

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

The City Council ("Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska ("City"), convened for a regular business meeting on March 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 March 6, 2026.

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. City Clerk Sue Bilstoft 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, City Engineer Brian Schuele and Utility Superintendent Zach Fergus. A quorum being present the meeting duly commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes from February 9, 2026, City Council Regular Meeting Approval
- b. Claims for payment
- c. Treasurers Report
- d. RESOLUTION 2026-3.1 approving a Block Party for BEDA's Firefly Festival

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

Mayor Cheney introduced Review of Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF) – Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Reintroduction of Bennet Palmyra Childcare Foundation as requested by Schmidt. Discussion was held and Schmidt will begin working on the grant process with assistance from other organizations.

City Attorney Solheim presented the draft of the Quincy Street Right-of-Way Agreements. After discussion was held, he will amend the draft and present it again at the April meeting.

Brandon Garvin presented his request for a curb cut waiver for the council to review. Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the curb cut not to exceed 12 feet in width with a paved approach. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Dave Griffith explained the need for a driveway to be installed on Saltillo Road for access to the Hunter's Ridge Addition well house for maintenance. Buck moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve waiver of relinquishment of direct vehicular access to Saltillo Road, as set forth in that certain Final Plat for Hunter's Ridge dated September 21, 2006, recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Lancaster County, Nebraska, Instrument No. 2006-052912, for the limited purpose of allowing vehicular access to maintain the shared well located in the northeast corner of Lot 7, Hunter's Ridge Addition, Lancaster County, Nebraska. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Buck, Schmidt. ABSTAIN (WITH CONFLICT): Zieg. Motion carried.

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Kristi Sittner reported her concerns regarding a drain on Fir Street between Monroe and Madison Streets. City Engineer Schuele and Utility Superintendent Fergus had examined the problem prior to the meeting. Schuele indicated that it would be an inlet repair similar to the one close to the city office that was completed in the fall. He will include the estimated cost with the street plans later in the year.

It was decided the annual Clean Up Day will be held on April 25, 2026, with the normal hours of 8 am to noon. Council members are encouraged to take part and assist residents with clean up needs.

Written reports were reviewed with updates from Schuele and discussion was held on the need for painting the concrete speed bumps for better identification. Fergus reported that Ricky Skillett has been hired for the Public Works Worker I position and started the end of February plus all water and wastewater tests taken were approved by the labs. He explained the options of what it would take to remove the roosting turkey vultures from the water tower and the cost is estimated at around \$300.00.

Mayor Cheney opened the floor for public comment.

Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of receiving legal advice at 7:52 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The council returned to open session at 8:09 pm.

There being no further business, Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

City Clerk Sue Biltoft
City of Bennet, NE

Mayor, Ryan Cheney
City of Bennet, NE