

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, April 20, 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.

Barnard: Present, Doyle: Present, Eckhoff: Absent, Eskra: Present, Fairbanks: Present, Hydo: Present, McLain: Present, Ruh: Present.

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 – National Library Week, April 19-25, 2026

crazy socks, - get info from JOAnne
summer reading - dinosaurs theme this year
tomorrow - book discussion
dominic from homestead is going to talk
next tuesdya, yesterdays lady - 100 yrs little black dress
Wednesday Alice in wonderland escape room

4. PROCLAMATION – Arbor Day, April 24, 2026

to tobias for PP staff, mark long & diligently for 35+ years

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 6, 2026, as on file in the City Clerk's Office.

5.e. Approval of Treasurer's Report of Claims in the amount of \$1,179,337.25.

5.f. Approval of BASWA Report of Claims in the amount of \$434,941.15.

5.g. Approval of BPW Report of Claims in the amount of \$1,716,059.12.

5.h. Approval of Pay Request #13 in the amount of \$369,548.05, to Genesis Contracting Group for the BASWA South MSW Landfill Site Entrance Facility project.

5.i. Approval of Pay Request #8 in the amount of \$103,631.80 to Van Kirk Brothers Contracting for the 2025 Heritage Heights Addition project.

5.j. Approval of the funding request from Keep Beatrice Beautiful in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the expansion of their electronic and glass recycling program, as recommended by the Beatrice Plus Advisory Board.

5.k. Approval of the funding request from Main Street in the amount of \$2,000.00 for flowers in the downtown planters, as recommended by the Beatrice Plus Advisory Board.

5.l. Approval of the funding request from St. Joseph School in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the installation of water access for a community garden, as recommended by the Beatrice Plus Advisory Board.

5.m. Resolution Number 7761 appointing Ryan Trauernicht to the Beatrice Board of Public Works.

5.n. Resolution Number 7762 appointing Darin Baehr as Chairman of the Beatrice Board of Public Works.

5.o. Resolution Number 7763 appointing Chad Omar to the Board of Appeals.

5.p. Resolution Number 7764 appointing Jessica Javorsky to the Library Advisory Board.

5.q. Resolution Number 7765 executing the Fixed-Based Aerial Applicator's Agreement with Heinen Brothers Agra Service, Inc., for the purpose of conducting aerial applicator or crop spraying services on the Beatrice Municipal Airport's airfield.

5.r. Resolution Number 7766 executing the Operator's Lease and Services Agreement with Heinen Brothers Agra Service, Inc., for the purpose of conducting aeronautical services on the Beatrice Municipal Airport's airfield.

5.s. Resolution Number 7767 submitting a check in the amount of \$60,027.53 to NDED terminating Contract No. 24-03-383 by mutual agreement of both parties for the unused funding from the CCCFF Grant Program for the 4th & 5th Street Downtown Improvement Project.

5.t. Resolution Number 7768 executing the OAP Amendment Number 5 and HDHP Amendment Number 5 to the City of Beatrice/Board of Public Works Employee Health Plan.

gary - how much more do we owe before wrapping up? TT- about \$100,000 getting closer to being done, retainage, out seeding now.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the items listed under the consent agenda, with the exception of item i, be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that item i. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS

6.a. Public Hearing for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding the proposed Amendment to Wellhead Protection Plan

2 city well fields, 1 along railroad in 1930s & 1960s, Koch Nitrogen
2nd 1990?? in past brought both & mixed,
past ___ years, no longer bring that water to town for drinking purposes.
area - protect water, limits storage for fuels, etc., recently expanded wellhead protection area, now looking to eliminating the area west of the river, well field, worked with Olsson, to ensure would not impact quality, will not impact quality. by releasing, 8 ___ acres. in addition, ground near Koch nitrogen, GCD - advertising, one thing that comes up is wellhead protection, while believe administration today allows them today, fear that 10 years from now may do differently. make sure water quality will still be good. worked with OA, west of river, most gets released. assuming approved tonight, goes to County P&Z, Board, then to State for final approval.
doyle - farmers should be happy

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the public hearing be closed at 616 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7. RESOLUTIONS

7.a. Resolution Number 7769 adopting the Amended Wellhead Protection Area developed by Olsson, Inc., removing the southwest portion of the Wellhead Protection Area surrounding the City Wellfield.

no discussion

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7769 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.b. Resolution Number 7770 dedicating Outlot A, Heritage Heights Addition, an Addition to the City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska, as a public park to be known as Lincoln Legacy Park.

driven by playground is being installed. designate as public park, stoddard after AJ stoddard, nod back to Lincoln School, Lincoln Legacy Park. Fairbanks - designate sign? TT - have not discussed. Ted - would appreciate a tree plaque adjacent or a sign.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7770 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.c. Resolution Number 7771 entering into an Engagement Letter for Commercial Appraisal Services between the City and Kubert Appraisal Group to provide appraisal services for property legally described as: The Lots 1-11, Block 17, and all the vacated alley within said Block 17, and the South 100 feet of Lots 5-9, Block 16, and Green Avenue and Nicholls Avenue lying East of 9th Street, both heretofore vacated, all in Riverside Park Addition to the City of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska.

land & water conservation grant - adjacent to chautauqua park, federal grant, have to have appraisal, 5 eligible, 3 in lincoln 1 scottsbluff, 1 kimball. received 2 bids. \$4200 to complete. state requires yellow book certified, once appraisal complete, discuss with property owner & grant agreement anticipated in june

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7771 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.d. Resolution Number 7772 executing the Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Excel Health Services, dba Excel Development Group.

beatrice commons, south by YMCA, working through acquisition of property, must establish a line of credit to ensure. city will install water & electric, absorb \$200k as part of helping get this project started.

Dana - total cost? TT - \$1.4 million. Dana \$200 small, TT - in past had LB840, not extending 19th street, all internal

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7772 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.e. Resolution Number 7773 executing any and all documents necessary to effectuate Grant No. 3-31-0009-26-2026, for the purchase and installation of new navigational assistance equipment (NAVAID) at the Beatrice Municipal Airport.

part of airport NAVAID project, additional lighting, nothing new, had a different number, so we are reapproving as far \$430,000 received. using 2026 for this project.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7773 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.f. Resolution Number 7774 executing the Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement between the City and Olsson, Inc, for the Beatrice Homestead Trail, Project TAP-FLTP-34(44), CN 13488.

trail to homestead from riverside. amends original adds final design, ____, ____ 80/20 grant, national park paid just under 1/2 million? bid letting May 2027. applied i 2023. TF - build out 2028? TT - may fall of 2027 or 2028,

gary - scope of services nothing to do with bridges? TT - separate

Eskra - will they add additional to bridge? TT - yes, pushed bridge back 1 year, got together, will put bridge with sidewalk instead of having 2 bridges

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7774 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.g. Resolution Number 7775 consenting to the Southeast Nebraska Development District's (SENDD) scope of the proposed park planning and assessment study of the Dempster Site located at 711 South 6th Street for the purpose of developing a Master Plan

SENDD partnered with, recieved EPA brownfield grant, partnered with SENEK, spoken with Senec, helped walk through brownfields grant for haymarket. all covered under SENDD.

TF - tarn horn DWEE, reached out to OA going to do additional studies, already worked on that, state is paying for that. this is for concept & design not building buildings, also adjacent corridor, trail expansion, river access, camp sites, preliminary site plan, parking, trails pass, recreational opportunities, beyond 17.3 acres other things we can attach to. spending \$20,000 not charging us for. Gary & Alex also on committee, speak weekly & both guys very invaulable. Eskra - still encouraged for brownfield. TT _yes, MM reached out, congregational support. should be announced May/June. Dana - free is hard to pass up, nice to have Gary - lot of progress, doesnt' look like ntohign is happening, we can't afford to do all at once, are doing what we can do in time we can.

Ted- why we keep talking about, improtat to get info out to community
RUh - doing fantastic job, keep up good work good to see progress

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that Resolution Number 7775 be passed and adopted. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8. ORDINANCES

8.a. Ordinance Number 26-10, **third and final reading**, on the proposed annexation of Gage County Parcel No. 004342100 into the corporate limits of the City of Beatrice.

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that said Ordinance Number 26-10, be read by title only for the third and final time tonight. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

9. PUBLIC FORUM

10. DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS

10.a. City Administrator's Monthly Report.

orange cone season has begun, dorsey sclosed this week, new house that needs to connect to sewer system. couple days, pour back concrete, did reach out about removing trees, contractor needs to not be windy 3 straight days, did try to coordinate, hope will be successful
Della, 2nd to 3rd, 45 days shoudl be quick
heritage heights playground
stoddard - pumping water out then will install, natural playground so wood chips
airport hanger project started today, senator fischer's appropriation 2023
tree survey on ROW - more in ROW than city parks, 3,377 trees in ROW, 74 need to be removed 2%, goes to STreet Dept to remove on ROW, being proactive which gave us small area.

because federal \$ can't cut down after 4/15 & start again in October
ambulance showed up. doing transition to get in service - 4 years
Dana - electrical work at substations - talks about infrastructure, explain work we are doing on. TT _ background;,issued bonds
last year to upgrade 3 substations. distribution working on 41kiv, working for 15 years to upgrade to 12.5, all is to maintain
reliability, that is what they are doing. difficult is lead time to get transformers in approximately 1 year, issued last year, items on
order, delivered 6 months, continual reinvestment, also trim trees along power lines, not every day tree trimmers, specialized
training to remove, biggest reason lose power during storm, if cut those back, help reduce disruptions of service
mayor - perfect example, get things done have to work with a plan & hats off to department heads, 5 year to 8 years capital
projects, especially with lead times. hoping fire truck will be here this summer.
data centers - have been blessed with Radiant Tech continue to work with electricity for our future, radiant tech great partner,
only use extra, they shut down if no extras. great economic partner. Dana - drill it down to easiest thing to understand, easiest is
data centers,
ted - these things are air cooled & not tapping into?

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Contract Negotiations

Moved by McLain, seconded by Fairbanks, that the Beatrice City Council go into closed session at 6:44 p.m., for the protection
of public interest to discuss contract negotiations. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.a. The next regular City Council meeting is May 4, 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 6:54 p.m. **MOTION: Carried.**

Eckhoff: Absent, Barnard: Yea, Doyle: Yea, Eskra: Yea, Fairbanks: Yea, Hydo: Yea, McLain: Yea, Ruh: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor