

City of Bennet, Nebraska
City Council
Minutes September 8, 2025
Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting

The Bennet City Council (the "Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a budget hearing on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at City Office, 685 Monroe Street, Bennet, NE 68317, the same being open to the public and preceded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, and having set forth (a) the time, date and place of the meeting; (b) that the meeting would be open to the attendance of the public; and (c) that an agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the offices of the City Clerk and posted at the City Office, Post Office and First Nebraska Bank.

Mayor Cheney called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. Roll call. Council Members in attendance: Josh Buck, Pete Simmons, Dan Zieg, and Mayor Ryan Cheney. City Clerk Sue Biltoft, City Utilities Superintendent Zach Fergus, and City Engineer Brian Schuele were also in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting duly commenced.

Mayor Cheney opened a public hearing for the presentation of the proposed 2025/2026 budget document at 6:07 pm. Seeing no testifiers, Mayor Cheney closed the public hearing at 6:17 pm. Mayor Cheney opened a public hearing to set the final tax request. Jesse Schmidt arrived at this time. Seeing no testifiers, Mayor Cheney closed the public hearing at 6:20 pm.

Mayor Cheney announced public comment.

There being no further business, Simmons moved and Buck seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The Bennet City Council (the "Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a regular business meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025 immediately after the Budget Hearing at City Hall, 685 Monroe Street, Bennet, NE, the same being open to the public and preceded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, and having set forth (a) the time, date and place of the meeting; (b) that the meeting would be open to the attendance of 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.

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. Roll call. Council Members in attendance: Josh Buck, Pete Simmons, Dan Zieg, Jesse Schmidt and Mayor Ryan Cheney. City Clerk Sue Biltoft, City Utilities Superintendent Zach Fergus, and City Engineer Brian Schuele were also in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting duly commenced. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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The Council reviewed items on the consent agenda, which included: (a) Minutes of August 11, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Approval; (b) claims for payment; (c) Treasurer's report; (d) Resolution 2025-9.1; a resolution for the NPAIT enrollment, Resolution 2025-9.2; a resolution approving a Block Party Application, Bennet Community Church; Resolution 2025-9.3 a resolution re-appointing Board of Adjustment Members; Resolution 2025-9.4 a resolution appointing Board of Adjustment members.

Simmons moved and Zeig seconded a motion that all items under the consent agenda except item (b) claims for payment, be approved and accepted as presented. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney announced public comment.

Mayor Cheney requested approval of Consent Agenda Item 3b. Claims with the addition of Lovell Invoice 1165 in the amount of \$1350.00 presented for payment. Simmons moved and Buck seconded a motion to approve the addition of the Lovell Invoice to the Claims presented for payment. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Buck, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced Ordinance 2025-8.1 and ordinance adopting and adjustment to water rates for the First Reading. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded approval of First Reading. Roll call vote: YES: Zieg, Schmidt, Buck, Simmons. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the RFP Solid Waste Services to set dates to accept bids and bid opening. Zieg moved approval sealed bids accepted until 5:00 pm on October 6th, 2025, and bids reviewed for consideration on October 13th, 2025, with services to begin on January 1st, 2026, Simmons seconded. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney opened a public hearing at 6:37 pm on the Bennet One-and-Six Year Plan for 2026. Brian Schuele explained the street plans as presented and informed the council about possible grants available starting in March. Olsson will assist the City Clerk with the grant process at that time. He also spoke about NDOT's plan for Highway 43 through the city. The plan includes narrowing of the actual highway which would then allow sidewalks/trailways and trees along the side of the highway. No other comments were made, and Mayor Cheney closed the hearing at 6:44 pm. Simmons moved and Zieg seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2025-9.6 adopting the Bennet One-and-Six-Year Plan for 2026. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney presented Resolution 2025-9.5, a resolution setting the property tax request according to the one percent plus growth resulting in a tax levy of 0.284585 per \$100 assessed

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value. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded approval. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Resident Barbie Bruss, 735 Jackson Street, had brought a concern regarding the storm water drainage behind her property to the August's meeting. After reviewing the maps and pictures of the problem, the decision was to tear the trees out and put concrete riff raff in the water shed at this time to slow the erosion problem. City Engineer Brian Schuele will get estimates to permanently fix the problem.

Councilman Josh Buck led a discussion about a Community For Kids grant program to provide childcare in the OR-1 School District. Plans are being created for properties both in Bennet and Palmyra and Buck requested community support for this project.

Mayor Cheney re-introduced the situation on Quincy Street showing the area needs possibly replatting. City Engineer Brian Schuele is going to speak with Catlett Surveying to see what the cost would be, and solutions to correct the situation. The Council discussed other problem areas in the city that might need addressed in the future.

The Council discussed the type of RFP needing to be sent out for the construction of a maintenance building at the WWTP to replace the current building by the south ball field. The new maintenance building will need to be engineered, and the RFP will be sent out after the first of the year.

City Engineer Schuele introduced a project on Madison Street from Cottonwood Street to Dogwood Street for a quote of \$22,186.00 and another project, City Hall Area Inlet in the amount of \$9,775.00. Concern was brought up about the inlet project at Van Buren and Garden vs the Madison Street repair. Schuele will be looking into the inlet project again and getting quotes on the cost associated.

Simmons moved approval of the Madison Street from Cottonwood Street to Dogwood Street, Buck seconded the motion. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Buck. NO: Schmidt, Zieg. There being a tie, Mayor Cheney voted YES. Motion carried.

Simmons moved approval of the City Hall Area Inlet, Zieg seconded the motion. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. NO: Buck. Motion carried.

Jesse Schmidt introduced a plan to invest monies into long-term CD's to generate interest that will assist with the Highway bond payments over the remainder of the bond. He will bring examples to the October meeting with balances available for investments.

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City Engineer Brian Schuele informed the council that he and Utility Superintendent Zach Fergus will be working on requesting quotes to create a parking area on the east side of the T-Ball field.

Utility Superintendent Zach Fergus announced the receipt of meters that will be placed at the Bennet School and Zermatt Tool, Inc. The best times for installment at both locations will be on a Saturday.

Mayor Cheney opened the floor for public comment and reminded everyone they must state their name and address, keep comments to a three-minute time limit and the council will not respond to anything not on the agenda.

Rob Predmore, Predmore Designs, spoke about problems with the construction of 195 Switchgrass Lane and left a completed application for a variance for the set-back issue.

Larry Kramer spoke on behalf of the Bennet Builders about a winter program they are working on in the park and requested the possibility of a banner across the highway. He will officially present the request at the October council meeting.

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

City Clerk, Sue Biltoft

Mayor, Ryan Cheney