

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 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: Council Members Pat Hatfield, Donnie Fisher, Susan Eisenhower (present by phone) and Vickie Zelenka; Deputy City Clerk Kellie Wiers, City Clerk/Treasurer Tamela Curtis and Foreman Spencer Cumley. **Absent:** Mayor Charlie Hatfield.

Council President Donnie Fisher 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 March 9, 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:** \$12,391.73; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 3,617.17; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 455.19; **John Hancock**, retirement 1,760.19; **Allstate**, cancer/accid insurance 199.56; **Ameritas**, vision insurance 92.40; **Madison Nat'l Life**, employee life ins. 53.71; **Medica**, employee health ins. 8975.29; **Windstream**, phone @ sewer plant 64.45; **Amazon Capital Services**, repair supplies, library—new printer & office supplies 422.95; **NPPD**, electric service 3779.78; **Pawnee Republican**, Febr. 2026 publications 687.00; **Seneca SA**, Febr. 2026 garbage service 8,360.98; **ACCESS Systems Leasing**, Fortinet/Fortigate lease 232.14; **BHE**, gas service 775.04; **Pawnee True Value**, repair parts 529.59; **PCDC**, Jan 2026 sales tax 5921.82; **Spectrum**, internet/phone @ shop 193.54; **MIT Contracting**, HRehab partial pymt 11,002.50; **Pawnee Co. Register of Deeds**, HRehab, DOR fee 10.00, release mowing lien 10.00; **Fastenal**, bolts for fence \$41.51; **Pawnee Co. Court**, court costs TR-94, Henniger 17.00; **Quill**, office supplies 74.40; **Stallbaumer Lumber**, lumber/stain for fence @ Van Horne 617.33; **Beatrice Area Solid Waste Agency**, Dump fees for debris from 1145 G Street 4542.72; **GPM Environmental Solutions**, new flow meter @ swr plant 9604.65; **Millie Troxel**, hem crew member t-shirts 65.00. 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.

Review suggested changes by City Atty Stehlik-Ladman on Construction Agreement with Mid-America Pool Renovation on the RCRP Grant Pool Resurfacing Project with Exhibit A—Bid Form attached: *Decide on date to complete the Scope of Work:* Discussion was had regarding giving the contractor enough time to complete the pool resurfacing and having enough time to prepare the pool and pool house for the season with the consensus being open for Memorial Day weekend. Therefore, Council agreed to give the contractor until May 23, 2026 to complete the work. If opening the pool has to be later, according to Council Member Eisenhauer, then the Council will have to deal with that. Also, instead of painting lines on the bottom of the pool, the lines will actually be glass inserts and be part of the new surface. ***If in agreement with suggested changes, Approve Construction Agreement with Mid-America Pool Renovation with Exhibit A—Bid Form Attached:*** Council was in agreement with the suggested contract changes made by the City Atty. Clerk Curtis explained that Brittany McCullough from SENDD and the contractor are in agreement with the changes, also. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the contract with Mid-America Pool Renovation with the suggested changes made by City Atty Jennifer Stehlik-Ladman. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Approve: CDBG 24PWL013 Street Improvement Drawdown #5 total expenses of \$7477.50 split out to JEO for Engineering Activity split between CDBG Public Works Grant (\$5077.32) & City Match (\$1525.18) & to SENDD for Admin \$665.00 & Const. Mgmt. \$210.00 paid from CDBG grant only: Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the CDBG 24PWL013 Street Improvement Drawdown #5 Total Expenses of \$7477.50 split out to JEO for Engineering Activity split between CDBG Public Works Grant (\$5077.32) & City Match (\$1525.18) & to SENDD for Admin \$665.00 & Const. Mgmt. \$210.00 paid from CDBG grant only. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Report and Update from City Foreman Cumley: *Discuss Clerk Curtis & Foreman Cumley meeting with Creative Landscaping re: scaling back on the budget for Tranquility Park's Design and Construction:* Clerk Curtis and Foreman Cumley explained they recently met with Marvin Lambie from Creative Landscaping to discuss the plan for Tranquility Park and the reduction of the budget to \$117,175.00. They discussed using pavers versus stamped concrete for the pathways but Marvin suggested selling bricks for the walkway to raise money to help with expenses. He will get quotes on materials for gazebos and it was discussed asking PCHS students to help build the gazebo through their community service requirement but it's late in the school year to set that up. It was discussed that there might be organizations that would be willing to donate time to building the gazebo. There will not be a sprinkler system but watering will still be set up through an underground soaker hose system and there will not be grass to mow. It was suggested to allow people to "donate" benches by purchasing one in memory of a loved one. The City Crew will haul in more dirt to level the area up to the retaining wall even with the back of the bank building. There is a pipe sticking out of the ground close to the pharmacy wall near the back part of the area. John from Black Hills Energy said it is an old gas line pipe that is no longer active and it could be cut off at ground level. Marvin measured the exact area for the park and will develop an updated design and email it to the City Office. ***Discuss updates from NE Game & Parks re: their recommendations to repair the City Pond leak:*** Foreman Cumley explained a representative from the engineering department of the Nebr. Game & Parks will be down

Wednesday to look at the pond. The City Crew found several areas on the northwest side where the pond is draining pretty bad into the ditch between the pond and the neighboring farmer's field. The leaks are under the grass area between campsite #5 and #7 and draining into the creek. It's flowing pretty good and that ditch is full clear to Turkey Creek. Game & Parks will get their engineering department involved and may be able to help with the repair costs. Clerk Curtis explained Game & Parks said they have too much money invested in the city pond to allow it to remain this way. They are also thankful and proud of what the City has done to the Pawnderosa. Foreman Cumley talked to two contractors who said the pond would have to be drained and completely redo the "pond lock" then filled back up. Game & Parks stocks fish in this pond all the time and they really don't want to completely drain the pond in order to repair the leaks. The pond is 9 to 12 feet deep. Tecumseh has lost both of their ponds and they had tried to repair the dam in one of them but it still would not hold water and now they are looking at re-lining it with 90,000 lbs. of 12" deep clay but it will cost several \$100,000 to repair. **Discuss Sludge Wagon Tires:** Foreman Cumley explained two of the tires on the sludge wagon at the sewer plant are in bad shape. Mitch Turnbull reached out to Jr. Droge to let the City know that the tires currently on the wagon are an 8-ply tire and are \$450 just to replace the tire. He said there are new radial double wide single tires available for semis that would be a 14-ply tire and rims for \$550/tire. He thinks these tires will last about 2 yrs versus what we have now. Mitch suggested doing two now and then replacing the other two when they go flat. The two tires in question have been repaired several times and they both have tubes in them so they need replaced. The wagon is only used twice a year for a week at a time, spring and fall, and so it was also suggested putting tire covers on the wheels when not in use. The Crew will need to haul sludge next month and something needs to be done with at least two tires. Discussion was had about replacing all four tires now and see if Mitch would give the City a discount? Council Member Hatfield moved to replace all four tires on the sludge wagon now if Mitch Turnbull would give the City a \$200 discount, for a total of \$2000.00 if not, then replace two tires now at \$550 each and the other two later. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Discuss GPM quote for Flow Meter Signal Isolator at Sewer Plant:** Foreman Cumley explained that everything has been working on the flow meter with its current setup but the crew is manually reading it every day. Cumley has talked with HOA to get the flowmeter to read back to the lab. It helped but then it zeroed out again. So, Cumley then talked with Dimitri at GPM and Teledyne (the manufacturer) wants Cumley to install a signal isolator (like a one-way valve) that only lets the signal go out and nothing to come back and that should stop it from zeroing out the sensor and also allow the Crew to get the readings off the printout instead of manually writing it every day. The isolator itself costs \$137.52 and \$652.00 to install it but GPM reduced the installation fee to \$317.00 to install it. Cumley talked with Dimitri to see if it was possible for the City Crew to install the isolator themselves. Cumley explained to Dimitri that the City doesn't want to pay for this part if it doesn't work because of all the other added expenses incurred from the new flow meter and installation if this doesn't work. Dimitri stated to Cumley that GPM would have to pay for the part to get it from Teledyne and they didn't want to get stuck with the cost. Teledyne says this will fix the problem. Council Member Hatfield brought up the concern if the crew members installed the isolator and damaged it, then what? Could the City continue to manually write down the readings? Currently, the state regs. say it is ok to manually write down the readings. Foreman Cumley stated he feels HOA should still come down and check why there is a discrepancy in the discharge data. If the sewer plant brings in 100,000 gallons/day or more in flow, we will

discharge less than what we brought in which is what it should be. If it's a low day and bring in around 70,000 gallons, we will still show high and more than what was brought in due to the flow meter reading zero usage but the program is set to measure 5 gal/min. even at zero flow. That is why HOA should come down and change the programming to say anything less than 5 gal/min. is zero flow but other than that, it is working well. It should be a short simple visit but they will probably charge around \$500 unless they mail us a jet pack and they remote in to update the system and we mail the jet pack back to them since there isn't internet at the sewer plant. Discussion was had about lagoons but the City doesn't have the land available for lagoons anymore. Council asked Cumley to get more information and report it back to them.

Review/Discuss updated Material Testing Quote on Asphalt Street Improvement Project:

Foreman Cumley explained this is the Thiele GeoTech testing that was discussed before but the original quote was not accurate for the size of the project so they sent another quote down to \$7564.00 from the original \$9000.00. This would test the base layer and then test the thickness of the actual asphalt. Council President Donnie Fisher, who is in charge of streets, explained he is leaning towards not testing because the asphalt is going to move and crack over time anyway and the City could save that money and use it on something else. Foreman Cumley stated he is leaning back and forth on it because the company has been in business long enough and they should know what they are doing but we didn't measure on the last two projects and found the material wasn't thick enough. The road behind the school is concrete and there was cracking on that street plus the truck route project was concrete and it cracked. Pavers did the overlay project by the Historical Society and so far, it looks good and Pavers is the company that was awarded this project. Constructors did the other projects. Clerk Curtis explained Scott from JEO said he would be down and checking on the project during its construction. In the past, Evan from JEO had advised that you don't have to have the street material tested. One of the roads in question that connects the highway to the fairgrounds will have a lot of traffic but maybe that is one that could be checked during the project. Council Members Eisenhower and Hatfield voiced that they feel the City should forego the testing and use that money somewhere else. Council Member Fisher moved to not complete the testing proposed by Thiele GeoTech on the asphalt street improvement project. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Discuss updates on projects in the City:*** Foreman Cumley explained the City Crew is going to work on some outstanding work orders concerning ditches and tubes. They applied 6" of rock to the outside perimeter of the pond except the northwest edge where the leaks are located and they might need one or two more loads. The Crew has been working on street signs but waiting on the sign equipment that has been ordered. They have also been working around the square painting lines for parking spaces and they still plan to paint the crosswalks at the Pawnee Village plus they are working on potholes. Lucas has completed most of the painting and Jr. has helped. Next week, they plan to start tearing out road and concrete at the intersection of Boston and G streets. Discussion was had about where to divert traffic so that this repair can be completed. Clerk Curtis recommended using barricades with flashing lights so that the public is well aware of not entering the road. This project will take several weeks to complete.

Review/Take Action on Letter requesting support of \$467.50 for Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging (BRAAA) services for Pawnee City for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year: DC Wiers explained that BRAAA helps quite a few people in our area that are homebound and need help in their home. They are also in charge of the Senior Center in Table Rock. Council Member

Eisenhauer moved to approve the requested support from Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging of \$467.50. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review quotes on two different styles of AED Defibrillators from Amazon: Council reviewed two quotes for AED defibrillators which included a Philips HeartStart Onsite AED for \$1622.00 and one for the Echiwan AED for \$1399.00. Council Member Eisenhauer asked if someone had contacted the local hospital to see what kind of AED they had or recommendations? Council Member Zelenka explained that former Nebraska men's basketball coach Fred Hoiberg and his wife have started a foundation to get AEDs and training into schools to help prevent deaths from sudden cardiac arrest. Zelenka suggested contacting this foundation to ask for help purchasing AEDs. It was suggested to contact the Southeast District Health Dept. (SEDHD) to see if they might have funds available for AEDs. Council Member Eisenhauer suggested looking at the Helmsley Foundation for a grant to purchase AEDs through their Rural Healthcare program. DC Wiers explained she had contacted Megan Buckley, local Emergency Management Director, to see if there might be a grant available but has not heard back yet. Council Member Hatfield explained every NPPD owned truck has a Zoll brand AED on board. He also suggested using the annual \$500 LARM grant to help with the purchase. Discussion was had about the number of AED units the City should have and if there was one already at the Pool. Council agreed that at least two of the city vehicles should have an AED along with the City Office, City Shop, Pool and Library. Brandon will check to see if there is an AED already at the Pool and report back. DC Wiers will check to see if LARM might have an AED training video. Discussion then led to the need for city employees to be re-certified for CPR. The clerks will report back to the Council with more information on grants available to purchase AEDs.

Review Recycle for the Children Flyer sponsored by Smith Auto & ZeroTrace—permission to place on back of next City Water Bill? Council agreed to allow this flyer to be printed on the back of the next water bill to advertise this event scheduled for April 18th.

Review/Approve Updated Changes to Corrective Action Form—Does the Council want the Incident & Corrective Action Forms placed in the Employee Handbook? Council reviewed the Corrective Action Form that Clerk Curtis had updated with the Council's requested changes. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the Corrective Action Form as presented in the agenda packet. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis asked Council if the Corrective Action Form and Incident Report form should be included in the Employee Handbook so that the City Employees are aware of the forms? Council agreed to include these two forms in the Employee Handbook as exhibits but they should request the forms from their respective supervisors when an incident occurs.

Discuss Any Incident Reports: Council reviewed a recent Incident Report written by an employee that had broken a mirror off one of the trucks while driving. The employee promptly wrote an Incident Report. A Corrective Action Form was completed. The employee obtained a mirror from Smith Auto and replaced the broken mirror. Also, all crew members completed a "safe driving" video on the LARM website.

Correspondence: PCHS Earth Day Service Work planned for 4/10/2026: Mr. Kluck emailed the City Office stating Earth Day has been scheduled for April 10th but so far, there isn't a rain date. He stated that this year there will be fewer groups of more students working at multiple locations around town. Those locations include the Historical Society, North & South Parks, City Pond, Ballfields, Walking Trail, Fairgrounds, Post Office (to include the mini park?), Assisted Living and Daycare. Mr. Kluck asked for a list of tasks for the students to complete at each location. **Spreadsheet:** Council reviewed the January 2026 Sales Tax of \$18,763.18 with Motor Vehicle Sales Tax totaling \$2,971.67 and \$3,947.88 being ½% Street Repairs Sales Tax.

Review email from John Watkins, Eakes Office Solution re: World-wide component shortages leads to increases in computer costs: Clerk Curtis explained this is an FYI for when the City has to replace computers. Council suggested going through our local computer person when purchasing new computers and see if he would offer a better deal. Clerk Curtis explained there is a program called "SPARKS" that offers electronic agendas and each council member and the mayor has a mini-laptop to view the agenda packet. This system saves on paper and time to prepare the agenda packets plus it will load the agenda onto the website and it also offers a feature that writes a baseline of the meeting minutes and once they are edited, it will load these onto the website. Clerk Curtis did not have information on the cost but recommended Council consider this system for the City of Pawnee City. The initial cost would be expensive and there would be a yearly maintenance fee. Discussion was had about the number of photocopies made quarterly and the charge for overages. **Proposed Municipal Equalization Funds (MEF) Aid for 2026-27:** There will be a \$10,495 reduction from MEF. **Email from Pawnee Republican on sponsorship of Pawnee City's First Annual Spring Turkey Challenge:** Clerk Curtis explained Joe Norman told her it is an event that adults and kids can both have fun competing in. Reagan Connelly was present and explained there is no entry fee. Joe Norman didn't suggest an entry fee because this may be a financial burden for families so money is raised through sponsors. Reagan said there are already quite a few sponsors for this event. A person hunts for a turkey then takes it to the Little Brown Jug to check it in. It is a fundraiser for the newspaper and this is a test run to see how it works. Discussion was had about donating to this event similar to giving donations to community organizations. Also, this event will bring people to town and then they may stop to buy gas or groceries and patronize other businesses. Council Member Eisenhower moved to donate \$250 as a supporting sponsor to the First Annual Spring Turkey Challenge. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

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 8:32 pm.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Donnie Fisher, Council President