

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 10th day of December 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Prayer, Mayor Gail Beyer called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted as follows: Present: Tony McGrath, Carrie Harless, Mark Wickard, Jeff Nichols

Staff members present were: Melissa Butler, Ron Doggett

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 posting in the three designated places: USPS, City Hall and Prairie Winds Community Center

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 November 13, 2025.
7. Acceptance of the Monthly Treasurers Report.
8. Approve the resignation of Eric Anderson from the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department.
9. Approve the resignation of Tucker Straub from the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department.
10. Approve Natalie Teppert. from probationary to active status for the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department.

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

III. CLAIMS

11. Council Member Nichols stated 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: Harless, Wickard, McGrath; Abstain: Nichols; Nay: None. Motion carried.

12. Council Member Wickard made a motion to approve the remainder of the claims, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Wickard, Harless; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Claims: 385 Meat Market, Trng, \$56.77; Abdo Publishing, Bks, \$399.20; Aflac, Aflc, \$434.86; Alarm Security Technicians, Msm, \$32.95; Allo Communications LLC, Tlpn, \$917.30; American Funds Service Company, Retire, \$6,252.63; American Legal Publishing Corp, Df, \$399.00;

Ameritas Group Life Insurance, Amtrs, \$137.12; BB Associates, Misc, \$3,735.00; Benzel Pest Control Inc, Op, \$75.89; Black Hills Energy, Ht, \$1,865.75; Bloedorn Lumber, Rm, \$759.83; BCBS of NE, Hlth Ins, \$13,304.20; Bluffs Facility Solutions, Op, \$510.09; Bok Financial, Bnds Int, \$107,377.50; Bomgaars, Op / Rm / Shop / Tls, \$457.27; Bridgeport Chamber Bucks, Chmbr Bks / Op, \$4,040.00; Bridgeport News-Blade, Pp, \$436.85; Cengage Learning Inc, Bks, \$41.98; Century Business Products Inc, Op, \$42.44; Chimney Rock Public Power District, Elct, \$139.90; City Of Bridgeport, Elct / Mtr Dep, \$5,923.12; City Petty Cash/Checking, Df, \$56.00; Christina M Collins, Tlpn, \$40.00; Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co, Clnl, \$702.42; Community Center, Tr, \$15,000.00; Computer Connection, Op, \$98.00; Conserv Flag Company, Op, \$359.70; Contractors Materials Inc, Rm, \$109.00; Court House & Jail Rock Golf Course Inc, Glf, \$5,000.00; Crescent Electric Supply Company, Shop, \$189.05; Culligan Water Conditioning, Op, \$137.00; Ronald L Doggett, Tlpn, \$40.00; E & S Auto Supply, Op, \$837.50; Enviro Service Inc, Wtr Aly, \$60.00; Fairfield Inn & Suites, Trng, \$419.85; Federal, Fed, \$4,587.51; Fica, \$9,699.32; Fire Fund, Tr, \$6,000.00; General Treasury, Tr, \$60,000.00; Hawkins Inc, Tm / Tf, \$2,197.26; Health Savings Account, Hsa, \$2,088.00; Doretta J Huck, Tlpn, \$40.00; Ideal Linen & Uniform, Op, \$629.57; Dane M Jeffords, Tlpn, \$40.00; Kaiser Tire, Op / Rm, \$2,927.00; KNEB Fm - 94.1 The Brand, Pp, \$150.00; Kois Equipment Company Inc, Me, \$8,800.00; Koke's Auto Farm Truck Inc, Rm / Tls, \$879.04; Lee's Service Inc, Fl, \$301.25; Andrew S Leisy, Tlpn, \$40.00; Library Fund, Tr, \$11,000.00; Kyle E Lusetto, Tlpn, \$40.00; Masa Global, Ins, \$168.00; Medicare, Mdcr, \$2,268.58; Morrill County Sheriff, Cnty, \$36,780.00; Municipal Supply Inc Of Nebraska, Inv / Shop, \$598.53; Nebraska Dept Of Revenue, Sls Tx / State, \$12,245.03; Nebraska Public Power District, Msm, \$73.66; Perry E Nelson, Tlpn, \$40.00; Jeffrey T Nichols, Cnt Svc, \$1,705.00; NMC, Rm, \$391.27; Northwest Pipe Fittings Inc Of Scottsbluff, Rm, \$308.53; One Call Concepts Inc, Op, \$9.80; Optk Networks, Tlpn, \$75.00; Park Fund, Tr, \$9,000.00; Platte Valley Visa, Op, \$4,602.45; Plummer Insurance Inc, Of Bnds, \$700.00; Pohl's Welding & Fab Inc, Op, \$51.46; Police Fund, Tr, \$36,780.00; Power Manager, Df, \$9,104.58; Quadient Finance Usa Inc, Pstg, \$500.00; Regional Care Inc Group II, Hsa, \$64.00; Reliance Standard Life Ins Co, Lf Ins, \$526.90; Brody Joe Retchless, Cnt Svc, \$750.00; Rodak Law Office, Lgl Rtnr, \$1,000.00; Sandberg Implement Inc, Rm, \$46.62; Fay Scarrow, Tlpn, \$40.00; Bryan Schluterbusch, Tlpn, \$40.00; Scottsbluff Screen Printing & Embroidery, Pgrm, \$324.00; Paul A Sides, Tlpn, \$40.00; Parker Smith, Cnt Svc, \$748.00; Sonnys Super Foods, Op / Tf, \$486.26; Spic-Span Cleaners, Op, \$2,145.00; Stonegate Seamless Roofing LLC, Rm, \$4,301.54; Street Fund, Tr, \$5,000.00; Stuart C Irby Co, Inv, \$370.62; Sunrise Cleaners, Op, \$39.00; Trading Post Enterprises LLC, Fl, \$1,295.65; Waste Connections Of Ne Inc, Trsh, \$21,349.72; Wyoming First Aid & Safety Supply LLC, Shop, \$136.91; Total Claims, \$433,913.23; Total Salary, \$49,353.60

***Aflc = Aflac; Amtrs = Ameritas; Audit = Auditing; Bks = Books; Bnds Int = Bonds & Interest; Clnl = Colonial; Cnt Svc = Contract Services; Cnty = County Contract; Df = Dues & Fees; Elct = Electric Bills; Fed = Federal; Fica = Fica; Fl = Fuel; Glf = Golf Course; Hlth Ins = Health Insurance; Hsa = Health Savings; Ht = Heat; Ins = Insurance; Inv = Inventory; Lf Ins = Life Insurance; Lgl Rtnr = Legal Retainer; Mdcr = Medicare; Me = Machinery & Equipment; Misc = Miscellaneous; Msm = Museum; Mtr Dep = Meter Deposit; Of Bnds = Officers Bonds; Op = Operating Expense; Pgrm = Program Supplies; Pp = Printing & Publications; Pstg = Postage; Retire = Retirement / City Share; Rm = Repairs & Maintenance; Shop = Shop Supplies; Sls Tx = Sales N Use Tax; State = State; Tf = Treatment Facility; Tlpn = Telephone; Tls = Tools; Tr = Transfer Out; Trng = Training; Trsh = Trash; Wtr Aly = Water Analysis;

IV. ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

13. Election of Council President – Mark Wickard

Council Member Harless made a motion to approve Mark Wickard as Council President, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Harless; Abstain: Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

14. Discussion and action on the following Mayor appointments:

- a. City Attorney – *Travis Rodak*
- b. City Clerk/Treasurer – *Doretta Huck*
- c. City Physician – *Doug Hadden*
- d. City Fire Chief – *Casey Sides*
- e. Assistant Fire Chief – *Darrell Menke*
- f. City Engineer – *M.C. Schaff & Associates*
- g. City Street Superintendent – *Jeff Wolfe*
- h. City Zoning Inspector – *Dane Jeffords*

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

15. Discussion and action on the following Council assignments:

- i. Law Enforcement / Finances / City Administrator / Fire Dept / MCCH / Skyview – *Mayor*
- j. Human Resources – *City Administrator, City Attorney, Mayor*
- k. Electric / Water / Wastewater / Street – *under the direction of Utility Supervisor and reports to Council - Mark Wickard, City Administrator*
- l. Golf Course / Library – *Jeff Nichols*
- m. Camp Clarke Villa / Museum – *Carrie Harless*
- n. Insurance / Buildings / Real Estate – *Mark Wickard*
- o. Budget – *City Attorney*
- p. PWCC / MCCH – *Tony McGrath*

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

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

16. None

VI. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

17. Ordinance 1032 will increase the Mayor's salary to \$5,400.00 per year and Council Members to \$4,200.00 / year for terms beginning after the 2026 election.

Council Member Nichols introduced Ordinance No. 1032 on first reading, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE AMOUNT OF SALARY FOR THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL; PRESCRIBING THE TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM, seconded by Council Member Harless. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Harless, Wickard; Nay: None. Ordinance 1032 passed on first reading.

18. Ordinance 1033 amends the city zoning code to regulate medical cannabis establishments permitting them in Agriculture, Commercial Business District, Highway Commercial or Industrial through a conditional use permit, while barring them near residential, churches and schools.

Council Member Nichols introduced Ordinance No. 1033 on first reading, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BRIDGEPORT CITY CODE CHAPTER 153: ZONING CODE TO CREATE STANDARDS REGARDING MEDICAL CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE CITY; PRESCRIBING THE TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM, seconded by Council Member Harless. Roll Call resulted as follows; Aye: Harless, McGrath, Nichols, Wickard; Nay: None. Ordinance 1033 passed on first reading.

VII. REPORTS

19. Department Reports:

Public Works: Ron stated the new sander has been installed and is working well. He thanked the office staff for handling the calls during the electrical outage from the windstorm and requested ordering a toolbox in the amount of \$1,400.00 for the small bucket truck to protect and store line hoses, which was approved by council.

PWCC: Tony stated the holiday preparations are going well and noted the community center is a bit short-staffed and a new manual on fees and usage will be presented in January.

Library: Last month the library ran a variety of programs: Princess Tea Party, Team laser tag, D&D Sessions, Slime and tie-dye wall-painting workshops, and Maker Club with a steady weekly attendance of 20–25 regulars. The Teen Advisory Group helped win a snow Redfern Grant for \$5,000 to purchase a 3D printer, materials, and cover training and travel. A computer-use logging will soon be automated via the library's updated cataloging software.

Fire Dept: They reviewed upcoming events and recruitment plans, a free-will-donation supper with Santa visiting on Sunday, Launching and advertising a new fire-department recruitment incentive program, and currently there are 14 members on the roster.

Nursing Home: Mayor Beyer met with Mitch Friedman from Senex to review recent changes at the nursing home, where turnover has been high (four administrators in as many months and a departing director of nursing). The activity director has stepped up community-focused events, and a recent walkthrough found the facility noticeably cleaner. Occupancy sits at 27 of 44 beds; payments have fallen to about half their usual amount because of low census.

Camp Clarke Villa: Camp Park Villa is doing very well under the management of the Scottsbluff Housing Authority.

Sheriff: In November the department handled 152 calls and made 17 arrests. Cardenas noted that EMS calls will not align with theirs because EMS counts per patient on the call while the sheriff's department logs a single call. These different counting methods explain the discrepancy.

Golf Course: Will advertise earlier for a golf-course manager. The city provides \$5,000 a month (over ten months) toward the course's budget, and the course recently spent money on new green's cover. Council Member Nichols will remind the golf course to submit their monthly financial reports

Administration: At 5:58 pm Council Member Wickard made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel and a resignation and to include City Attorney Rodak and City Administrator Coolidge and no action would be taken while in executive session, seconded by Council Member Harless. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Wickard, Harless, Nichols; Nay; None. Motion carried.

At 6:10 p.m. Council Member Wickard made a motion to exit executive session with no action taken, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Wickard, Harless; Nay: None.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

20. Emergency Items – None.
21. A proclamation was read by Mayor Beyer naming January 2026 as National Mentoring Month recognizing Bridgeport Teammates for supporting youths.
22. Jerry Leistriz of Telecom West met with council to review and renew their lease on the municipal water-tower, which Telecom West uses to mount its wireless internet antenna. Under the current arrangement, Telecom West provides free internet service to several city facilities (police training center, museum, swimming pool, treatment plant) in exchange for tower access. Jerry emphasized that his company accepts no grant money and currently serves about 150 residential and business customers in Bridgeport. The council questioned usage fees, regulatory compliance and lease rates. Rather than ending the agreement, both sides agreed to draft a formal proposal—with clear service terms, pricing or trade-off details, for January regular meeting.
23. Council and Library Board Director Butler discussed a bid received to renovate library's teen room. Council discussed a formal bid process that was carried out before the full council saw the plans, before funds were fully in hand, and without getting the required three competitive bids. The lone bid came in at about \$150,000 (roughly \$260 per square foot) for a 24 x 24-foot teen renovation room, which many considered excessive.

Council would like clarification on the intended use of the space, secure all funding, and follow proper city procedures by redoing the bid process with multiple vendors before the city approves or denies the project.

Library Director Butler asked the council to approve a small "contingency" from city funds so they can accept several capital-project grants without risking a funding shortfall. Friends of the Library have raised over \$85,300.00 over the last few years and \$1,850.00 in recent donations but can't formally accept further grants until the city pledges backup funding. Under the 2025-2026 city budget only \$10,000.00 is available for capital improvements.

Clarification on the boards was discussed stating; The Library Board oversees operations and budget requests; the Friends of the Library (a separate 501(c)(3)) which does fundraising and volunteer programs; the Teen Advisory Group is made up of local students. The city owns the building and must authorize any remodeling. In late 2022 the Council granted the library use of an extra 24×24 space formerly occupied by the Fire Department but did not state they would fund a renovation project with the use.

24. Council Member Wickard made a motion to approve the mayor's signature on the Certificate of Compliance for the 2024 Maintenance Agreement which has been completed for the period January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Harless, Nichols, McGrath, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.
25. Council Member Wickard made a motion to approve the mayor's signature to the 2025 City Maintenance Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and NDOT for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, seconded by Council Member Harless. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Wickard, Harless; Nay: None. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Wickard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m., seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: McGrath, Harless, Wickard, Nichols Nay: None. Meeting Adjourned.

Doretta J Huck, 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, December 10, 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 / Treasurer