

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M. AT CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY BUILDING, 601 G STREET, ALL IN PAWNEE CITY, PAWNEE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.**

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by advertising in the Pawnee Republican, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Affidavit of Publishing on file in the office of the City Clerk. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice and the agenda are on file in the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Hatfield; Council Members: Donnie Fisher, Pat Hatfield, and Susan Eisenhauer; Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer & Deputy City Clerk Kellie Wiers; City Foreman Spencer Cumley. **Absent:** Council Member Vickie Zelenka. Mayor Hatfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. informing all those present of the posters stating the Open Meeting Law Changes on the West meeting room wall accessible to the public. At this time, all those present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

The Treasurer submitted the following claims for **12/02/25 Payroll:** 19,707.68; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 5,575.02; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 805.25/Sales & Use Tax 2010.81; **John Hancock**, retirement 1691.08; **Access Systems**, copier contract 240.51; **NPPD**, swr plant/wtr tower elec 2428.34; **Amazon**, office sup 170.25; **US Cellular**, emerg cellphone 48.76; **Windstream**, office IT/pool ph/libr ph/IT 317.55; **Arbor Ink**, camping env 120.29; **H&H Auto**, rep parts/sup 393.46; **HG Klug Sons**, Swr Blower rep parts 836.73; **MidWest Labs**, swr samples-s/h 218.57; **One Call Concepts**, dig locates 19.25; **Joe Norman**, Dec zoning 800.00; **PC Fire Dept**, FY 25/26 approp 1200.00; **Pawnee Co. Rural Water**, pond wtr hydrants 76.50; **Pawnee Co Treas.**, 4<sup>th</sup> qtr law enf 20,708.18; **Smith Auto**, repl Ford pu back window 275.00; **Stehlik Law**, City Atty Fees 1000.00; **Tredz Central**, repl axle on dump trailer 1800.00. Council Member Fisher moved to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Mayor's Recommendations for Committee Heads, Appointments, etc. – review City Street Supt. & City Engineering Appointment Request Letters from JEO** – Council reviewed Mayor Hatfield's recommendations for 2026 Committee Heads and Appointed Offices and the letters from JEO Consulting Group requesting for Evan Wickersham to be appointed as the City Street Superintendent and JEO to be appointed as the City Engineer.

**COMMITTEES:**

Cemetery Board – **Mayor Charlie Hatfield**

PCAL Board Assisted Living (non-voting member) – **Mayor Charlie Hatfield**

Streets, Alleys & Crossings; - **Donnie Fisher**

Parks, Recreation & Swimming Pool, PCDC Board, - **Susan Eisenhauer**

Sewer – **Pat Hatfield**

Water, Fire & Library – **Vickie Zelenka**

**APPOINTED OFFICES:**

City Attorney: Jennifer Stehlik-Ladman

City Clerk/Treas: Tamela S. Curtis

City Street Supt: Evan Wickersham, JEO Consulting Group

Consulting Engineer: JEO Consulting Group

**Law Enforcement Agreement Committee –**

Donnie Fisher & Susan Eisenhauer

**Wage Committee –**

Susan Eisenhauer & Pat Hatfield with Donnie Fisher as Alternate

**Workplace Safety Committee – (Council)**

Donnie Fisher & Pat Hatfield

**Workplace Safety Committee – (Employees)**

Kellie A. Wiers & Spencer Cumley

**HEALTH BOARD:**

Mayor Charlie Hatfield

Sheriff Braden Lang

Dr. Kent Niss

Council Member-Donnie Fisher

**REUSE COMMITTEE:**

L. Joe Stehlik (Attorney)

James Kubik

Mayor Charlie Hatfield

**ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD:**

Vickie Zelenka – City Representative

Sheriff Braden Lang

Nancy Tilton

Keith Groeling

Laura Poskochil

**TREE BOARD:**

Pat Hatfield – City Representative

John DeFreece

Terry Borchert

Mary Moser

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation for Committees as stated. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation for Appointments as stated. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Council President:** Council Member Eisenhauer moved to re-appoint Donnie Fisher to serve as the City Council President. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Hatfield, Aye; Eisenhauer, Aye and Fisher, Abstain, whereupon motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2025:** Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2025. Clerk Curtis also handed out a Treasurer's sheet showing what the balance of the General/Utility Checking and NFIT Savings Accounts were as of

today's date 12/9/2025. Much discussion followed with Clerk Curtis stating she would hand out another Treasurer's sheet showing what the balance of the General/Utility Checking and NFIT Savings Accounts were at the next Council meeting on 12/22/2025. Council Member Hatfield inquired who would be watching the accounts while Clerk Curtis was off for her surgery. Clerk Curtis stated that Deputy Clerk Wiers will be keeping an eye on all of these accounts while she was out of the office and reporting to the City Council on where the balance of these accounts is at.

**Sheriff Braden Lang: Review/Discuss recent dog bite incident:** Sheriff Lang stated that the Sheriff's department had been notified by the Pawnee Co. Memorial Hospital of a dog bite incident involving Jeff Osborne and it turns out it was his own dog that bit him. It tore up his left thumb bad enough that they sent him to Lincoln for surgery. When he interviewed Michelle Johnson, who was a witness to the incident, she thought that the dog that bit Jeff was "Ruckus," a dog Jeff is housing right now, but it was actually his own dog that bit him. The two dogs were fighting, and Jeff tried to separate them and that is when he got bitten. Sheriff Lang stated he had written up a new corrected case report that accurately tells which dog bit Mr. Osborne. Sheriff Lang continued that he is not sure how to handle the dangerous dog issue as Mr. Osborne has a kennel's license, so this dog is not individually licensed but is part of his kennel license. Council Member Eisenhower inquired if the kennel license could be rescinded? Sheriff Lang stated that or maybe take that dog off of the kennel license and Jeff would have to license him separately as a dangerous dog. More discussion followed with Council feeling that the City Attorney would need to be brought in for direction on this incident. Deputy Wiers stated that the Animal Control Board (ACB) will need to meet and discuss this so she will talk with Council Member Zelenka and have her visit with City Attorney Stehlik-Ladman and set up an ACB meeting. Sheriff Lang stated that he and Deputy Rohrbaugh are the only full-time officers on duty right now but he does have three (3) part-time deputies Rachel (Holton, KS), Aaron (Johnson Co Deputy), Josh (former Johnson Co Sheriff, now living in Lincoln) and one (1) non-certified conditional officer, Ashton McCown working. Ashton goes into training on January 4<sup>th</sup> and will get out in April. Scheduling is the most difficult part as these part-time deputies all also have full-time jobs, and one has a new baby, so they are also limited. Scheduling all of them around their already busy schedules has been busy but Hans (Rohrbaugh) is doing his best.

**Cindy Sue Newton: Review/Discuss Camping Payment Plan:** Council reviewed the text correspondence between Deputy Clerk Wiers and Cindy Sue Newton, and a copy of the payment plan Ms. Newton filled out on 11/10/2025 at the City Clerk's office. The only payment Ms. Newton has made so far towards her balance of \$440 owed for days she camped at the Pawnderosa Campsite was on 11/14/2025 for \$90, which was actually \$10 less than what was written on her payment plan. Cindy Sue Newton went on about what a mess she was when she first got to Pawnee City and totally freaked out and how she really appreciated being able to stay at the campsite for as long as she did because it really saved her. Ms. Newton stated she had thought of everything under the sun to try and explain this but first thing she accused Deputy Clerk Wiers of not including all of their text messages and that Deputy Wiers had taken some of hers out and to her that wasn't being truthful and it wasn't fair. Ms. Newton continued that she came from zero, moving here from Texas and she worked hard on herself and now she has an apartment with her dog. As for the payment plan, Ms. Newton stated that something happened and had been happening at the place she was working, ADM, and she is no longer employed there. She stated she had a job interview set up for Wednesday morning but right now she has no money. Ms. Newton

has learned that in this small-town people talk very quickly and I will not let that out of where that's out of. Newton is very hopeful she gets that job but even after she gets that she still has rent and will need food for herself and her support dog, so she needs to take care of herself first, something she is finally learning. Ms. Newton thanked Deputy Clerk Wiers for that, as she may have messed some stuff up but if it weren't for Kellie she wouldn't have the backbone that she does today, so she thanks her and appreciates her more than she will ever know. Other than that, she only has \$1.25 left right now until tomorrow afternoon and that has to go for food. Hopefully, the City can hang in there with her until her job kicks off. Ms. Newton went on to state that there were many times that she came into the City Office, which she wasn't going to bring up until she saw all the text conversations were not in there, to pay because on the 30<sup>th</sup> she walked in with \$150 and got turned away. Council Member Hatfield inquired if Ms. Newton had the text messages that she says are not included in the sheets they have. Ms. Newton stated no because, well I have the ones at the end when I sold the Fifth-Wheel, it got very overwhelming because the people she found on messenger weren't who she thought she was helping out so she cut the number in half because they also ended up bugging the heck out of Kellie at the City Office and out of her too. Council Member Hatfield stated okay, but you are stating that Deputy Clerk Wiers left off text messages and that is what he was asking her about is if Cindy, in her phone have those text messages that she was saying Kellie left off of here? Ms. Newton stated she would check to see if she could get them back, but she didn't know if she did or not. Clerk Curtis stated that who Ms. Newton sold the camper to was also a whole nightmare situation in itself. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated that it also created a lot of havoc in our office. Ms. Newton said she agreed, and they were constantly contacting her, too. Clerk Curtis stated that somehow the City office became the "go-between." Ms. Newton stated that the night she signed the title over to them, she had texted Ms. Wiers to tell her that from that moment on the trailer was signed over and she had nothing to do with it now. Ms. Newton then went into a conversation about the selling of the trailer and how she didn't understand why she kept being called when she had already sold that trailer to someone else, but it wasn't her fault how they acted, and she doesn't understand how their issues are her fault. Clerk Curtis stated, it is unfortunate, but you were the common denominator in all of that as they said Ms. Newton wouldn't give them the hitch, then you tell us where the hitch is, but the house is locked and you can't go on the property and it just went on and on and on. Clerk Curtis continued and then we got to deal with the Towing Company, making sure that this was all legitimate and that the camper was actually there because he was coming up from Hiawatha and it just went on and on and on. At this time Council Member Hatfield inquired what we are doing here tonight. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated to see if Cindy Sue is going to pay off her camping fees. Ms. Newton stated of course she was going to pay them off and that's the whole point is that this would have already been done and I was told by another lady in the office when I brought in money for a payment, because I always try to do something, and it was mentioned something about that it wasn't even written down so go buy what you need. Newton continued that after hearing that so many times the embarrassment of having to go in there shuts you down, that you don't even want to walk in the door anymore because you are humiliated and that's where the last three weeks have come from. It took everything she had to text Kellie the other day and mention that she hadn't forgotten about the camper fee payment plan and thank goodness at least they have a place to live now thankfully because she really came up here on a prayer and there's a long story with that one. Council Member Hatfield stated that Ms. Newton promised to pay quite a few times and it doesn't look like you've done that. Ms. Newton stated she had signed that agreement 2-3 weeks ago, right? Council Member Hatfield stated this payment plan is dated 11/10/2025. Ms. Newton stated

she hasn't worked for the past three weeks as she was supposed to have a job at the grocery store and that got squashed. Supposed to have a job at True Value was supposed to hire her and that got squashed, too, the Dollar Store and Casey's also didn't hire her, so it's not like she hasn't been out trying. Clerk Curtis handed Ms. Newton a copy of her payment plan, stating she had paid \$90 out of \$100 on the first payment. Council Member Eisenhower inquired when Ms. Newton lost her job at ADM? Ms. Newton stated in looking at her text messages it has been right at three weeks since she stopped working at ADM. Deputy Clerk Wiers asked if she could say something now? Deputy Clerk Wiers stated that when Cindy signed that payment plan, she gave her a copy of it. Ms. Newton inquired if Wiers had the text message that she had sent Cindy before she asked her about the payment plan. Wiers stated she had ALL of the text messages that have happened between the both of us still on her phone, no she did not print out every text message.... Cindy: Why not? Wiers: I printed out only the text messages that were relevant to the payment plan. Cindy stated she looked through all of them and there's one thing you will find out about her and that is she is extremely honest, even if it makes me look bad but she knows there is some crucial conversations that were not included in this printout, I'm sorry, she wasn't even going to bring it up because it wasn't even about this it was apologizing for not getting to pay for three weeks because of ADM happening out there that you don't even know anything about. Deputy Wiers stated she did not know. Council Member Eisenhower stated none of that is really relevant to this right now. Ms. Newton stated, no but Kellie and her were friends. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated they were not friends, and this is really upsetting to me because she went above and beyond to help Cindy when she first came to Pawnee City. Wiers stated Cindy stated she was a victim of a domestic abuse situation, she got ahold of law enforcement to forewarn them that this "guy" might be coming, we need to watch out for him as she was worried about Cindy. Wiers continued that she tried to help her....Cindy interrupted several times that Deputy Wiers did help her but... Wiers stated she was talking & to wait until she was done at which time Ms. Newton stated she would appreciate it if Ms. Wiers would at least act like a lady and not raise your voice at her. At this time, the Mayor and several Council Members interrupted Ms. Newton stating that that was enough and to let Deputy Wiers talk without interrupting. Deputy Wiers continued that she went above the rules the City has concerning camping, now all of the camping rules are being reviewed and re-written because of this whole incident. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated she shared a list of resources to contact to get help and yes, she shouldn't have let Ms. Newton incur \$400 plus worth of camping fees, she should have told Ms. Newton that she was either going to have to pay it or she was going to have to leave and that's what she probably should have done. Deputy Wiers continued that she was worried about Ms. Newton and she had believed everything she had told her so she had let it go this far and that's when Wiers said, hey Cindy can you please sign a payment plan for what was owed yet and she agreed to do that. Deputy Clerk Wiers continued that there were lots of text messages that she did not print out because I only printed the ones relevant to the payment plan. Ms. Newton stated she wouldn't have wanted all of them printed out either and she understands completely. Council Member Hatfield stated that we don't seem to be getting anywhere so we need to decide how we're going to handle this camping fee payment plan as Cindy is still on the hook for \$440 and that is his decision because we can fight back and forth about this and that, but the truth is Ms. Newton owes the City that amount. Clerk Curtis stated Ms. Newton had made a \$90 payment towards the payment plan on 11/14 so her balance due is \$350. Ms. Newton stated she had one other thing she needed to discuss is that when she moved up here it was known to everybody that her ex was not supposed to find out where I was at for her safety and to start over a new life but now she has gotten worried as of yesterday that since my name was put on a public forum he now knows she

lives in Pawnee City. Council Member Hatfield stated that when you don't pay your bills you've got to be put on the agenda to come and talk about it, it's public knowledge so that's just how it is. Ms. Newton stated she could have easily just come in because of the humiliation of her name being on there regardless with a communication thing apparently. Council Member Hatfield stated that we were done with the communication stuff. Council Member Eisenhower stated that she wanted to make it clear that through all of this from the beginning of Ms. Newton being down there at the Pawnderosa Campsite that she was fully informed of what was going on down there and she is the one that instructed Kellie to start pressuring Cindy for payment of the camping fees she owed. Eisenhower stated that she and Ms. Newton had talked several times at the park while she was camping there when Eisenhower was going there daily checking on the aerator machine, so she is fully aware of everything that went on there and she was the one that pestered Deputy Clerk Wiers because if we start letting camping fees go now then we start a precedence. Council Member Eisenhower stated something like this is not going to happen again. Ms. Newton stated she apologized. Eisenhower stated that they knew of her situation and they were very lenient and then when Cindy did find housing then the City camping fees needed to be taken care of. Eisenhower continued that she had no problem taking a debt for Ms. Newton but she needs to get it paid off in a certain amount of time and there will also be interest added onto that debt until it is paid in full, maybe looking at what the going interest rate is between the two banks in town and call it good. Council Member Eisenhower stated that if this debt is not paid off in six (6) months then the City will send it off to a Collection Agency. Ms. Newton stated she would handle it way before then. Mayor Hatfield stated that he thought we better check on charging the interest rate because like a business can only charge like 1.5%, so we better check with the City attorney on what the City can actually charge for interest. Ms. Newton stated she didn't want any handouts on anything, she owes what she owes. Council Member Eisenhower stated that the City will not add on any additional late penalties to the debt owed but they will charge interest as whatever the City Attorney will approve that the City can charge.

**Consider approval of a Professional Service Agreement for up to \$3,000 with Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) for General Administration services for the Comprehensive Plan Update CDBG project (NDED Contract No. 25PP011), and authorization for the Mayor to execute the agreement. Review Verification of SENDD's SAM.gov status and exclusions:** Council reviewed the Professional Service Agreement between SENDD and the City for General Admin. Services for the CDBG Planning Grant 25PP011 to update the City's Comprehensive Plan. In connection with the proposed Professional Service Agreement for General Administration services for the 25PP011 CDBG project, SAM.gov was reviewed for Southeast Nebraska Development District (UEI W8S7DA41BTV3). The SAM.gov record shows an active registration with no active exclusion records for SENDD as of December 1, 2025. Clerk Curtis stated that City Attorney Stehlik-Ladman had signed off on the agreement Friday afternoon. *Following discussion*, Council Member Hatfield moved to approve the Professional Service Agreement between Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) and the City for General Admin. Services for the CDBG Planning Grant 25-PP-011 to update the City's Comprehensive Plan and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review JEO Letter & Bid Tabulation Review for the CDBG Street Project; Award bid to low bidder Pavers, Inc with a Base Bid (Groups A, B & C) of \$406,846.75 with a**

***proposed start date on or before 8/17/2026:*** Council Member Fisher moved to award the bid to the low bidder Pavers, Inc with a Base Bid (Groups A, B & C) of \$406,846.75 with a proposed start date on or before 8/17/2026. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis stated that she and Foreman Cumley plan to visit with JEO about making sure that Pavers avoid the Pawnee County Fair dates set for July 13-18, 2026, while working on the portion of the project involving 17<sup>th</sup> Street, which is the main access to the fairgrounds.

**Review/Approve CDBG Street Improvement Project 24-PW-013 DD #4 Expenses:**

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve Drawdown #4 for a total of \$6,285.83 with \$4,687.50 to JEO Consulting for Design Engineering Services with \$3,604.68 from CDBG Public Works Grant and \$1,082.82 from City Match and \$1,598.33 to SENDD for Admin all paid from the CDBG Public Works Grant only on the CDBG Street Improvement Project 24-PW-013. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Discuss Nuisance Property Updates: 522/526 G Str. Building Debris Removal:** Council reviewed the email correspondence with InLine Construction stating they would be heading out this way once the roads harden due to the recent weather. More discussion followed with Mayor Hatfield stating he would give Steve with InLine Construction a call to see if he could get more of a definite timeline as to when the City should expect them to start on the debris clean-up project and report back. ***1145 G Street (Percival-Lewis): Any updates from Pawnee City Fire Department on chosen date submitted to NE State Fire Marshall as Controlled Burn Date?*** Council Member Hatfield stated he felt that the Fire Chief was waiting for the City Crew to remove the fixtures from the inside of the house and push it into a pile before he submitted a set date to do the control burn to the State Fire Marshall. Foreman Cumley stated they would get started on that project as soon as they could. Council Member Hatfield stated he would contact Fire Chief Russ Smith and let him know what the plan was. ***826 4<sup>th</sup> Street:*** Council reviewed the letter from City Atty Stehlik-Ladman that was served on the property owner on 11/8/2025 by the Sheriff's Dept. with a clean-up deadline of 11/30/2025. It was stated that when the City Crew read water meters at the end of November there had been no improvements to the property made since the owner was served the letter by the Sheriff's Dept on November 8<sup>th</sup>. More discussion followed with the excerpt being read from the letter written by City Attorney Stehlik-Ladman stating, "If the above stated conditions are not abated by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the City Water Commissioner shall direct that the water service to your residence be discontinued." Council stated that the property owner has been sent several letters with the last one being from the City Attorney and personally served by the Sheriff's Dept. so it is time that his water is disconnected due to non-compliance in cleaning up his property to allow the City Crew access to read the water meter without it being a public safety hazard. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated she would write up a service order for the City Crew to shut the water service off at 826 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Review/Approve Application of Appointment as Depository with NFIT for the year 2026:** Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the application of Appointment as Depository with NFIT for the year 2026. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review email re: running the City's Christmas Greeting Ad again in The Pawnee Republican to be accompanied by Letters to Santa written by area school children:**

Council discussed this at length with Council Member Eisenhower stating she knows this is unusual for the City to do this because we are using public funds, but she felt this was a good reason to show everyone one that the City does care about everybody and does with everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve the Christmas Greet Ad of a cost of \$49.50 in The Pawnee Republican to be accompanied by Letters to Santa written by area school children. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Council Member Hatfield stated he understands that it's only \$49.50 and what Council Member Eisenhower said but we just talked about how tight we are on our funds. Council Member Eisenhower stated that by running this ad in the newspaper it is also supporting a local business. Council Member Hatfield stated he agreed that was a good deal but it's a tough one. Council Member Eisenhower stated that is why the City turns down all the other ads when they ask us to support the school, because that is something specific like sports, FFA, etc. and this is really supporting Pawnee City. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review updated letter from Pawnee City Assisted Living (PCAL) re: installment payments to reimburse City for building insurance:** Council reviewed the updated letter from PCAL on the installment payments to be made to reimburse the City for their FY 25-26 building insurance. Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve the updated installment plan submitted by PCAL for the reimbursement to the City for their building insurance costs with the final payment to be made in September 2026. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**A Report and update from City Foreman Cumley: *Updates on Decorative Light Poles having outlets in them:*** Foreman Cumley stated that Kellie finally was able to get a hold of the salesperson from Tuscumbia about the decorative light poles not having electrical outlets in them. Once the salesperson talked with Foreman Cumley he was informed that they had changed where they located the outlets from the top of the lamppost to the bottom so once Foreman Cumley unwrapped the bottom portion of one of the poles he could see that they had now recessed them inside the base of the pole, so all of the new lampposts are good to be installed. ***Discuss Sewer Main issues going to hospital:*** Last week the City received a call at around 6:00 p.m. that the hospital was having sewer backup issues, so Foreman Cumley and Crew Member Jr. Droge went up and jetted the main on the North side of the hospital to try and jet open the line. They were only able to get so far until they met a big ball of roots that they couldn't get through but were able to open it enough to let some water come through. Foreman Cumley also stated that they pulled a lot of "disposable wipes" out of the sewer main, which was causing part of the problem. The crew went back onsite the next day and tried jetting the main again. They also run the new sewer camera through the sewer main area to see what was causing the problem, to which they could see a large ball of roots. At this time Foreman Cumley contacted Johnson Service Company to see if they would be able to come take a look at the sewer main causing the issues. Foreman Cumley stated Johnson Service Company was able to make it down with their root saw and camera'd the area with the main showing some major cracks allowing a lot of roots to be coming through the main. They had stated to Foreman Cumley that they had not ordered the supplies needed to do our other budgeted sewer sliplining project, so part of that project could be switched out for this portion of sewer main north of the Hospital as it appears to need to be repaired a lot worse than the main on 17<sup>th</sup> street



does. Council discussed this at length with Council Member Hatfield stating he felt that the City should swap out the 17<sup>th</sup> Street sliplining area for the main behind the hospital for potentially the same amount of costs. ***Review/Discuss estimate for drive motor for blower at Sewer Plant:*** Last Monday when Jr. Droge started back to work, Foreman Cumley had sent Crew Members Jr. Droge and Brandon Holthus down to the Sewer Plant to replace the drive motor for the blower because they already had the drive motor on hand, which was very nice because we never know how long it will take for a replacement drive motor to get sent to us. Foreman Cumley stated he contacted HG Klug Sons to get an estimate on a drive motor replacement for a blower. ordering a replacement drive motor for the blower at the sewer plant so if the drive motor went down the City Crew could get it changed out right away like they were able to this time. Foreman Cumley stated that if two blowers were to go down at the Sewer Plant at the same time, everything could go septic and the City is in bad shape and out of compliance. Much discussion followed on whether there were enough budget funds available to cover the cost of this drive motor in the Sewer Budget. More discussion followed with Clerk Curtis stepping out to obtain the Sewer Budget Worksheet to review with Council Member Hatfield to be sure what kind of “wiggle room” they had available within the Sewer Fund Budget. Foreman Cumley added that part of the problem is that when you order a drive motor like this, pretty much all parts for the Sewer Plant come from overseas, so you are looking at least 6 weeks for the motor to get to the City. Foreman Cumley also stated that the warranty would not expire on the blower if it is sitting on the shelf. Council Member Eisenhower stated she hated to see the City jeopardizing the entire sewer plant system for a \$6,000 blower that could keep the plant in compliance. Clerk Curtis stated that in looking at the Sewer Fund Budget it looks as though there’s around \$21,000 to cover drive motors and the ‘what if’s” to do with the sewer plant. Council Member Hatfield moved to approve the purchase of a new drive motor for the blower at the Sewer Plant for a cost of \$5,877.56 from HG Klug Sons Inc. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council then reviewed the bid quote from GPM on replacing the Effluent Flow Meter at the Sewer Plant with a velocity flowmeter system along with a power cord, output option card, spring ring for 10” dia. pipe, an enclosure facility and cost to install the new flowmeter system for a total cost of \$9,604.65. Much discussion followed with Foreman Cumley stating that the current flowmeter we had before that is broken calculated flow off of volume so it’s in a perfect flume the exact same size and then it measures the depth of the water but it cannot measure velocity so we don’t know how fast the water is traveling through there. This new Signature Area Velocity flowmeter system, like the test flowmeter GPM recently had on our system measures depth and velocity versus pipe size and so we did see a difference of almost 40,000 gallons less/day being discharged with that test meter GPM had brought down. More discussion followed about what the estimate was to replace the broken flowmeter at the sewer plant with the same kind as it was remembered that it was a lot less expensive than the velocity flowmeter system. Foreman Cumley stated that the effluent flowmeter has been replaced twice at the sewer plant since the plant was built in 2012 but had been having issues with the current flowmeter since 2020. Cumley added that the flowmeter that is currently at the sewer plant was never meant to be out in the weather, but the plant was not designed to put the flowmeter in a covered building. Foreman Cumley stated that the State did mention in their last 5-year inspection of the sewer plant, that the City needed to get their effluent meter repaired so it registered more accurately the amount of water being put out from the sewer plant. More discussion followed with Council Member Hatfield requesting this item be tabled until the December 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting to give Foreman Cumley time to bring back a price quote on the current model of flowmeter that the plant has now and an

estimate to put the flowmeter inside an enclosure so they can compare the two prices and make a final decision on the flowmeter replacement. ***Discuss Snow Removal:*** Foreman Cumley stated he had Clerk Curtis include the Snow Removal Poster that runs in the newspaper and is posted around town and the City Code showing what the Snow Emergency Routes are designated as and how much snow has to fall before the City Crew will be out removing snow from the streets. Foreman Cumley stated that Council Member Hatfield had gotten a lot of phone calls regarding snow removal. Foreman Cumley stated that when you have a daytime snow, it always makes it difficult to remove because once people are out driving on the streets, it's almost impossible for the snowplows to remove the snow from the streets because it gets packed down so much from driving on it. Council Member Hatfield stated he appreciated this information being included in the packet and after visiting with Foreman Cumley he better understood the snow removal policies.

***Discussion on things going on in the City:*** Gary Droge Jr started back working for the City again last Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and it's been great to have him back as part of the City Crew. The Case tractor's door handle and window have both been replaced and Jr. ordered a seat cover for it today, so it's all back in working order again. Foreman Cumley stated that Jr. will be hauling sludge this week and when Brandon Holthus checked the wells last week, they are still holding steady. Foreman Cumley reported that after Nebraska Rural Water Association employees went without pay for the whole month of November during the Federal Government Shutdown, Randy Hellsbusch, Nebraska Rural Water Circuit Rider decided it was time to turn in his retirement notice, effective as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Randy will be greatly missed by a lot of communities across Nebraska, especially doing Water and Sewer Rate Studies for the past 30 years. Cumley stated at this point NeRWA isn't sure who will replace Randy, or even if he will be replaced due to all of the Federal cutbacks that have come down. Council Member Hatfield stated that the Christmas Light Decorations on the light poles by the State Bank of Table Rock and Post Office are not working because of the wiring being hooked up by NPPD was too much wattage for the size of those lights, so it blew all of the lightbulbs out. Clerk Curtis and Deputy Clerk Wiers stated that the replacement bulbs are scheduled to be delivered this Friday. Foreman Cumley stated the Crew will work on replacing all of those light bulbs right away once they are delivered. Council Member Hatfield stated that once the bulbs are changed out, he will use the NPPD truck to hang them back up again. Council Member Eisenhower stated she felt it was important to get them fixed and re-hung and stated the Clerks could pay for the 300 bulbs out of her Park budget. Council Member Hatfield stated that NPPD will be getting very busy especially as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, when they will be starting to put the Mobile Unit up beside the sub-station on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Council Member Hatfield stated he had discussed this with Foreman Cumley earlier, but NPPD wants to put a tube in that ditch, which would allow the water to drain better and provide a wider turning radius going into where the Mobile Unit is going up. Mayor Hatfield stated that Nick Cline and Kola Hawkman have been working on trying to get the Christmas lights working again in the trees at VanHorne Park. Unfortunately, the lights were left up all year long, so squirrels chewed some of the wires in half, the wind ruined some of the other lights and then plug ins were left on the ground so some of them had been stepped on and broken. They were able to get a couple trees lit up before the weekend but were going to still be working on them. Foreman Cumley stated that Nick had just asked if he could borrow the key for the gates to go back down and work on the lights again but before Nick had stated that they had their own key at True Value for the gate, but now it is missing. Cumley had told Nick that he would need to check the key out at the City Office. Clerk Curtis stated that several of the trees were all lit up Sunday night and still lit when she came to work Monday morning, but it was completely dark with no lights on any of the

trees Monday night when they drove by VanHorne Park going to the Elementary Christmas program. Discussion was had that maybe the timer was off or possibly a fuse had been blown. Mayor Hatfield stated he would check into the status of the lights in hopes that they would be back up glowing again in the next few days.

**Correspondence: *League of Municipalities 2026 Annual Utilities/Public Works Annual Conference:***

Council reviewed the League of Municipalities 2026 Annual Utilities/Public Works Annual Conference program line-up for January 7-9, 2026, in Lincoln. Last year Foreman Cumley and City Crew Member Barloon both attended the League's Utility Conference and felt going to the conference was much better than going to classes for their hours. Council stated that if they were going to go to the conference this year that City Crew Member Brandon Holthus should go with Foreman Cumley. Clerk Curtis stated this year there are 17.5 Wastewater & 15 Water Operator hours available to earn by attending this conference. Foreman Cumley stated he didn't think they would probably attend this year's League Utility Conference as all of their licenses just renewed so they don't really need any hours right now as their certifications do not expire for another two years in December 2027. ***Nebraska Clerks Institute & Academy 2026 Early Registration Notice:*** Council inquired if Clerk Curtis plans to attend the Nebraska Clerks Institute & Academy 2026 to attend March 15-20, 2026. Early Registration Cost for Institute & Academy is \$443. Clerk Curtis stated she wasn't sure as she still was not sure how long she will be off work after her shoulder surgery, so she kind of hated to be gone again to Clerk's School too, but this year's session will be held in La Vista so that's really close to home. Clerk Curtis stated that if she didn't go to Clerks School she would still have to obtain her Treasurer's Continuing Education hours from somewhere. Council stated for Clerk Curtis to think it over and let them know what her plans are. Council Member Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor