

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CORNERSTONE 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. The availability of the agenda was communicated in advance 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 Pat Hatfield, Donnie Fisher, Susan Eisenhower and Vickie Zelenka; Deputy City Clerk Kellie Wiers, City Clerk/Treasurer Tamela Curtis and Foreman Spencer Cumley. **Absent:** None.

Mayor Charlie Hatfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. informing all those present of the Poster stating the Open Meeting Law Changes on the West meeting room wall, next to the storage closet, accessible to the public. At this time, all those present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Zelenka moved to accept the April 13, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Council Member Hatfield 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 consideration: **3/24/26 Payroll:** \$11,713.46; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 3,381.22; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 421.38; **John Hancock**, retirement 1,662.38; **Allstate**, cancer/accid 199.56; **Ameritas**, vision 92.40; **Madison Nat'l Life**, employee life 53.71; **Medica**, employee health 8,975.29; **Windstream**, phone @ sewer plant 64.45; **Amazon Capital Services**, repair & office supplies 306.58; **NPPD**, electric service 3866.23; **Pawnee Republican**, library PT ad 99.00; **Seneca SA**, March 2026 garbage service 8,337.42, dumpster @ pond 120.00; **ACCESS Systems Leasing**, Fortinet/Fortigate lease 232.14; **BHE**, gas service 481.56; **PCDC**, Febr. 2026 sales tax 7629.44; **Quill**, office supplies 233.51; **JEO Consulting**, Street Project DD#5 5077.32, city match 1525.18; **Southeast NE Dev. Dist.**, Street Project, DD #5 875.00; **Creative Landscaping**, 50% down Tranquility Park 57,655.00; **Diversified Safety & Compliance**, drug/alcohol test empl#605 143.10; **H.G. Klug Sons, Inc.**, sewer blower part 289.67; **Luxsteel Products**, fence pickets Tranquility Park 1575.00; **National Sign Co.**, street signs 3919.31; **Sapp Bros.**, lawn mower gas 491.79; **TR Appliance**, repair furnace @ 605 G Street 162.00; **Coral's Cleaning Services**, March office clean & Cornerstone Bldg. 520.00; **Lincoln Winwater**, wtr stock parts 665.67; **U.S. Cellular**, emergency cell phone 48.74; **Verizon Wireless**, home connect/jetpack 64.85; **Gyhra Construction**, steel culvert tube 1315 B Street 797.00. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

SHERIFF BRADEN LANG: Sheriff Lang reported at the last County Commissioners meeting the Commissioners talked about adding another deputy position and discussed the current contract the City has for coverage with the Pawnee County Sheriff's Department. Clerk Curtis verified the current contract ends June 2027 and the last year's payment will be around \$85,000. Sheriff Lang continued that the Commissioners did not discuss any changes to the contract. Mayor Hatfield stated the City may question the amount of payment in the new contract and there could be questions raised if the number of deputies is low again. Sheriff Lang stated all of the towns in Pawnee County pay for law enforcement coverage but Pawnee City pays, by far, the most but he thought Table Rock may increase their payment. Council Member Hatfield stated Pawnee City pays the most but we still have to pay service fees. Lang continued that Pawnee City's contract has a law enforcement coverage requirement while the other towns in Pawnee County do not. Sheriff Lang asked Foreman Cumley if the speed radar signs can be adjusted? Foreman Cumley explained the City Crew continues to adjust the East radar sign but it keeps coming out of adjustment and won't read correctly. Cumley has pulled data off the radar signs. Council Member Hatfield asked when the Council will start to negotiate a new law enforcement contract? Clerk Curtis explained that will start soon when the City starts its budget process. Sheriff Lang stated Johnson County recently increased their deputy salaries and so Pawnee County could lose deputies to surrounding counties. Council Member Eisenhower asked Sheriff Lang if it was okay for someone to park a vehicle in an alley and leave it there (in reference to the property located at the corner of 13th & F streets). Discussion was had that alley doesn't have rock on it and ends at the location of the vacant nursing home building but has never been closed. The person who recently purchased the property in question has been parking his car in that alley for a period of time. Foreman Cumley explained the owner has to access his property through this alley or access the property on the tree line next to the old nursing home but there isn't an actual driveway to this house and there is no garage. Cumley mentioned installing a driveway tube on the northwest corner of the property. Sheriff Lang said he will talk to the property owner about not parking in the alley.

DONATIONS TO ORGANIZATIONS: *Mary Moser, Pawnee Gun Club:* Mary reported this year the Pawnee Gun Club elected new officers who include Blake Moser, Derek Gyhra, William Vlcek and Jesse Strathman and they will take over planning activities at the area of the ball field that the gun club uses. John DeFreece and Mary will continue to help out and be the treasurers. In the past, the City's donation has helped pay the liability insurance. Last year the liability insurance was \$854.24. The Gun club uses this area for the junior high and high school trap team practices. The trap team includes 4 seniors and 10 juniors this year. At the end of the week, the team will be heading out to Doniphan for the state trap shoot. There will be 1700 to 1800 youth competing and it will be the world's largest trap shoot event. There are students from HTRS that come over to shoot with our team and there is also a youth from Axtell, Kansas that comes up. When families drop off kids for practice, they are stopping at the grocery store for groceries and Casey's to get gas, etc. so they are utilizing our local businesses. The gun club does coordinate activities with the Ball Association and they have hosted a few activities after the ball season is over including a couple of bachelor parties plus they also have their annual surf & turf fundraiser. The American Legion and VFW want to have fundraising events at the gun range and also help the gun club with expanding the range to include a skeet range. The Pawnee Gun Club appreciates the City's donation. The gun club does use some electricity at the ball field. The only time the gun club doesn't use electricity would be October through December.

Clerk Curtis explained she had talked with Council Member Hatfield about shutting off electricity at the ball field to save money because it costs at least \$300/month to keep the electricity on whether someone is using it or not and it would cost \$15 to turn the electricity back on. The Ball Association stated they want to keep the electricity on because they have security cameras installed but according to recent events, they must not be catching all vandalism. There are solar cameras at the pond so the ball association could switch to solar cameras. Mary Moser said the gun club would work with the City on the electricity issue. It was asked whether the lights could be hooked up to a generator if needed? Council Member Eisenhauer moved to donate \$750 to the Pawnee Gun Club and to pay for the electricity when their lights are hooked up. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Mary Moser, Pawnee County Friends of 4-H:** Mary explained 4-H is more than showing livestock at the County Fair. Staff members spend time at the schools weekly to help students build leadership skills. Recently there was a program with the 4th graders at Lewiston School. The County Extension also partners with the Pawnee City Library and sponsor a summer “stem” activity weekly that brings in 20 to 30 youth at each session at no charge. Currently, the County Extension office has a program with the preschoolers to study the butterfly life cycle and the second grade is in the middle of their embryology project hatching chicks. Last week, Mary went with the sixth graders to the Schramm Aquarium to release their trout fingerlings which they had raised from eggs from the Nebr. Game & Parks. Every Fall they have the Ag Literacy Festival and invite all the 3rd & 4th graders from the 4-county area to the Pawnee County Fairgrounds. Also, the County Extension “farm-to-table” sessions on no-school days where they are taking a Nebraska commodity and cooking with it. This Summer, they will also be working with youth on raised bed gardening and then preserving (including canning) the produce. Council Member Hatfield moved to donate \$500 to the Pawnee County Friends of 4-H. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

DONATIONS TO ORGANIZATIONS: Josie Friedly, PC Little Learners: Jess Colo was present to request a \$1000 credit to the daycare’s water bill again from the Council. PC Little Learners recently hosted an open house last week to celebrate the Pawnee City Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting. Jess reported there were not many people from the public but the donors of their grants did attend. They are fully staffed and have recently hired a few more people to handle the increase in children attending the daycare this summer. Mayor Hatfield commented the Council had donated money to the daycare this year but there are two more daycares in Pawnee City. It was asked if those daycares are also nonprofit organizations? Council Member Eisenhauer explained the City Council is able to make donations to organizations that are nonprofits. Discussion was had about donating \$1000 to the water account of the daycare again but the Council had given a \$1000 credit on the water bill in February 2026 so they would still have quite a bit of credit left on the account. It was also suggested to donate less than \$1000 towards the water bill. Jess Colo offered to come back later in the year to request a donation. Council had asked about the number of employees that work at the daycare and the average number of children attending. Jess Colo will come back to the Council in September or October with those figures and ask for a donation to the water bill with an update on their account balance.

Review DED story on Pawnee City earning designation as Nebraska’s 30th Leadership

Certified Community: Clerk Curtis explained there are a couple corrections on the story which include a \$50,000 zero percent interest loan for homeowners and the LB840 started in 2008 and it was renewed in 2024. Jess Colo explained PCDC did recently, update the downpayment assistance loan to \$60,000. Council Member Eisenhauer explained the downpayment assistance amount was increased to try to create more interest in the two new houses.

Review/Discuss info from City Atty Stehlik-Ladman & assessed value re: mini-park next to

Post Office: Clerk Curtis explained this is an update from the last Council Meeting to let Council know information from the Assessor’s office and the City Attorney. Discussion was had whether the Post Office would keep the historical marker displayed in the mini park or if it could be relocated to one of the other city parks. The City has not heard back yet from Danielle at the Post Office.

Review/Approve Quote from Stallbaumer Lumber for boards, screws, etc. for Fence @

Tranquility Park: Council Member Eisenhauer moved to accept the quote from Stallbaumer Lumber for \$662.85 for lumber, screws and concrete for materials to be used to build a fence at Tranquility Park. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis explained half of the quote can be paid out of the grant and half can be paid out of the Park budget.

Review RFP on updating City’s Comp Plan legal to run in April 30th, May 7th & May 14th

editions of newspaper: Clerk Curtis explained the Comprehensive Plan needs updated and it will earn the City points when applying for grants and also information from the plan is used when applying for grants. The City has a CDBG grant to help pay for updating the comprehensive plan. The grant will cover costs up to \$60,000 with a \$10,000 match from the City to pay for the plan. Clerk Curtis also notified our community organizations about updating the plan.

Review PCAL’S 4/22/2026 Board Meeting Agenda and email from Caralyn & the 3/25/2026

meeting minutes: Council Member Hatfield mentioned PCAL’s financial report showed a loss of \$12,000 but the rooms are full. Council Member Eisenhauer stated PCAL had paid two large bills; one for the monthly USDA payment and the other was to their management company.

Report and update from Council Member Eisenhauer: Items for discussion are: *Discuss*

Earth Day activities with Pawnee City Schools held (today) April 27th: Pawnee City had received quite a bit of rain over the weekend and it also rained during the day today which left the parks quite muddy. Therefore, Earth Day activities were cancelled. It is late enough in the school year that they were not rescheduled.

Report and Update from City Foreman Cumley: *Review/Discuss Poster for City-Wide*

Clean-up scheduled for June 1: Foreman Cumley stated city wide clean up is always popular but last year there was a property that had quite a few windows. They broke and then there was glass falling onto the street. Therefore, “frames only” should be removed next to “glass” on the Items NOT ALLOWED, as we are not accepting windows. ***Discuss the Wells:*** Foreman Cumley said the wells are good. Well #2 has 3 ft of water in it and Well #3 has 4 ft of water in it. The

power had flickered on and off today which then reset Well #1 so the Crew was unable to check its depth. **Discuss updates on projects in the City:** The City Crew started working on the intersection at G and Boston streets and they are about halfway done. They plan to read water meters tomorrow. Damaged and broken street signs have been replaced. Soon, the pool will need to be filled. The old mower is ready for mowing season and the John Deere mower has been repaired. We need to set up an account with them for billing. Also, the new water meter project will be starting soon. Foreman Cumley explained the installation company will send notice letters to our residents. The new flow meter at the sewer plant is working and the crew members continue to hand write data that is received.

Discuss Any Incident Reports: Mayor Hatfield asked if Council had a chance to read the new incident reports and if they wanted to take any action? Council Member Hatfield stated he is willing to treat two of the Incident Reports as first warning, verbal, but there were things that happened after the incident reports that he wished would have been brought to the Council's attention but he is not sure how to approach that yet. Council Member Eisenhauer said she agrees with first warning, verbal. Council Member Hatfield said he is referring to the meetings that happened with the employees after the incident reports were written. Council Member Eisenhauer stated this should be discussed in Executive Session. DC Wiers stated she also recommends that City Atty Stehlik-Ladman be present which she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Council Member Hatfield agreed that these reports should be discussed in Executive Session and that a certain city employee should be given notice that the incident reports will be discussed in Executive Session. Clerk Curtis explained the decision to appoint two employee liaisons was made in Executive Session and no motion was made after the Council came out of Executive Session. Council Member Eisenhauer stated "so there is no official liaison." Clerk Curtis stated she had talked with Council Member Zelenka about this. Council Member Hatfield stated this should also be discussed at the next council meeting.

Review/Discuss/Accept Deputy Clerk Wiers' Letter of Resignation effective July 24, 2026: Council Member Fisher thanked DC Wiers for giving three months' notice to replace her position. DC Wiers explained that she would like to have at least 30 days to train her replacement because there is a lot of information to deal with in the city office every month, quarterly and yearly. Clerk Curtis suggested DC Wiers make a copy of her job description and start adding to it because Kellie has been here nine years and Curtis has handed over some tasks to DC Wiers to handle. DC Wiers offered to fill in at the office if they need help and she would also like to remain a member of the dog park committee. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to accept Deputy City Clerk Kellie Wiers' letter of resignation (with regret). Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Members Hatfield and Eisenhauer both stated that they are comfortable adjusting the July 24th end date if needed in order to train the new person. **Review Advertisement for Deputy Clerk Position:** Discussion was had on when to run the ad in the newspaper. It was decided to run the ad on May 7th & May 14th with applications/resumes accepted until May 22nd at noon. The Council will decide on candidates at the May 26th meeting.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the February 2026 Sales Tax of \$23,216.86 with Motor Vehicle Sales Tax totaling \$2,871.68 and \$5,086.30 being ½% Street Repairs Sales Tax.

Council Member Zelenka moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all in favor of the motion and meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor