

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 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 (present by phone) and Vickie Zelenka; Deputy City Clerk Kellie Wiers and Foreman Spencer Cumley. **Absent:** City Clerk/Treasurer Tamela Curtis.

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 December 22, 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 consideration: **12/30/25 Payroll:** \$12,473.05; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 3,664.12; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 499.79, Dec. Sales & Use tax 2058.65; **John Hancock**, retirement 1,722.12; **Allstate**, accid/cancer ins. 199.56; **Ameritas**, vision ins. 92.40; **Madison** life ins. 6.10; **Medica**, health ins. 8,975.29; **Windstream**, internet @ city office 110.03, phone @ pool 79.25, phone & internet @ library 133.26; **Amazon Capital Services**, office supplies 204.14; **NPPD**, electric service at wells & swr plant 2879.24; **Joe Norman**, Jan 2026 zoning services 800.00; **NMC-CAT**, repair part 147.05; **H&H Auto Parts**, repair supplies 240.73; **Hometown Leasing**, library copier lease 100.79; **Midwest Lab**, swr sample testing 641.64; **One Call Concepts**, digger Dec 2025 hotline locates 13.47; **Pawnee City Thriftway**, office supplies 12.24; **Pawnee Co. Rural Water District**, pond wtr hydrants 45.00; **Stehlik Law**, Jan 2026 atty fees 1050.00; **Southeast Area Clerks Assoc**, 2026 annual dues for clerks 20.00; **Surnali (Diversified Drug Testing)** annual membership 129.00, drug test 78.00; **Casey's Bus. Mastercard**, equip fuel 426.01; **Binder Bros.**, cement 305.00; **Hamilton Equip Co.**, excavator window 266.16; **Julie D. Bauman**, FY 2024/25 audit 16,085.00; **Martin Marietta**, rock/streets 2377.47; **Nebr. Public Health Environmental Lab**, wtr sample testing 31.00; **Quill Corp.**, office supplies 658.57; **Southeast NE Dev District**, H Rehab appl. processing 550.00; **Community Insurance**, firemen's ins. 2867.00; **GPM Environmental Solutions**, calibrate flow meter @ swr plant 1952.00; **U.S. Cellular**, emergency cell phone 97.52; **Verizon Wireless**, home con & jetpack 65.01. Council Member Zelenka moved to

approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review Treasurer's Report on General Checking & NFIT Savings Acct Balances as of 1/12/2026: Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report. There hasn't been much change since the last report and the General accounts remain steady.

Sheriff Braden Lang: Sheriff Lang explained he has received a deputy application from Sudan and one from Nigeria. Council Member Hatfield asked if Sheriff Lang had written a ticket on the truck that has been parked the wrong way for quite a few months on 4th Street. Sheriff Lang had given the owner a ticket back in December but DC Wiers explained the owner never paid for the ticket and she had turned it over to the city attorney. Sheriff Lang had also given Nick Cline a ticket for the black car parked the wrong way by his house but Nick never paid for the ticket and it was also turned over to the city attorney. Nick's vehicle also has expired plates. Sheriff Lang explained he received a call today about a car parked in the same spot for a couple weeks in front of Donahue & Sisco's office. That vehicle only has one plate on it which has been recalled. The parking limit is 72 hours. Council Member Hatfield asked if the vehicles could be towed since they have not been moved for a period of time? Council was in agreement that all three vehicles should be towed. Sheriff Lang will make arrangements. Council Member Hatfield stated the local Dollar General store had recently been broken into. The responding deputy completed a perimeter check but would not go inside the building to check it out in case a burglar might still be inside the building so the manager had to do it by herself. Sheriff Lang explained that wasn't protocol and he will check into it.

Report and update from Council Member Eisenhower: *Discuss updates on Tax Year 2025 Real Estate Tax Statements:* DC Wiers shared a printed email with the Council from City Atty Jennifer Stehlik-Ladman explaining the City is a "government entity whose property isn't subject to tax" and the City doesn't have to apply for an exemption. Also, the lots for PCAL park are not income-producing and not subject to tax. The County Assessor should write off the tax and take these properties off the tax roll. Council Member Eisenhower explained she had the same discussion with the County Assessor over the property east of the Fire Hall about three years ago. Jennifer explained she dealt with this same issue when the City purchased the properties at 522 & 526 G Street but the current assessor corrected it. Also, the City doesn't have to request an exemption because the City has exempt status. DC Wiers will contact the County Assessor and discuss this issue with her then report back to the Council.

Discuss Nuisance Issues: 1120 5th Street & 728 9th Street (Parker): *Review copy of proposed bill to clean up 728 9th property: Waiting on estimate for 1120 5th Street:* Discussion was had that the yard doesn't look bad at 1120 5th Street but there are items setting inside the garage that could probably be thrown away. The windows have been boarded up on the house which is an eyesore and there are a couple of people interested in purchasing the property but Parkers will not answer their phone calls. Council reviewed the pictures and estimate of \$1960.00 to clean up the property at 728 9th Street. Discussion was had that the pallet fence is not secure and trees have grown up through and between the pallets. Since it is not secure, it is not actually a fence. The pallet fence was installed by previous owner, Winfield McClintock. Jennifer suggested mentioning the 1120 5th Street property at the hearing for the 728 9th Street property. Jennifer

explained the pallet fence is unsightly and a safety hazard but if the City removed it, the property owner may claim it was destruction of property. Also, did removal of the pallets improve the property or was it damage to property? Does the pallet fence depreciate the value of the surrounding properties? Jennifer suggested removing the pallet fence. Discussion was had to set a show cause hearing with a minimum of a three-week notice. Therefore, a hearing was set for February 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cornerstone Building. Jennifer will mail the notice to the Parkers. **1145 G Street:** The controlled burn carried out by the Pawnee City Volunteer Fire Dept. was successful. Foreman Cumley explained the City Crew will continue to work on this property and plan to haul the concrete away from the garage and other debris. Discussion was had about digging up the walls of the foundation of the house but leaving the concrete floor. Mayor Hatfield stated he has not heard anything from the property owner. A "Percival's" sign was found during demolition and Mayor Hatfield suggested giving the sign to Mark Percival.

522/526 G Street Building Debris Removal: Discussion was had that Council had hoped the property would have been left more level but Mayor Hatfield explained that Steve with InLine Construction said he would have to haul in dirt on the neighboring properties in order to make the clean up more level and he was worried about drainage on the neighboring properties. The dirt will settle some from the clean-up. Council Member Hatfield commented there are pictures showing that someone from InLine Construction dumped two loads of debris at the sewer plant with a combination of wood, concrete and dirt during the clean-up. Foreman Cumley commented that it was stated in the contract and Steve was told specifically not to dump anything at the sewer plant. Discussion was had about not paying InLine Construction at this time because of the dumping at the sewer plant and not making the clean-up area more level. Council Member Eisenhower moved to pay InLine Construction his bid of \$39,370.00 for cleaning up the debris at 522 & 526 G Street. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Jennifer suggested letting Steve know that someone from InLine Construction had dumped two loads of debris at the sewer plant. Council Member Eisenhower suggested Steve may not know about this and this may be a way to get InLine Construction back to haul more dirt into the area to level it out.

826 4th Street: The water had been shut off due to not complying with the city atty letter mailed before the holidays. Mayor Hatfield stated the Health Board plans to meet on January 16th to look at this property and make a list of items that need to be cleaned up. Jennifer suggested reviewing the findings at the next council meeting and then sending an abatement notice. It was also suggested a lock be installed on the deep freezer setting outside in the yard and that it be moved inside the garage. DC Wiers explained she had met with Justin at the City Office last Friday to talk about his property in order to avoid abatement and possible involvement with Child Protective Services. Justin said at that time he would work on his property and clean it up. Zoning Administrator Joe Norman was present. He is a neighbor to Mr. Morehead and did clean up some of the trees and brush on the west side of the house so the City Crew would have a clear path to the back of the house to read the water meter. He has also talked with Mr. Morehead about the need to clean up his property.

1038 7th Street: Council Member Eisenhower explained this property was supposed to be turned over to PCDC (Pawnee City Development Corporation) by the end of October 2025 after it was cleaned out but this has not yet happened. Jennifer explained she had spoken to Ms. Johnson recently about the property. Ms. Johnson explained that she has dealt with a daughter's wedding and then her mother, Mrs. Schlender, had fallen at the PEO home and had been in the hospital plus the holidays and has not been able to clean out the house. Seneca Sanitation had taken the roll-off dumpster before she was able to clean out the house and she had asked for

another roll-off dumpster. Jennifer had explained to Ms. Johnson that there are people available that will help clean out the house when another dumpster is available. Ms. Johnson did not give a time frame but she still plans to donate the property to PCDC. Ms. Johnson told Jennifer that she is waiting for Seneca Sanitation to bring a roll-off dumpster back to the property. Council Member Eisenhower explained Mike Habegger of PCDC had sent Ms. Johnson another letter in January asking when she would sign over the property. DC Wiers will call Greg Olberding at Seneca Sanitation to see when another dumpster would be available and report back to the Council. It will save the City money if the property is turned over to PCDC rather than pursue the abatement process.

Report and Update from City Foreman Cumley: *Review/Approve Maintenance Agreement*

Renewal No. 52 & Certificate of Compliance with NDOT: Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve the renewal of Maintenance Agreement No. 52 & Certificate of Compliance with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Discuss***

Gary Droge, Jr. on call time versus comp time: Foreman Cumley explained that crew member Gary Droge, Jr. had asked if he could bank the 7 hours, he would earn from being on call as comp time instead of it being paid out as straight time? Since Jr. Droge is a part-time worker, he is not able to earn as much vacation or sick leave as a full-time worker and this would allow him to have more leave time if needed. Discussion was had about the limit on comp. time hours and where it is stated in the Employee Handbook? Council Member Eisenhower stated she thought the limit was 40 hours and when an employee reaches that limit then they can't earn anymore comp. time. DC Wiers read from the Employee Handbook that part-time employees earn 3 sick days per year and no vacation. Council agreed to table this item until the next meeting, allowing more research into the matter and be able to ask Clerk Curtis what has been allowed in the budget. ***Discuss initial clean-up of dog park property:*** Foreman Cumley explained he would like to have the City Crew haul the trash and remove the barbed wire fence from these lots and back fill dirt on the banks to make them easier to mow. Council agreed that Foreman Cumley could make changes at his discretion. DC Wiers explained Josie Friedly mentioned there is a grant available to apply for that could be used to set up the dog park and Josie could help the City with the application. DC Wiers will contact Ms. Friedly. ***Discuss various City Crew Projects:***

Foreman Cumley explained the City Crew will continue to work on the Percival property by removing the concrete pad from the garage. The walls from the basement will need to be dug out and then it was suggested to leave the basement floor and cover it up. The shirts and hoodies ordered from the Stitchin' Farm will be ready on Jan. 16th.

Joe Norman: Review/Discuss current nuisance ordinances: ORDs 4-204, 4-302, 6-331 & 6-

332. What authority does the City actually have? Zoning Admin Joe Norman explained information found in ORD 4-204 which states that the Mayor can declare something a nuisance along with other items listed as nuisances in the other ordinances. ORD 6-331: Norman read from this ordinance about grass not being over 12" tall and the abatement process. ORD 6-332 talks about abandoned vehicles and vehicles on public property. Council Member Zelenka suggested a couple council members talk to Mr. Burcham about the vehicles and parts lying in his yard because it appears that some of this is setting on the Right-of-Way. Mr. Norman had commented that he felt the nuisance ordinances were not clear but ORD 4-204 clarifies. Joe Norman suggested posting something in the newspaper about enforcing the nuisance ordinances.

DC Wiers pointed at newspaper reporter Reagan Connelly and suggested he talk with her about writing a story for the newspaper.

Council Member Pat Hatfield: Discuss whether a City Employee, also a member of Pawnee City Volunteer Fire Dept., should receive pay to respond to an emergency during work hours? Council was in agreement that a city employee should continue to be paid while responding to an emergency when they were at work. Council Member Fisher asked how this would affect insurance coverage and Jennifer replied, the employee would be covered under City insurance since he was being paid by the City. The controlled burn at 1145 G Street was not an emergency and considered voluntary so he should use personal time. Jennifer explained if the employee was being paid to respond to an emergency, then he should also be eligible for overtime related to the incident. Council Member Eisenhower explained when she was an emergency responder at Syracuse, she had “administrative leave” that paid her wages while responding to an emergency. Council Member Hatfield brought up an example that DC Wiers is a CASA (court appointed special advocate) and if she was called for an emergency removal of children, would that situation be treated the same as a fire emergency? Council was in agreement that it should be treated as an emergency. Jennifer will research this situation and report back to the Council.

Review Correspondence re: (Chamber’s) New Christmas Lights that were blown off Poles being replaced: Discussion was had that the brackets probably need reinforced next year before the newer and bigger Christmas lights are hung. **Review Thank You Card from PC Little Learners:** PC Little Learners sent a Thank You note for the \$1000 pledge and \$1000 credit on the water bill when the group officially opens the daycare under their name.

FILING DEADLINES: Incumbent – February 17th, 2026; Non-incumbent – March 2nd, 2026: City Positions up for Re-Election: Mayor Charlie Hatfield, Council Members Susan Eisenhower & Patrick Hatfield. Airport Authority Positions up for Re-Election: 6 Yr Term: Joe Davis & Gerald Stallbaumer. Mayor Hatfield informed the Council that he does not plan to run for Mayor in the next election. Also, Mayor Hatfield will not be present for the March City Council meetings.

Council Member Zelenka moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all in favor of the motion and meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor