

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, NEBRASKA

I. ROUTINE BUSINESS

The City Council of the City of Bridgeport, Nebraska, met in regular session at Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 Main Street, Bridgeport, Nebraska, on the 11th day of September 2025, beginning at 5:31 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, a Prayer and a moment of silence in remembrance of all lives lost 24 years ago, Mayor Gail Beyer called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted as follows: Present: Carrie Harless, Jeff Nichols, Tony McGrath, Mark Wickard

Staff members present were: Melissa Butler, Billie Mitchell, Ron Doggett, Dane Jeffords, Bryan Schulterbusch

Mayor Beyer presided, and City Clerk Huck recorded the proceedings.

Mayor Beyer announced, "In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, the open meetings act is posted at the back of the meeting room for the review of the public."

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Bridgeport News-Blade on September 4, 2025 the designated method of notice given, as shown by proof of publication, as shown by attached affidavit of posting.

Notice was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and by email notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

The Mayor asked if there were any letters of public correspondence for the board. There were none.

The Mayor asked if there are any visitors that would like to speak on an item that is not on the agenda. There were none.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 14, 2025.
7. Approve the minutes of Special Meeting held August 19, 2025
8. Acceptance of the Monthly Treasurer's Report.

Council Member Harless moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member McGrath. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Nichols, McGrath, Harless, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

III. CLAIMS

9. Council Member Nichols stated that he has a conflict with Jeff Nichols Claim; Council Member Nichols then excused himself. Council Member Wickard moved to approve the claim as presented, seconded by Council Member Harless. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: McGrath, Harless, Wickard; Abstain: Nichols; Nay: None. Motion carried.

10. Council Member Wickard stated that he has a conflict with Mark Wickard Claim; Council Member Wickard then excused himself. Council Member Nichols moved to approve the claim as presented, seconded by Council Member Harless. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nichols, Harless, McGrath; Abstain: Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

11. Council Member Harless moved to approve the remainder of claims, denying the golf course budget allocation for the time being, instead directing the available \$9,432.00 into the golf

course's sinking fund for future use, seconded by Council Member Wickard. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Harless, Nichols, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Claims: A & A Porta Potties, Hrse, \$165.00; Aflac, Aflc, \$434.86; Alert-All Corporation, Op, \$995.75; Allo Communications LLC, Tlpn, \$693.96; Altec Industries, Trk Rp, \$2,666.73; American Funds Service Company, Retire, \$6,030.45; Ameritas Group Life Insurance, Amtrs, \$126.14; Barco Municipal Products Inc, Rm, \$3,192.84; Bb Associates, Misc, \$5,028.75; Benzel Pest Control Inc, Op, \$75.89; Black Hills Energy, Ht, \$1,434.65; Bloedorn Lumber, Tf, \$360.95; Bluffs Facility Solutions, Op, \$837.38; Bomgaars, Dwn Twn / Op / Pgrm / Rm / Shop / Tls, \$1,316.27; Ora Borton, Mtr Dep, \$45.96; Bridgeport News-Blade, Pp, \$51.43; Shane Brown, Dwn Twn, \$500.00; Cengage Learning Inc, Bks, \$41.98; Century Business Products Inc, Op, \$34.50; Chimney Rock Public Power District, Elct, \$125.17; CHJR Golf Sinking Fund, Snkg, \$13,432.00; City Of Bridgeport, Elect / Mtr Dep, \$12,079.27; Christina M Collins, Tlpn, \$40.00; Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co, Clnl, \$622.48; Community Center, Tr, \$61,000.00; Community Center Sinking Fund, Snkg, \$10,000.00; Crescent Electric Supply Company, Inv / Tls, \$806.87; Croell Redi-Mix, Rm, \$945.00; Culligan Water Conditioning, Op, \$127.50; Custom Made Fencing, Op, \$17,614.75; Ronald L Doggett, Tlpn / Trng, \$246.50; Dutton Lainson Company, Inv, \$192.74; E & S Auto Supply, Op / Rm / Shop, \$992.26; Enviro Service Inc, Wtr Aly, \$60.00; Federal, Fed, \$3,739.15; Fica, \$9,092.72; Fire Fund, Tr, \$5,000.00; Fire Sinking Fund, Snkg, \$10,000.00; Friends Of Library, Bldg, \$2,500.00; Fyr-Tek Inc, Fr Trk, \$918.20; General Sinking Fund, Snkg, \$20,000.00; General Treasury, Tr, \$131,000.00; Gooder Trucking LLC, Str Mat, \$2,071.62; Health Savings Account, Hsa, \$2,088.00; Doretta J Huck, Tlpn, \$40.00; Hullinger Glass & Locks Inc, Op, \$600.00; Ideal Linen & Uniform, Op, \$620.22; Ideaman Inc, Msm, \$343.32; Inland Truck Parts Company, Rm, \$479.34; Iowa Pump Works Inc, Rm, \$826.75; Dane M Jeffords, Tlpn, \$40.00; John Deere Financial, Rm, \$75.58; Koke's Auto Farm Truck Inc, Op / Rm / Tf, \$345.30; Lee's Service Inc, Fl, \$437.65; Andrew S Leisy, Tlpn, \$40.00; Library Fund, Tr, \$21,000.00; Kyle E Lussetto, Tlpn, \$40.00; Macqueen Equipment LLC, Me, \$3,557.37; Maguire, Rm, \$27,096.00; Masa Global, Ins, \$154.00; Medicare, Mdcr, \$2,126.50; Mid-American Research Chemical, Shop, \$850.50; Billie Mitchell, Msm, \$148.82; Morrill County Community Hospital, Op, \$38.00; Morrill County Sheriff, Cnty / Op, \$35,233.95; Municipal Energy Agency Of Ne, Mn, \$109,291.30; Municipal Supply Inc Of Nebraska, Inv, \$2,728.90; Nebraska Dept Of Revenue, Df / Sls Tx / State, \$19,272.00; Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Df, \$500.00; Nebraska Printworks LLC, Ofsup, \$41.80; Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab, Wtr Aly, \$1,049.00; Nebraska Public Power District, Msm, \$176.87; Nebraska Safety & Fire Equip Inc, Rm, \$1,698.00; Nebraska State Fire Marshal, Rm, \$120.00; Nebraska Total Office, Ofsup, \$24.61; Perry E Nelson, Tlpn, \$40.00; Jeffrey T Nichols, Cnt Svc, \$1,705.00; Northwest Pipe Fittings Inc Of Scottsbluff, Op / Rm, \$315.81; One Call Concepts Inc, Op, \$16.71; Optk Networks, Tlpn, \$75.00; Pace Analytical Services LLC, Wtr Aly, \$600.00; Park Fund, Tr, \$62,000.00; Platte Valley Visa, Op, \$12,780.85; Plummer Insurance Inc, Ins, \$179,231.00; Police Fund, Tr, \$35,670.50; Pool Fund, Tr, \$35,000.00; Quadient Leasing Usa Inc, Op, \$392.85; Regional Care Inc, Hsa, \$64.00; Reliance Standard Life Ins Co, Lf Ins, \$724.35; Brody Joe Retchless, Cnt Svc, \$750.00; Rodak Law Office, Lgl Rtnr, \$1,000.00; Fay Scarrow, Tlpn, \$40.00; Bryan Schluterbusch, Tlpn, \$40.00; Sewer Sinking Fund, Snkg, \$2,700.00; Paul A Sides, Tlpn, \$40.00; Parker Smith, Cnt Svc, \$935.00; Sonnys Super Foods, Shop, \$28.98; Spic-Span Cleaners, Rm, \$194.00; State Fire Marshal Training Div, Trng, \$150.00; Stonegate Seamless Roofing LLC, Rm, \$56,480.06; Street Fund, Tr, \$6,949.60; Street Sinking Fund, Snkg, \$10,000.00; Sunrise Cleaners, Op, \$75.00; The Simple Company & Floral Shop, Op, \$56.00; Trading Post Enterprises LLC, Fl, \$1,004.91; USA Bluebook, Op / Tf, \$1,891.54; Waste Connections Of Ne Inc, Trsh, \$17,921.77; Wesco Distribution Inc, Inv / Tls, \$2,022.08; Mark Wickard, Trng, \$594.05; WPCI, Df, \$35.00; Total Claims, \$989,247.56; Total Salaries, \$63,337.96

****Aflc = Aflac; Amtrs = Ameritas; Bks = Books; Bldg = Building Repair; Clnl = Colonial; Cnt Svc = Contract Services; Cnty = County Contract; Df = Dues & Fees; Dwn Twn = Downtown Appearance; Elct = Electric Bills; Fed = Federal; Fica = Fica; Fl = Fuel; Fr Trk = Fire Truck Expense; Hrse = Horseshoe; Hsa = Health Savings; Ht = Heat; Ins = Insurance; Inv = Inventory; Lf Ins = Life Insurance; Lgl Rtnr = Legal Retainer; Mdcr = Medicare; Me = Machinery & Equipment; Misc = Miscellaneous; Mn = Mean; Msm = Museum; Mtr Dep = Meter Deposit; Ofsup = Office Supplies; Op = Operating Expense; Pgrm = Program Supplies; Pp = Printing & Publications; Retire = Retirement / City Share; Rm = Repairs & Maintenance; Shop = Shop Supplies; Sls Tx = Sales N Use Tax; Snkg = Sinking Fund; State = State; Str Mat = Street Material; Tf = Treatment Facility; Tlpn = Telephone; Tls = Tools; Tr = Transfer Out; Trk Rp = Truck Repairs; Trng = Training; Trsh = Trash; Wtr Aly = Water Analysis

IV. ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

12. None

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. At 5:36 pm Mayor Beyer opened the public hearing for CDBG Funds for planning activities for downtown revitalization. Interim City Administrator Coolidge stated although an amount was published, they could not meet the grant's strict procurement timeline for hiring a planning consultant (MC Schaff) before Monday's deadline. As a result, they will prepare for a possible second funding round—if one is offered—or wait for the next cycle in 2026. Mayor Beyer closed the hearing at 5:38 p.m.

14. At 5:38 p.m Mayor Beyer opened the public hearing seeking CDBG grant funds to fully replace deteriorated sanitary sewer lines in two alley sections—from O to P streets and P to Q streets, from 12th Street to the highway—since sleeving repairs proved unworkable. The total project cost is projected at \$409,000, with an 80/20 grant-to-local match ratio; the city requests \$372,233 and would contribute roughly \$81,808. Seeing no comments received, Mayor Beyer closed the public hearing at 5:40 p.m.

VI. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

15. Council Member Harless introduced Resolution 2025-16, and moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Council Member Wickard. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nichols, McGrath, Wickard, Harless; Nay: None. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, NEBRASKA:

1. The public safety, convenience and welfare require that Pedestrian Crossings be established as authorized by §94.41 of the Municipal Code.
2. Pedestrian Crossings shall be established at the following street intersections at all of the sidewalk approaches to the intersections of the following street:

9th Street and O Street

Any other resolutions or portions of resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are repealed, except that this repeal shall not be construed to affect any liabilities or causes of action existing or pending at the time when this resolution becomes effective..

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025

ATTEST:


DORETTA J HUCK
CITY CLERK/TREASURER


GAIL BEYER
MAYOR

16. Council Member Wickard introduced Resolution 2025-17, and moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Council Member Harless. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Harless, Nichols, McGrath, Wickard; Nay: None. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-17

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL TO SIGN AN APPLICATION FOR CDBG FUNDS

Whereas, the City of Bridgeport, Nebraska, is an eligible unit of a general local government authorized to file an application under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, and,

Whereas, the City of Bridgeport, Nebraska, has obtained its citizens' comments on community development and housing needs; and has conducted public hearing(s) upon the proposed application and received favorable public comment respecting the application which for an amount of \$324,233.00 for sanitary sewer replacement project; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY

The City Council of the City of Bridgeport, that the Mayor be authorized and directed to proceed with the formulation of any and all contracts, documents or other memoranda between the City of Bridgeport and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development so as to effect acceptance of the grant application.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025

ATTEST:


DORETTA J HUCK
CITY CLERK/TREASURER


GAIL BEYER
MAYOR

VII. REPORTS

17. Departments:

Public Works: Have been unplugging storm drains; Shop roof is nearly complete, and the fence installation is scheduled for the first week of October.

Pwcc: Weight room AC has been fixed; Spin room condensing unit compressor failed, and Council Member McGrath will visit with Ron and Dane with a repair plan; New dance class launched successfully, high parental sign-ups; Received positive feedback on the new weight equipment.

Library: – After school program attendance is around 25 children; started Preschool “challenge story times”; Building renovation bid process opened through October 8; AC issues is under review by Library Board

Fire Dept: – Active membership at 16; Discussion revealed that two honorary members have been driving rural fire equipment; need to confirm insurance coverage through the rural board to mitigate liability; A volunteer service award plan and funding resolution will be presented in October to set clear performance incentives.

Nursing Home: Mayor Beyer and Michelle Coolidge continue to oversight fielding public inquiries; reduced resident census impacts rental revenue to the city.

Camp Clark Villa: – Is under the new management initiated cleanup and yard maintenance; currently showing vacancies (one two-bedroom, two-singles); With the HUD requirement, implementing an updated smoking policy in October requiring designated areas 25 feet from buildings, prompting tenant communication and possible unit turnover/rehab costs.

Sheriff: – August saw 175 calls and 19 arrests within the city limits; Department is now fully staffed with a newly promoted deputy (formerly dispatcher) and a dispatcher hire.

Golf Course: New gazebo installed at the driving range; upcoming events include girls high school golf tournament and high school cross country; Ongoing search for a course manager; golf cart storage sheds need targeted repairs (weatherproofing, board-up of wind gaps, possible sealing/painting).

Administration: – The security camera bid for the dump site is on the agenda to allow for monitored “free dump” days, with council to determine the duration. Coolidge stated there is concern from residents about having to cover the cost for others who are not maintaining their property and instead utilize the free roll-off services year-round. She noted that a proposed fee schedule has been prepared for council’s consideration should they wish to implement it to help offset costs.

The “Annual Free Fall Clean” is slated for October 4th from 8:00 - Noon

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

18. Council discussed their existing 1.5% pay cost of living increase resolution to begin October 1, 2025, and debated whether to add another 1.5% “merit” increase, bringing full-time, non-seasonal employees to a 3% raise while leaving part-timers at the original 1.5%. They also discussed renaming “merit” increased to reflect cost-of-living or longevity adjustments, handling employees on probation and separate certification-based pay bumps. After discussion a motion was made by Council Member Harless proposed to redo the previous (Resolution 2024-02) and adopt a 3% annual raise for all full and part-time staff, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Nichols, McGrath, Harless, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

19. Discussions were held regarding the hourly wage for seasonal pool staff. It was noted that the minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 per hour on January 1, 2026. While municipalities are exempt from this requirement, Council agreed it would not be practical to pay less when competing with other businesses paying minimum wage. It was also discussed to begin the process of hiring lifeguards earlier so that all certifications can be completed during the winter months.

IX. REGULAR AGENDA

20. Emergency Items – None.

21. Mayor Beyer stated the state project location is a sidewalk crossing from the Community Center to the Steel Grill. Council Member Harless made a motion to approve the mayor's signature to the Municipality Agreement State Project No. NH-STP-26-1(177) Control No. 51642 in Bridgeport, Agreement No. XL251, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Harless, Wickard, McGrath, Nichols; Nay: None. Motion carried.

22. Council Member Nichols made a motion to approve the mayor's signature to the following required documents for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the sanitary sewer project, as well as any additional documents necessary to complete or support this grant; seconded by Council Member McGrath. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Harless, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

23. Council Member Harless made a motion to accept the proposal from Alarm Security Technicians in the amount of \$1,449.32 for a 2-camera surveillance system, 4-channel DVR at roll off dump site located at 405 W 5th Street, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll off resulted at follows; Aye: Nichols, McGrath, Harless, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion passed.

24. Mayor Beyer stated there is approximately \$40,000 available in ACE Reward funds designated for community projects and requested input on potential improvements at East City Park. She suggested updates such as replacing the small playground equipment, installing rubber safety tiles similar to those used at the school, refreshing the shelter and picnic area, improving the restrooms, and possibly adding a piece of handicapped-accessible equipment. She will have Andy Leisy prepare cost estimates for presentation to the Council.

25. Mayor Beyer stated that the Morrill County Community Hospital will hold its meeting on September 18, at which time it will be determined whether they will accept the city's proposed \$150,000 installment plan agreement.

26. Mark Wickard presented his claim regarding the main water break on May 25, 2025. He reported that the water pressure caused flooding in his crawl space and damaged his \$8,000 boiler. He is seeking \$5,000 in damages to cover his private insurance deductible. Discussion followed regarding the failure of his backflow preventer as well as the broken pipe at the school. The city received a letter from its insurance company stating the city was not liable. After further discussion, the matter was tabled until the next meeting to allow the city time to obtain additional information on whether the school had filed a claim with the city's insurance company and received payment.

27. Craig Barnette addressed the council challenging a letter he received dated August 25, 2025, accusing him of removing the concrete sidewalk in front of his property and replacing it with rock. He repeatedly asked who had complained and when the council first learned of the issue, council members admitted they only sent one letter, could not name the complainant and had no clear record of prior notifications. They also conceded that "sidewalk" is undefined in local code (no required width, material, etc.) making enforcement arbitrary. The homeowner showed photos of his property which shows a sidewalk in front of his building, photos of nearby sidewalks needing repaired and title-history evidence suggesting no continuous sidewalk ever existed on his lot at the time of his purchase. Council members agreed that many sidewalks around town are in disrepair and that the city's outdated ordinances (dating from 1973) lack clear construction or maintenance standards. Council Member McGrath made a motion to rescind the letter dated August 25, 2025, and any requirements henceforth, seconded by Council Member Wickard. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Harless, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:55 p.m., Council Member Wickard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member McGrath. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Harless, Wickard, McGrath, Nichols; Nay: None. Motion carried.


Doretta J. Huck, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED:


Gail Beyer, Mayor

I, the undersigned Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is the full, true and correct original document of proceedings of Thursday, September 11, 2025, had and done by the Mayor and City Council; that all of the subjects included in the proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.


Doretta J. Huck, City Clerk