

**City of Bennet, Nebraska**  
**City Council**  
**Minutes August 11, 2025**  
**Budget Workshop & Regular Meeting**

The Bennet City Council (the "Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a budget workshop on Monday, August 11, 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 6:00 p.m. 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, City Attorney David Solheim and City Engineer Brian Schuele were also in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting duly commenced.

Hoback provided a detailed report of income and expense projections for 2025/2026 with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects included. With the CIP projects included, Hoback recommended an increase in the tax request the two percent plus allowable growth. Hoback commended the Council for going through the Capital Improvement Plan process and scheduling out budget items prior to the budget workshop.

Lillie Chambers presented the budget for Celebrate Bennet including the Fireworks show. Previously the city has paid \$8,500.00 for the fireworks show, it was decided to increase the fireworks budget from the city to \$10,000.00.

Walker Zulkoski, from Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) presented the investment options available to public entities in Nebraska and the options available for the City.

Mayor Cheney announced public comment.

There being no further business, Simmons moved and Zeig seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Simmons, Zieg, Schmidt. Motion carried.

The Bennet City Council (the "Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a regular business meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025 immediately after the Budget Workshop 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 7:08 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, City Attorney David Solheim 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 July 14, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Approval; (b) claims for payment; (c) Treasurer's report; (d) Resolution 2025-8.1, a resolution authorizing the signing of the Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards.

Zieg moved and Buck seconded a motion that all items under the consent agenda be approved and accepted as presented. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney announced public comment.

NPAIT enrollment was discussed, and a resolution will be presented at September's meeting for approval.

Levi Viter, representing BEDA, asked the council to approve the placement of two bike racks, one in each park, and the city would install them. He also requested to place a tree in honor of Chuck Uribe at the Bennet City Main Park, Tailored Landscape will be installing the tree. The city park committee will decide the placement. Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve BEDA's request. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Zieg, Buck, Schmidt. Motion carried.

Josh Buck led a discussion on the zoning enforcements needs to be addressed along with normal code enforcement. One of the needs he addressed is requiring footing surveys to make the sure the builders are following the setback regulations. Since there are currently no fines set for code enforcement infractions, the utility committee will be meeting to discuss the situation.

At this time Mayor Cheney recused himself and turned the meeting procedures over to Council President Pete Simmons.

President Simmons called the Public Hearing on the Conditional Use Permit requested by Ryan Cheney, to order at 7:31 pm and announced the requirements for those wishing to speak on the matter.

Ryan Cheney addressed the council explaining the procedures he has followed and the fact that he will need to present his permit request to the Board of Adjustment for approval if he plans to make any changes to the property. Several people approached the council to voice their concerns regarding the permit.

The public hearing was closed at 8:05 p.m.

Zieg moved and Buck seconded a motion to approve the conditional use permit with a buffer or trees or shrubs on the Monroe side of the lot, with a final site plan with sketches submitted to City Council prior to the permit being issued. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Dan Zieg reported the utility committee discussed a change in the water rates for high usage above 20,000 gallons per month. A recommendation was made for rates to be charged, and an Ordinance will be created and presented at the meeting in September.

City Engineer Brian Schuele presented six proposals for street repairs by Pavers:

**City of Bennet, Nebraska**  
**City Council**  
**Minutes August 11, 2025**  
**Budget Workshop & Regular Meeting**

Jefferson Street from Cottonwood Street to Dogwood Street by Pavers in the amount of \$24,257.00. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Buck, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Jefferson Street from Dogwood Street to Elm Street in the amount of \$10,771.00. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Schmidt, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Madison Street from Elm Street to Fir Street in the amount of \$19,852.00. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Cottonwood Street culvert in the amount of \$7,250.00. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve. Roll call vote: YES: Zieg, Buck, Schmidt, Simmons. Motion carried.

Tyler Street ditch grading in the amount of \$3,983.00. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Elm Street parking at the Bennet Park. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded to approve with additional parallel parking on Elms Street not to exceed \$25,000. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed written reports submitted by City staff and other communications.

Council President Simmons opened the floor to public comment.

Glenn Schiffer spoke about problems with trees in the ditch at the property on northeast corner of Madison and Dogwood. Barbie Bruss spoke about the storm waterway behind her property from the storm sewer on the highway.

There being no further business, Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

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City Clerk Sue Biltoft

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Mayor, Ryan Cheney