

**City of Bennet, Nebraska**  
**City Council**  
**Minutes February 9, 2026**  
**Regular Meeting**

The City Council (“Council”) of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (“City”), convened for a regular business meeting on February 9, 2026 at 7:00 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 February 6, 2026.

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. City Clerk Sue Biltoft conducted roll call. Council Members in attendance were Josh Buck, Jesse Schmidt, Pete Simmons, and Dan Zieg. Also in attendance were the City Attorney David Solheim, Deputy City Attorney Matt Blaser and Utility Superintendent Zach Fergus. A quorum being present the meeting duly commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes from January 19, 2026, City Council Regular Meeting Approval
- b. Claims for payment
- c. Treasurers Report

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

Mayor Cheney signed the revised USPS Lease that was presented and approved by Resolution 2026-1.2 at the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with the provision of the lease being revised for only for a five-year period initially.

Zach Fergus presented the bids received for the Maintenance Building Specifications that were received. The bids were: Sterup Construction LLC, \$90,000.00; Vasa Construction, \$122,279.00; Morton Buildings, \$124,218.00; Ebbers Construction, \$125, 526.01; Elevate Construction LLC, \$129, 722.04. Discussion was held on the requirements of the final contract.

Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to award the bid to Sterup Construction LLC pending provision of engineered drawings as requested. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Quincy Street Right-of-Way Agreement was tabled until the March meeting.

Lillie Chambers presented the request to close Highway 43 for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade using the same times and map as previous years. Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2026-2.1 approving the temporary use of Highway 43 for a special event on July 4, 2026. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2026-2.1. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Zieg, Buck, Schmidt. Motion carried.

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Lillie Chambers also provided information regarding the fireworks display that will be geared toward the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States and requested a budget in the amount of \$14,000.00. Simmons moved and Zieg seconded a motion to approve the budget of \$14,000.00 for fireworks. Roll call vote: YES: Zieg, Buck, Schmidt, Simmons. Motion carried.

Kristin Nelson was present for questions regarding the Block Party Application request by BEDA for the Firefly Festival, June 12 -13, 2026. She explained the reason for the request to close Garden Street at Madison starting on Friday at 10:00 pm through Saturday at midnight. After discussion it was decided to close Garden Street on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from morning until midnight. A resolution will be presented for approval at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Cheney presented the Nemaha Natural Resources District Grant Application and discussion was held on the possible uses for the grant funds if received. Zieg moved to submit the Intent-to-Apply form for grant funds that can be used for the trail program or native grass at Whispering Pines Park, Buck seconded. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Written reports were reviewed and Utility Superintendent Fergus explained that an application for the Public Works position had accepted the position but resigned prior to starting with the City so that position will be open again for applications.

Mayor Cheney opened the floor to public comment.

Zieg moved to go into closed session after receiving legal advice based on threatening or pending litigation at 7:30 pm and Buck seconded. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The council returned to open session at 8:12 pm.

There being no further business, Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

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City Clerk Sue Biltoft  
City of Bennet, NE

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Mayor, Ryan Cheney  
City of Bennet, NE