtown? Caleb - could very well help.geomap? individual businesses goes back to 2019, can do districts & designate spit out information should have. flower ship - where coming from & where they went after.could usually casey's is post or prior. extra - monthly special report retail leakage, patrons willing to drive 30 minutes to steakhouse...most

texas roadhouse & olive garden. hydro -  
Hydo - remember some only understood every 5th year, app not knowlegable on  
Mao - strong highlights, could help evaluate chocolate lovers, Caleb - being used for public good, not sending ad  
Trevor LEe - \$50,000 just switched over to Playsure?

Mayo r- also have number of people who typically visit, solid business plan  
Hyod - think could give business to get info that you aren't getting.

caleb = can be paired, business retention & expansion, can be a good tool, collect vital information as ell. if any questions council has or wants, could look at sidewalks for example.public infrastructure, barriers from becoming a business or opening.

Ted - once determine it will work here, do you contact them? or wait? caleb - can send email directly with report as well.

Ted - simple terms going after? Yes!

Terry - app is great, time frame? prior to Christmas depending on app development. depending on what goal & build out time will be.

Terry - 3 organizations to 1 organization, answer to what board has given guidance.

Candidly - TBD - takes action end of March. REvamped BSE - send survey out & then set follow up. Economic development will be important, smaller new emails, website, those will be tasked first, first thing would be to create strategic plan for next 3 years to achieve.

Mike - has 3 committees, finance & events,  
Mayor - exciting answer after strategic plan is done &

## 10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.a. The next regular City Council meeting is March 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the BPS Administration Building Board Room.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the meeting be adjourned at 712 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

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

**Erin Saathoff, City Clerk**

**Stan Wirth, Mayor**