

City of Bennet, Nebraska
City Council
Minutes May 11, 2026
Regular Meeting

The City Council ("Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska ("City"), convened for a regular business meeting on May 11, 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 May 7th, 2026.

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. City Clerk Sue Bilstoft conducted roll call. Council Members in attendance were Josh Buck: Present, Jesse Schmidt: Present, Pete Simmons: Present, Dan Zieg: Present.. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion was held on the hours and condition of the splash pads, water usage and loss of water. Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve new hours of: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney introduced the revised Bennet Personnel Policy. Deputy Attorney Blaser reviewed the changes that were made by Jena, Solheim Law Office, with suggestions from the personnel committee and city clerk. Discussion was held and the decision to include a section addressing on-call pay and hours. Solheim's office will make the updates, and the policy will be reviewed again at the June meeting.

Brian Schuele provided an update of the SS4A Grant Application. In accordance with the Safety Action Plan adopted last year, the City of Bennet is applying for a grant to pave Cottonwood & Tyler Streets and construct the trail that will connect the residential neighborhoods on the east side of town to the improved highway crossing that NDOT will construct. Letters of support from various agencies will be requested to include with the grant application along with the letter of financial commitment from the city for twenty percent matching funds.

Mayor Cheney introduced the City Letter of Financial Commitment for the SS4A grant application. Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve the letter of commitment. Roll call vote: YES: Simmons, Zieg, Buck, Schmidt. Motion carried.

Mayor Cheney presented the fee changes for water and sewer service and fee usage increases that the accountant, Michael Hoback, suggested after the 2024-2025 audit. Schmidt will contact Hoback for more information.

Mayor Cheney introduced discussion of a possible water and sewer lien on 560 Garden Street. The city clerk will review the account and re-calculate the late fees and send that information to the attorney's office. Buck moved and Zieg seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2026-5.4 Water/Sewer Lien on 560 Garden Street. Roll call vote: YES: Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

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Written reports from staff and law enforcement hours were reviewed.

Mayor Cheney opened the floor for public comment.

Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to go into closed session at 7:56 pm after receiving legal advice based on threatening or pending litigation. Roll call vote: YES: Motion carried. Buck, Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg. Motion carried.

The city council returned to open session at 8:29 pm.

There being no further business, Zieg moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Roll call vote: YES: Schmidt, Simmons, Zieg, Buck. Motion carried.

City Clerk Sue Biltoft
City of Bennet, NE

Mayor, Ryan Cheney
City of Bennet, NE