

**City of Bennet, Nebraska**  
**City Council**  
**Minutes for December 9, 2024**  
**Regular Meeting**

The City Council ("Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska ("City"), convened for a regular business meeting on December 9, 2024, at 7:00PM at Bennet Elementary, 50 Dogwood St, Bennet, NE 68317, the same being open to the public and preceded by advanced 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.

Mayor Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. Roll call. Members in attendance: Steve Bettendorf, Justin Dorn, Pete Simmons, Dan Zieg, Ryan Cheney. City Engineer Brian Schuele, City Clerk Sue Biltoft, and City Attorney David Solheim were also in attendance. *A quorum being present, the meeting commenced.*

The council reviewed items on the consent agenda, which included: (a) minutes for meeting of the Council on November 11, 2024; (b) claims for payment; (c) Treasurer's report; (d) payment to Paver's Inc in the amount of \$95,734.93 for Bennet Street Improvements; and (e) payment request #2 to Van Kirk Bros in the amount of \$74,445.36. Zieg moved approval, and Dorn seconded. Roll call: YES: Bettendorf, Dorn, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney announced public comment.

Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2024-9.2 to approve the Water Purchase Agreement with Lancaster County Rural Water District #1. After discussion, no action was taken.

The Safe Streets for All (SS4A) RFP Selection Committee recommended awarding the consultant contract to Olsson. Zieg moved approval, Bettendorf seconded. Roll call: YES: Bettendorf, Dorn, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The Mayor and Council recognized outgoing members Dorn and Bettendorf for their service.

There being no further business for this term of the City Council, Zieg moved to adjourn Sine Die, and Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Dorn, Bettendorf. NO: Simmons, Zieg. There being a tie, Mayor Cheney voted YES. Motion carried.

The Council reconvened for a new term on the same date and at the same location, being open to the public and preceded by advanced 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.

Mayor Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:34PM and *announced the location of the Open Meetings Act*. Roll call. Members in attendance: Josh Buck, Jesse Schmidt, Pete Simmons, Dan Zieg, Ryan Cheney. City Engineer Brian Schuele, City Clerk Sue Biltoft, and City Attorney David Solheim were also in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting commenced.

Newly elected council members Buck and Schmidt were sworn into office.

Zieg nominated Simmons for Council President, Schmidt seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney appointed the following committees:

Personnel – Simmons, Zieg

Utilities – Zieg, Buck

Finance – Schmidt, Simmons

Streets – Simmons, Buck

Parks – Schmidt, Buck

Housing – Zieg, Schmidt

Zieg moved approval of the committee appointments, Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2024-12.1 Appointment of Officials. Zieg moved approval, and Buck seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.



Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2024-12.2 Appointment of Street Superintendent. Zieg moved approval, and Buck seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2024-12.3 Reappoint Thomas Lemon to Board of Adjustment. Zieg moved approval, and Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced Ordinance 2024-12.1 to Create the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer position and job description. Zieg moved to waive the 3 reading requirement, and Buck seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Simmons, Zieg. No: Schmidt. Motion carried. Zieg moved final approval, and Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced Ordinance 2024-12.2 to Establish Compensation for Elected Officials. After discussion, Buck moved to amend the ordinance to set compensation for council members at \$350 per regular meeting and \$150 per special meeting/hearing, and for the mayor at \$800 per month. Zieg seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried. Zieg moved to waive the 3 reading requirement, Schmidt seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried. Zieg moved final approval, Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Simmons, Zieg. ABSTAIN: Buck, Schmidt. There being a tie, the mayor voted YES. Motion carried.

Zieg moved to advance the agenda to Item 5.1 LCSO November 2024 Report. Schmidt seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

LCSO provided a report on crime statistics and law enforcement activities in the community.

The City Attorney Solheim introduced the updated contract for legal services with Solheim Law Firm for \$1200 per month. Buck moved approval, Zieg seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

City Clerk Biltoft discussed a change in the date for the January meeting due to scheduling conflicts. The new date will be January 7, 2025, at 7:00PM at Bennet Elementary School. Buck moved approval, and Schmidt seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The Mayor and Council discussed maturity dates and interest rates on certificates of deposit. Schmidt will review the same with financial institutions and report back. No action.

Mayor Cheney introduced Resolution 2024-12.4 Adopt Updated Master Fee Schedule. Simmons moved approval, Buck seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The Mayor and Council discussed remodeling the city building at 685 Monroe. Buck moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract for remodeling not to exceed \$20,000. Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The Mayor and Council discussed Change Order #3 with Van Kirk Bros on the water main extension project. Zieg moved approval, and Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

After comments from the City Attorney, Zieg moved to reconsider Ordinance 2024-12.2. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried. Zieg moved to amend to set compensation for council members at \$250 per regular meeting and \$150 per special meeting/hearing, with no changes to the mayor's compensation due to the mayor being mid-term; the mayor's compensation may be adjusted in the future to take effect during the next term of office. Simmons seconded. Roll call. YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The Council reviewed written reports submitted by City staff.

Mayor Cheney opened the floor to public comment.

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



City Attorney David Solheim  
Sitting in for the City Clerk



Mayor Ryan Cheney