

**City of Bennet, Nebraska
City Council
Minutes April 13, 2026
Regular Meeting**

The City Council ("Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska ("City"), convened for a regular business meeting on April 13, 2026 at 8:00 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 April 10, 2026.

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Mayor Cheney. Dan Zieg was absent. Also in attendance were City Attorney David Solheim, Deputy City Attorney Matt Blaser, City Engineer Brian Schuele and Utility Superintendent Zach Fergus. A quorum being present the meeting duly commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 3.a. Minutes from March 9, 2026, City Council Regular Meeting Approval
- 3.b. Claims
- 3.c. Treasurers Report

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

Mason Favinger was not at the meeting, so no action was taken regarding his request.

Mayor Cheney introduced Review of Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCFF) – Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Reintroduction of Bennet Palmyra Childcare Foundation as requested by Schmidt who provided an update on grant requirements and progress.

City Attorney Solheim requested the Quincy Street Right-of-Way Agreements discussion/action be tabled until the May meeting.

Michael Hoback presented the audit report for FY 24/25 and made recommendations to the council to improve the debt ratio in the water and sewer utilities departments.

Engineer Schuele presented the scope of tasks and estimated cost provided by Olsson for implementation of the Bennet Safety Action Plan grant request. Simmons moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the scope of grant application costs from \$7,200.00 up to \$14,800 with approval from the Mayor. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced discussion of the illegal septic system at 17300 Bennet Road and history of the situation. Deputy Attorney Blaser has spoken with the Lancaster County Health Department about the necessary proceedings to correct the problem and what the next step in the process would be. The Health Department will refer the problem to the State of Nebraska.

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Mayor Cheney referred to the pictures of 560 Garden and the need for cleanup on this property. Attorney Solheim's office will send a courtesy letter to the owner requesting action be taken to address the problem.

The 2026 CIP forms and list of 2025 projects were made available to council members.

Written reports from staff and law enforcement hours were reviewed.

Mayor Cheney opened the floor for public comment.

Simmons moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to go into closed session after receiving legal advice based on threatening or pending litigation at 9:20 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Buck, Schmidt. Motion carried.

The council returned to open session at 9:33 pm.

There being no further business, Simmons moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:34 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons. Motion carried.

City Clerk Sue Biltoft
City of Bennet, NE

Mayor, Ryan Cheney
City of Bennet, NE