

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE 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 hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Hatfield; Council Members: Donnie Fisher, Vickie Zelenka and Pat Hatfield; Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer; Kellie Wiers, Deputy Clerk and Julie Bauman, City Auditor. **Absent:** Susan Eisenhower

Mayor Hatfield called the special budget hearing meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. informing all those present of the poster 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.

**Motion to Open Budget Hearing** – Council Member Zelenka moved to open the Budget Hearing at 6:32 p.m. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Julie Bauman was in attendance to present the 2025-26 Fiscal Year Budget document to the City Council and answer any questions. Ms. Bauman went over the final numbers of the upcoming FY 2025-26 Budget, which had not changed since the last meeting. Clerk Curtis and Ms. Bauman both discussed that, if the Council decided to approve the request from Seneca Sanitation to raise their garbage rates by an additional \$3.00 then the City would need to amend their budget in the next couple of months. Ms. Bauman stated that would not be a problem at all because when you amend your budget, the State wants to know where that money is coming from. Since the Garbage Fund just has revenues coming in from the utility customers and then the City pays it right back out to Seneca Sanitation, they won't have difficulty proving that the funds will be there to amend the budget. The property tax request was for \$181,127.14 with \$55,000 to go towards the Street Bond payment for a total of \$236,127.14. Ms. Bauman stated that the valuation was \$43,812,263, which had a 22% increase. The City could have chosen to increase their dollar amount of the property tax request by approximately \$36,000 if they would have wanted to go with the post card and hold a second joint public hearing with the County. Ms. Bauman stated that to go after those extra tax dollars the City would have needed to justify if it was something they needed that they couldn't pay for otherwise and show exactly what capital improvement project it would be used for. On page 3 of the Budget document that shows all the proposed expenditures that have been budgeted for. The City's overall operating budget was 3% less than in 2024 with the tax rate also being 16% less. There was no public input. Council Member Zelenka moved to close the Budget Hearing at 6:56 p.m. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor