

**City of Bennet, Nebraska**  
**City Council**  
**Minutes January 19, 2026**  
**Regular Meeting**

The City Council (“Council”) of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (“City”), convened for a regular business meeting on January 19, 2026 at 7:03 PM, at the Bennet City Hall, 685 Monroe, Bennet, NE 68317, the same being open to the public and preceded by advance publicized notice duly given in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, having set forth (a) the time, date, and place of the meeting, (b) that the meeting would be open to the public, and (c) that the agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk, and posted at the City Office, Post Office, and First Nebraska Bank on January 16, 2026.

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. City Clerk Sue Biltoft conducted roll call. Council Members in attendance: Josh Buck, Pete Simmons, Dan Zieg. Councilman Jesse Schmidt arrived late. City Attorney David Solheim and his colleague Matt Blaser, City Engineer Brian Schuele and City Utility Superintendent Zach Fergus, were also in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. MINUTES of December 8, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Approval
- b. CLAIMS for Payment
- c. Treasurers Report

Zieg moved and Buck seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Zieg, Buck. ABSENT: Schmidt. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney re-introduced the USPS Lease Renewal. Matt Blaser reviewed the lease and the options for renewal. After discussion, the council requested Matt negotiate a 5-year lease renewal with the leasing agent for the Postal Service and present it at the February meeting. Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2026-1.2, A Resolution to Approve Proposed U.S. Post Office Lease Renewal. Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1.2 for a single 5-year term. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced the Quincy Right-of-Way project. Discussion was held regarding the changes needed on the lots. City Attorney Solheim recommended a new plat created and all property owners signing the plat showing agreement to the changes. Confirmation from Lancaster County will be needed. Simmons moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the project. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. ABSTAIN (WITH CONFLICT): Buck. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney presented an agreement with Ray Planning Solutions that will provide assistance on building permits and zoning requirements for approval. Buck moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the Ray Planning Solutions agreement. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Zieg, Schmidt, Buck. Motion carried.

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Kyle McLaughlin provided an overview on the Bennet Safety Action Plan Final Report that was completed and provided to the council. Discussion was held on the possibilities of grant applications to provide funding to complete the plan.

Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2026-1.1, a Resolution for the adoption of the SS4A Safety Action Plan. Simmons moved and Zieg seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1.1. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on a plan Brian Schuele introduced creating a concrete parking lot on the east side of the T-Ball Field for the council's review.

Jesse Schmidt explained the funding accounts that the city has and suggested moving funds from accounts at First Nebraska: \$143,000 from Sewer Bond to NPAIT Debt Service Subaccount, move the entirety of the Park Fund Savings Account into the NPAIT general Fund. At Union Bank & Trust, funds from the two CD's that matured on 12-29-25, Water Sinking Fund and Sewer Sinking Fund moved to NPAIT Water and Sewer Subaccounts. Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the fund transfers as suggested. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Reports were reviewed and Utilities Superintendent Zach Fergus explained to the council about a water main leak near the Lancaster Rural Water meter area by the water tower. Lovell Excavating will be working to locate the leak and assist with the repair.

Zieg moved and Buck seconded to go into closed session at 8:15 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Schmidt, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

The council returned to open session at 8:43 pm.

There being no further business, Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:44. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Buck, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

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City Clerk Sue Bilstoft

City of Bennet, NE

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Mayor, Ryan Cheney

City of Bennet, NE

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