Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
May 20, 2025

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. May 20, 2025, held at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Greg Robinson, Jamie Murdoch, and Creg Pike. Also, present was Mayor John Morrison, City Administrator Annette Brower, City Clerk Paula Tarango, and City Treasurer Jean Klassen. The public was represented at the meeting.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Western Nebraska Observer. Notice of the meeting was given to the members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is on record at the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the members. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Morrison called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. On the roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Robinson, Murdoch and Morrison. Absent: Garner.

Morrison acknowledged the posted Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch to excuse the absence of board member Austin Garner, who notified the City Administrator that he was unable to attend due to prior commitments. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Murdoch, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Pike to approve the consent agenda items as presented which include the minutes from the Council meeting held on April 15, 2025. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Murdoch, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

The FY 2024 Audit for the City of Kimball was received. - Michael Hoback AMGL CPA's an Advisors reviewed the document and provided a summary. A full copy of the Audit is located at the Clerk's office at 223 South Chestnut Street, Kimball, NE 69145. Discussion only, no action taken.

Morrison opened a discussion on adding a creative crosswalk on Webster Street – Kimball Active Living - Jamie Bright provided a flyer with 3 design ideas for the sidewalk. Per Bright Kimball Health Services is interested in putting one between the hospital and employee parking lot. The hospital plans to refresh it every year; this is a new sidewalk.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the addition of a creative crosswalk on Webster Street – requested by Kimball Active Living – Jamie Bright. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on design, vision, and community engagement- Steve Hardy and Nate Bicak – University of Nebraska – School of Architecture – Lincoln. Thanks to the City of Kimball, Annette and the Mayor for having us and for letting us use Kimball as a case study. Our students learn with project partners throughout Nebraska. We engage students with communities on real projects for hands-on learning. These are public discovery sessions and framing projects where students do site analysis, site potentials and landscapes that might be considered for development. It lays out required spaces, equipment, square footage, etc. Some of the places we focused on are as follows: Kimball Wellness Center, Kimball Community Safety Center, Wheat Growers Hotel, downtown revival. Hardy proceeded to explain the design of these and provided examples of the projects. Discussion only, no action taken.

Motion by Murdoch seconded by Pike to approve the Loan Advisory's recommendation for 15% loan forgiveness for Sagebrush LLC – Dawn Moeser. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Pike, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on approving matching funds for a zero-fare summer program with KCTS for Kimball residents – Per Christy Warner, we will be withdrawing the request at this time due to receiving information from NDOT, they will be reducing the budget across the state by 30% and before we make any commitments to any partners we want to ensure that we can follow through. The local Kimball routes are out. Also want to clarify that we requested matching funds not fare funds. 858 individuals that have a Kimball address rode with us in the last 12 months. 21,037 rides so far this year just for Kimball. Now that school is out we are still offering free rides for those that need it.

Morrison opened a discussion on considering the interlocal agreement with the Village of Potter for Building Official duties. Per City Administrator Annette Brower, The Village of Potter reached out to us, they do not have a Building Inspector, and they requested an interlocal agreement to borrow Rod on as needed basis. Per City Administrator Brower, the interlocal agreement was revised and sent back to Potter and they agreed with the revisions. Most of the work will be building permits done through email, possibly 3 or 4 a year. They will pay for trip charges and time. These will be strictly new or addition building permits. It has been discussed between Rod and I and we are comfortable with it. Per legal council Turman he is comfortable with the interlocal.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch to approve the interlocal agreement with the Village of Potter for Building Official duties. The following votes were recorded. Murdoch, Robinson, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Doug Louden with Olsson Engineering gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction Project. Per Louden, they are currently working on the demolition of the existing site and taking out the sidewalk of the facility. They are preparing the area where the new building is going. This is moving forward as expected, not a whole lot to report this month since we just started. There has been good progress out there and things are moving along well. Long ways to go but it is underway. Per Louden, he will be attending every council meeting for the next several months to give an update.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Robinson to approve the pay app/invoice for Hackel Construction. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Pike, and Robinson, Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on alcohol sales in city parks in conjunction with SDL and State Liquor Commission regulations, insurance, and liability waiver requirements. Per City Administrator Annette Brower, we have a request for the 1st annual Kimball community party at the park. They want to have a party that allows for a beer garden. State statue is run through the Liquor Commission and does not allow sale of alcohol on public property unless specifically approved by The Council. This event is put on by Kimball FM from 4:30am to 10-00pm for liquor sales, it includes live music, pay for pool entry, and a movie in the park at 8:00am for the kids. Beer and Loathing will be putting in the request under their liquor license, if the city chooses to do so, The Council needs to say what conditions to need added on it.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Robinson to approve the park usage for the 1st Annual City of Kimball Celebration put on by Kimball FM, this does not include the sale of alcohol but instead just the usage of the park. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson seconded by Murdoch to approve the Bid from Roy's Landscaping for concrete base at City Park playground. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on pool waiver and liability form for private rental use for the City pool. Per City Administrator Annette Brower, we need to put both in place as we currently do not have an updated version. Per Legal Counsel Turman, he recommends having both in place for future use, the individual waiver is for one person and the liability form encompasses everyone. Both documents have been reviewed by Turman. The city has not had this request since a few years ago and we need an updated form.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the pool waiver liability form for private rental use of the City Pool. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, and Pike. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Police Officer Sergio Tarango was officially sworn in today by City Administrator Annette Brower.

Reports –

Mayor Morrison – Attended the National Security Quorum at the USAF Air War College in Montgomery Alabama, it was an honor to be the only one representing Nebraska.

Robinson – No report.

Murdoch – No report.

Pike – No airport meeting, we'll try to play catch-up next month.

City Administrator Annette Brower - The power generation project is moving along well, looks like they will meet the deadline to finish by June. NMC will be working on the permit side. William Hinton will be at meetings in Kearney with MEAN and

NMPP as the board member representing Kimball. The WWTP project is moving along, we will have monthly meetings onsite for updates and information. The dog park and walking trail have been cleared of weeds, will continue to be maintained. At City Park the swings are up on a temporary basis, once the concrete job gets started, the swings will be removed for safety reasons. A new scale was budgeted and approved for the landfill; this will be installed within the next 3 to 4 weeks. Repairs have been completed on Highway 30, we have received payment for labor, material, and time. FEMA will be reimbursing us approximately $28,000.00 in inventory, man hours, and damages from the 2024 ice storm. Been getting a lot of questions about Clean Harbors, nothing is happening just yet, we are waiting to submit the preliminary Platts, we will discuss publicly when it happens. Everyone needs to know that nothing is moving forward, we will work with them and The Council as soon as we get those in place. I submitted a congressional spending grant through Senator's Fischer's office; it was submitted in two parts. This is for infrastructure for water and sewer, $850,000.00 for water and 2.45 million for sewer. Had a meeting with EDA and the State Economic Development, discussed infrastructure needs, should the USAF housing hub move forward, they are willing to back us up with that. I will be working on another grant with Chief Ruiz, we have until the end of June, this grant would cover 75% of a new hire salary for 3 years. This is a very competitive grant, we are going for it regardless. The pool is filled and is ready to go, we are working on an opening day and are aiming for the 30th of May. Bond release will be on Thursday; we were anticipating a 5.5% interest rate for WWTP Bond, when it hit the market, we were able to lock a 4.07% interest rate. Our City Treasurer Jean Klassen has been doing a great job tracking down CD and our rate is 4.66 on it. The Chief and I were invited to the capital in Lincoln to speak in front of the commission on military and veteran affairs, with the USAF Directors, the site activation force along and two Generals. It was a great experience. We had a 30-minute presentation about Kimbal's history, needs, and concerns moving forward. This is the largest project in the history of America, it is massive, and it is moving forward. The Chief and I both spoke on our needs as a community, soft infrastructure, fire, EMS, police, jail, and others. We had a follow up meeting a few days later last week with Mayor Morrison, myself, Commissioner Elysse Schlake, Robert Ford military and affairs liaison for the State of Nebraska, Senator Rickets office, Senator Fischers office, Program Manager for LCC flew out from Virginia. Great meeting about getting a plan in place and talking about what we need as this project comes to Kimball, NE.

Chief of Police – Jose Ruiz - As always it should calls range from parking complaints, civil standbys, funeral escorts, alarms, burglaries, fraud, vehicle crashes, missing person, disturbance calls, stolen vehicles, child abuse, welfare checks,

suicidal person calls, traffic calls, assist fire department, assist state Patrol and Sheriff's department. Larger calls include sex assault of a child multiple victims. Child abuse arrest, several for domestic assault, felony arrest for drug possession, multiple arrest for DUI, arrest for driving under suspension, domestic assaults. On the hiring side - several candidates failed the physical examination which stops the process, they must score at least 30% . One passed the test and is currently waiting for the written examination. We hired an Administrative Assistant; they completed the entire process and were required to go through a polygraph and psychological examination. This person has experience of record-keeping evidence management at large agencies. Officer Tarango successfully completed the Law Enforcement Academy, while there, he was chosen to announce the names of all the graduates and received the firearms proficiency award. Officer Tarango is doing field training with a certified trainer for an additional 9 weeks, currently he is in his 5th week of field training. Officer Luft was voted officer of the year through the VFW in the State of Nebraska. He will be attending the awards ceremony in Omaha next month. The Kimball Police Department held a pepper ball armor course, there were officers from 11 different agencies that attended. We now have two certified officers for pepper ball, and three certified field trainers. These trainings sessions are vital to the success of our agency. The Kimball Police Department received accreditation from the Nebraska Crime Commission. Being accredited shows that we are striving to be a professional agency, it wasn't an easy process to complete. Accreditation allows the agency to be eligible for loans, grants, and donation through the Crime Commission, it also makes the department eligible for federal grant applications. This is the first time the Kimball Police Department has been accredited with the Nebraska State Commission.

Public Comment -

Cederburg – Added a comment to this topic.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 5:00pm

There being no further business, motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch, to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Robinson, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk