

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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 shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

**Present:** Council Members Pat Hatfield, Vickie Zelenka, Donnie Fisher, and Susan Eisenhower (by phone); Tamela Curtis City Clerk/Treasurer, Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk and Foreman Spencer Cumley. **Absent:** Mayor Charlie Hatfield.

Council President 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 February 23, 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.

Council Member Zelenka moved to accept March 2, 2026, special 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: **3/10/26 Payroll:** \$11,525.45; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 3327.03; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 415.21/ Feb 2026 sales & use tax 2052.66; **John Hancock**, retirement 1668.28; **Amazon**, rep parts/sup 269.03; **OPPD**, elec at wells 330.80; **NPPD**, Jan/Feb wells/ swr plnt elec 6475.56; **H&H Auto**, rep parts/sup 750.56;s 148.47; **Schendel Pest Control**, swr plant qrtly spraying 70.00; **Bottom Line**, mag sub-Libr 39.00; **Midwest Lab**, swr S/H labels 18.00; **One Call Concepts**, Digger Hotline Locates 8.20; **Stehlik Law**, Mar atty fees 1,050.00; **Access Systems Leasing**, copier contract 189.95; **Pawnee Co. Rural Water**, Jan/Feb water @ pond 90.00; **Windstream**, libr-pool ph/Jan-Feb office internet 510.90; **Joe Norman**, Mar. Zoning services 800.00; **Hometown Leasing**, Feb/Mar Libr copier lease 201.58; **Eakes Office Sol**, libr copier agr 61.58/City office IT & Elevate PH 959.20; **Coral's Cleaning Services**, office cleaning 120.00; **Verizon Wireless**, home connect/jetpack 64.99; **Elk Creek Engineering**, fence supplies 183.00; **Quill**, office sup 218.34; **Ty's Outdoor Power & Service**, salter for side by side 266.42; **Casey's**, equip fuel 761.58; **Hamilton Equip**, gasket seal-mini x 62.09; **NE Public Health Env Lab**, wtr samples 22.00; **SAPP Bros**, equip fuel 795.90; **Stitching Farm**, City Shirts/Hoodies 758.00; **Wtr Dep**

**refund**, J. Cardoso 118.91. 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 February Treasurer's Report:** Council reviewed the February 2026 Treasurer's report.

**Sheriff Braden Lang: Discuss owners of nuisance property at 200 11<sup>th</sup> Street:** Sheriff Lang stated he did a wellness check on Mr. Burcham and his brother a few weeks ago and their health continues to decline. Sheriff Lang stated he recently had purchased the Yamaha motorcycle from Mr. Burcham that had been in the City ROW for quite some time adding that at this point he does not believe that Mr. Burcham is physically able to work on the vehicles parked in front of his house. **Review/ Discuss City Codes & NE State Laws re: Motorized Stand-up Scooters (Q from citizen):** Sheriff Lang stated that there really aren't a lot of State Laws regarding motorized electric stand-up scooters as most laws out there are adopted by a specific city. Clerk Curtis stated that the person who had inquired about the laws owns an electric motorized stand-up scooter. Sheriff Lang will talk with the individual about safety and to not ride it on the City sidewalks. **New Deputy Hired:** Sheriff Lang stated that they have hired a new deputy, Davey Jones from Johnson, NE, which puts them back to full staff again. He will be going to the academy in May and should graduate in August.

**Review the Budget Figures for the RCRP Grant Projects:** Clerk Curtis stated that this is as close as she can come to the current budget figures that are still available for the RCRP Grant Projects for a total of \$457,785.62 that can be used for both the Pool Resurfacing and Tranquility Park Projects. **Request for Bids (RFB) received on the RCRP Grant Pool Resurfacing Project: POOL RESURFACING PROJECT: Review (2) RFBs received as of 2/27/26 & opened on 3/02/26:** Clerk Curtis stated she and Foreman Cumley were the only two present on 3/2/2026 for the bid openings. Clerk Curtis stated she had handed out the email received from Ryan with Mid-America Pool stating there would be a \$10,000 upgrade charge for the cost of blue INTER-GLASS and as for a start date, they could start the proceeding weeks before the pool is set to open over Memorial Day Weekend. The City received a total of two RFB's from Mid-America Pool Renovation, Inc. offering three (3) options and McGill Restoration offering two (2) options. **Mid-America Pool Renovation's three (3) Options were:** (Option 1) INTER-GLASS (white), \$329,475 with a 25+ estimated service life and 25 year warranty; (Option 2) Exposed Aggregate Surface, \$238,000 with a 10-15 year estimated service life and a 7-year warranty period and (Option 3) White Plaster, \$205,360 also with a 10-15 year estimated service life and a 7-year warranty period. **McGill Restoration offered two (2) Options:** (Option 1) Insl-X-Epoxy pool system, \$124,720 with a 5-7 estimated service life and a 2-year warranty; (Option 2) Amerlock 400, \$122,720 with a 3-5 year estimated service life and a 1-year warranty period. **Fill out Scoring Sheet:** Brittany McCullough, SENDD was there to assist the Council on how to fill out the scoring sheet for each bidder/option stating that the first category was on the Price vs. Estimated Service Life. The second category was for Warranty Period, and the third category was for the Project Timeline with scoring from 1-5 in each category with 5 being the best score. Council Member Eisenhower stated she felt that Mid-America Pool Renovation's Option #1, INTER-GLASS should score a 5 in all three categories, scoring a total of 15 points. This would also include the upgrade to blue. Eisenhower felt the blue paint shows the grates at the bottom of the pool better, which is a safety concern with all Council Members agreeing with her

suggestions; Options #2 & 3 both scored a 4, 3 & 5 respectively with a total score on both being 12 points as the Council felt leaving water in the City pool year round was a major safety hazard and the warranty period drops down from 25 years to a 7 year warranty with both of these options. On both of McGill Restoration's Options the Council scored them as 3, 1 & 5 for 9 total points. The Council felt the service life and warranty periods were just too low to spend that kind of money on a product that was only set to last 3-7 years and with only a 1-2-year warranty period. **Select/Approve Winning Bid:** Council Member Eisenhauer stated that she felt the Pool Resurfacing Project should be the top priority of the two RCRP Grant Projects left with all Council Members in agreement. Council reviewed the updated RCRP Grant Funding Budget Clerk Curtis had handed out to everyone that included deducting \$52,825 from the Tranquility Park Budget and using the \$10,000 Council Member Eisenhauer had budgeted in her Pool Capital Improvement line item for a total of \$62,825 to meet the costs needed to do Option 1 with Mid-America Pool Renovations at \$339,475, which included the upgraded cost to do the blue INTER-GLASS. Council Member Hatfield stated that he had a problem using the budgeted City Funds towards this project because the City is already watching the General checking and NFIT accounts very closely, so just because you have the funds budgeted for, doesn't mean the City actually has those funds available to spend. More discussion followed that it would probably be best for the City to just stick with spending only the RCRP grant money on these two projects (Pool resurfacing and Tranquility Park) instead of trying to take money out of the City's Pool and Park Budgets. Council Member Eisenhauer stated she was okay with that, even if that meant reducing the Tranquility Park Budget quite a bit. Brittney McCullough stated that something for the Council to think about is that there are many park grants out there to apply for but very few pool grants available for municipalities. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to accept Pool Resurfacing Option #1 INTER-GLASS for \$329,475 plus \$10,000 for the Blue INTER-GLASS upgrade charge for a total cost of \$339,475 from Mid-America Pool Renovation. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Request for Bids (RFB) received on the RCRP Grant Tranquility Park Project: TRANQUILITY PARK PROJECT: Review (1) RFB received as of 2/27/26 & opened on 3/02/26:** The City received one bid for the design and construction of Tranquility Park. **Creative Landscaping:** Design & Construction of the Tranquility Flower Garden & Space, \$183,804., with the exception of the gazebo installation not currently priced in their estimate and a project schedule within 120 days from Notice to Proceed. **Review Brittany McCullough/SENDD's email re: park design still being "changeable":** Brittany McCullough stated that everything is changeable on this bid, as they have provided a first proposal, intended to give the Council enough information about the company, their history and an idea of what the project might cost so that they can decide whether or not they may be capable of carrying out the project in a way the City needs. Ms. McCullough continued that certain clauses can be included in the contract that specify the City needs the ability to comment on and approve the design before any construction begins, so the City can maintain control of the whole process. Clerk Curtis asked Foreman Cumley to explain his idea on where to put the new Recycling Center the City is trying to get started back up again. Foreman Cumley stated he thought the City could use around 40 feet on the East side of the proposed park area so that the retaining wall would be even with the back of the Union Bank building. This would allow enough room to place at least 5-6 recycling receptacles in this space. The road going behind the bank, park and pharmacy areas is wide enough for a truck to get in there to be able to dump the recycling bins and easy access to citizens that want to dump their recyclables in the bins. By

taking 40 feet off the west end of the Tranquility park area, that still leaves an 80-90' left to still make into a beautiful park area. Council Member Eisenhower stated she thought that was a wonderful area to put the recycling bins in. Council was all in agreement. **Fill out Scoring Sheet:** To fill out the scoring sheets, the first category is Price; second category is Experience and the third category is Project Timeline again with the scoring from 1-5 in each category with 5 being the best score. Council Member Eisenhower stated she did not like the design, especially with two retaining walls, which had to have increased the costs of the total project. Much discussion was had on the project needing to be scaled way back. Clerk Curtis stated that if the additional \$10,000 is taken back away from the Tranquility Park budget and the City does not plan to use any funds out of the City's Park Budget, then the total budget for Tranquility Park is down to \$117,175. More discussion followed on items that needed changed on the design of Tranquility Park including adding a sprinkler system; only one retaining wall at the East edge, adding a fence at that end to have a beautiful background to look at and to keep the recycling area separated from the park area; no sod or grass of any kind as this park is to be very low maintenance; remove all trees, replacing them with perennial flowers and flowering bushes and brick pavers not only going up to the gazebo area but connected to all different areas of the park with all seating faced towards the West. Clerk Curtis stated that Council Member Fisher had mentioned earlier that possibly Martin Marietta would be interested in constructing the gazebo as part of their "giving back to communities" charitable donations. At this time, the Council discussed how to score this company's Bid, scoring a 3 in category 1 (Price) as they had gone way above the funds we had stated were available in our original Tranquility Park Budget; and a 5 in both categories #2 (Experience) and #3 (Project Timeline) for a total score of 13.

**Select/Approve Winning Bid:** Mrs. McCullough stated that since the City only received one bid on this project, they did have the option to put the project out for bids again and try to get more contractors to bid on it. Council discussed this option but decided that since this firm was willing to negotiate and work with the City, they would not re-bid the project. Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve Creative Landscaping pending negotiations and scaling back on the Tranquility Park project with a proposed RCRP Grant Budget of \$117,175. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review/Approve Changes to Corrective Action Form:** Council reviewed the changes suggested from the last meeting to the Corrective Action Form. Council Member Fisher stated he thought there needed to be a line for "Employee Comments" right before the paragraph about signing this document. Clerk Curtis stated she would add that line and squeeze the other lines closer together to make room for an employee to give his written statement if they want to and bring it back to the next meeting to be voted on.

**Review/Approve Emergency Response Leave to be placed in the Employee Handbook:** Council reviewed the Emergency Response Leave policy to be placed in the Employee Handbook. Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve the Emergency Response Leave Policy to be placed in the City Employee Handbook. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review/Take Action on Housing Rehab Project @ 1449 F Street: Approve Housing Rehab DrawDown #1 for partial project costs of \$11,002.50 to MIT Contracting.** Council Member Hatfield moved to approve Housing Rehab DrawDown #1 at 1449 F Street for partial project costs of \$11,002.50 to MIT Contracting. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review/take action on 3J Pest Control Mosquito Spraying again this year with a 5% discount for paying in Advance by May 1<sup>st</sup> of \$2137.50 (same as last year's price):** Council Member Hatfield moved to approve 3J Pest Control doing Mosquito Spraying again this year with a 5% discount for paying in advance by May 1<sup>st</sup> of \$2137.50. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**A Report and update from Foreman Cumley: Discuss/Take Action on ordering another "spare" blower motor at the Sewer Plant:** Foreman Cumley stated that the Crew recently installed the last blower motor they had on hand. When they put that last blower motor in, Foreman Cumley had contacted HG Klug Sons so the City could order another "spare" blower motor to have one hand. Unfortunately, Ralph, our rep with HG Klug Sons forgot to tell the office personnel to order the City one, so this order just got placed on 2/26/26. Foreman Cumley stated that there are four (4) blower motors throughout the Sewer Plant that could go out at any time. Council inquired where these motors were coming from. Foreman Cumley stated the motors will be shipped here from Germany. Council Member Hatfield moved to approve the City purchasing one (1) spare blower motor to have on hand at the Sewer Plant. More discussion followed with Council Member Eisenhauer stating that with everything going on in the world right now, it would probably make better sense to just go ahead and order two replacement blower motors because who knows how long it's going to take for them to arrive. Motion died for lack of second. Council Member Hatfield moved to approve the City purchasing two (2) spare blower motors from HG Klug Sons at \$6,143.63 each to have on hand at the Sewer Plant. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Discuss paying GPM for Flowmeter (\$9,604.65) at Sewer Plant:** Foreman Cumley stated that the Flowmeter at the Sewer Plant is now working but will not send the information to be printed out on the reports. Cumley stated the signal that sends to the touch screen to let them know how much effluent is going out will not read, but if you leave the wire unplugged, then the Flowmeter works. Right now, the City Crew has just been writing down the flow for the day manually, but otherwise the Flow Meter is working correctly. Council discussed if writing the flow down manually was acceptable by the State? Foreman Cumley stated he wasn't for sure as his State rep hadn't said anything about it not being acceptable. Clerk Curtis stated that before the City had this "fancy" new Sewer Plant, everything was written down manually, so she wouldn't know why the State wouldn't accept it now. Further discussion continued. Council Member Hatfield moved to approve paying invoice from GPM for the Flowmeter totaling \$9,604.65 pending approval from the State on manually writing down the flow every day at the Sewer Plant. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Foreman Cumley will follow-up with the State Tuesday morning. **Review/Take Action on updated Meter Bid from Lincoln WinWater:** Foreman Cumley stated he had contacted Lincoln WinWater and they had decided that since the City had recently changed out all of the larger meters to ultrasonic read

meters, there would be no reason to order new ones again when they could just add a “radio-read” on them so they would still register on the new meter reader system. Once those larger Sensus meters go out, they can look into changing them out to Meuller Meters or replace them with another Sensus meter with a radio-read. It will all depend how the meters are plumbed in as the Meuller meters don’t have as long of a pipe extension. After making those cost adjustments and the installation company making their adjustments, the total cost of the meter replacement project is \$243,784.79. Clerk Curtis stated that back in August when we were discussing going forward with the new meter system, the City was originally planning to borrow \$185,000 in a bank loan, which is now down to \$177,544.48. They will also need to cash out a Water CD from the State Bank of Table Rock, which is currently worth \$54,846.53 plus the Water Meter Reserve Account the City started last year with a balance of \$11,393.78 for the total amount needed. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve moving forward with the Water Meter Replacement project ordering the new meter system from Lincoln WinWater for a total price of \$243,784.79, which also includes the installation of the meters and the funding as described above by Clerk Curtis. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Review LARM Safety Training available at [larm.localgovu.com](http://larm.localgovu.com):*** Deputy Clerk Wiers has made sure the City has a current account with a log in and password set up so Foreman Cumley and Clerk Curtis can have access to the safety videos for their employees. It was stated that most generally the safety videos are 15-30 minutes long. Council Member Hatfield stated he was in favor of the City Crew watching a shorter safety video monthly. Council was all in agreement with this suggestion. Discussion was had on purchasing an AED to place in the trucks and one in the City Office. Hatfield stated that NPPD has them carry one on each truck with the batteries needing to be replaced every three-years and the pads replaced every two-years. More discussion followed with Council suggesting using the LARM Safety Grant to pay towards the purchases and also asking Deputy Clerk Wiers to get pricing on AEDs. Council Member Hatfield stated he wanted everyone to be aware that NPPD has started going really strong on the addition to the substation, so it is very hectic on the streets around the shop area right now. ***General Discussion on things going on in the City:*** Foreman Cumley stated the City Crew has been busy putting in the new fence between the basketball and the pickleball courts at VanHorne Park, continuing to paint parking lines on the streets and also working on getting the new water meter replacement project down to an exact count of each size of meter needed to be included in this project.

***A Report and update from Council Member Zelenka: Discuss City Crew taking over picking up the trash from the outside receptacle at the Library:*** Council Member Zelenka stated that she had visited with both Clerk Curtis and Foreman Cumley about the City Crew picking up the Library’s outside trash each week. Zelenka stated that Foreman Cumley had reminded her of a lot of problems they ran into when the Crew used to empty the Library’s outside trash receptacle. Council Member Zelenka also stated she had talked with Lola Seitz, Head Librarian and it was decided that Lola would take this to the Library Foundation for them to decide if they needed to purchase a new trash receptacle with a lid cover on it or if the current receptacle could be moved under the roof, so that the receptacle/bag doesn’t fill up with water. Council Member Zelenka stated she would report back to the Council on what she found out after the Library Foundation meets.

**Review PCAL January Board Meeting Minutes & February PCAL Meeting Agenda:**

Council reviewed the Pawnee City Assisted Living Board meeting minutes from January and the February meeting agenda. Clerk Curtis stated that she plans to start leaving the Treasurer's Report from PCAL in the claims basket so when the Mayor and Council Members come in they can look it over before she files it away in the PCAL agenda, meeting minute and financial report binder.

**Review Correspondence from:** Council reviewed the Johnson/Pawnee County Emergency Manager Megan Buckley & NEMA's email re: Cybersecurity-Iran War; the Amazing Grace Art Flyer, to which the artist, Amy Hancock has done murals before and would be interested in doing one for the City; Reviewed a Thank You note from Rita Noll to City Workers and the Certifications of Election Filings (Gen. Election Only: Council Position: Patrick Hatfield, Amanda Mackey; Mayor Position: Emily Norman; Airport Authority: Joe Davis, 6 yr term. The Mayor, Council Positions & Airport Authority will all be on the General Ballot. 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 8:57 p.m.

Attest: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer

Donnie Fisher, Council President