Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
August 5, 2025

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. August 5, 2025, held at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Greg Robinson, Jamie Murdoch, Creg Pike, and Austin Garner. Also, present was Mayor John Morrison, City Administrator Annette Brower, 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.

The room was led in prayer.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Robinson to approve the consent agenda items as presented which include claims, financials, and the minutes, with correction of Lanny Little name, from the previous City Council meeting held on July 15, 2025. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on Resolutions 2025-05, 2025-06, and 2025-07 regarding a proposed interstate corridor that would extend from Saskatchewan, Canada, to Monterrey, Mexico. City Attorney Matt Turman provided background information, explaining that this project has been in development among several states under corridor names such as the Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, and a portion of the Ports-To-Plains High Priority Corridor. The purpose of these resolutions is to advance the project to the federal level for further consideration and support. In summary Resolution 2025-05: A resolution expressing the City of Kimball's support for a future interstate feasibility study. Resolution 2025-06: A resolution supporting the future designation of Interstate 27 (I-27). Resolution 2025-07: A resolution indicating the City's support for the future interstate highway formula program.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to adopt and approve **RESOLUTION 2025-05 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FUTURE INTERSTATE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR HEARTLAND EXPRESSWAY, THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXPRESS, AND A PORTION OF PORTS-TO-PLAINS HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS**. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Garner to adopt and approve **RESOLUTION 2025-06 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUTURE INTERSTATE DESIGNATION FOR HEARTLAND EXPRESSWAY, THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXPRESSWAY, AND A PORTION OF PORTS-TO-PLAINS HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS AND NUMBERING FUTURE INTERSTATE SEGMENTS**. The

following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to adopt and approve **RESOLUTION 2025-07 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FUTURE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY FORMULA PROGRAM**. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morisson opened the discussion on ratifying the Interlocal Agreement Establishing the Western Nebraska Regional Land Bank Interlocal. Morrison stated that this had been approved and signed under the previous Mayor and council. Turman stated that the landbank would be a separate entity from the City. They would take rundown properties and rehabilitate them. After rehabilitation, the properties would be sold, and the City of Kimball would be reimbursed for any expenses, and the remaining funds would be put back into the landbank. Landbanks are relatively new and have only been in Omaha. Landbanks are required to be with at least two municipalities, which is why we are partnered with Gering. Other municipalities are still able to join. The original agreement has been misfiled. Motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch to ratify and approve the interlocal agreement with Gering for the Landbank. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the mayor's appointment of Nancy Garrett to serve on the Landbank board. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison listed the names of all the landbank board members; Nan Garrett, Tony Kaufman, John Stinner, Brady Shaul, Amy Newman, and Kelsey Molina. Motion by Pike and second by Murdoch to

Ratify and approve Nan Garrett, Tony Kaufman, John Stinner, Brady Shaul, Amy Newman, and Kelsey Molina as the board members on the Landbank Board. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Brower asked the council if a Park & Recreation Executive Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, would work for them as the values from the County Assessor should be available. Several members indicated that date would not work for them. Brower will work with the County Clerk for Tuesday, August 19, 2025, before the City Council meeting.

Motion by Pike, seconded by Murdoch to approve the mayor's appointment of Tammy Shields to serve on the Library Board. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Amber Sweetland, Kimball Public Library Director, presented and reviewed the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget for the library. Sweetland stated that sales tax is down by over $50,000, which is making the budget very tight. Sweetland increased her request from the Kimball County Commissioners this year from $17,000 to $20,000. We have a third furnace that is starting to have issues, and we have been setting aside money in our reserves to cover the cost when it goes. Sweetland stated that utilities have increased by 46%, and, like everyone else, we have seen a 20% rise in our property insurance rates. Staffing, Amber is the only full-time person, and 4 part-time positions. The library has two part-time positions that are average and need to be filled but is looking to combine them into one position for about 10 hours per

week. This will just ensure that there is property coverage for the library. We are working on some grant funding options to help with additional hotspots. The ones we have are always checked out. We have five computers that need to be replaced, and we will do three this year and two next fiscal year. I am going to continue working on getting all the lighting in the building transitioned to the LED lights. Council asked what the estimated number of patrons is per day. Sweetland said that they average 30 per day.

Discussion was held regarding the replacement of the wastewater treatment plants old pickup. Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve BPW's recommendation to purchase a new pickup truck for the wastewater treatment plant with reserve savings in the amount of $40,870.00. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Pike, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Administrator Brower led the discussion regarding the draft general budget for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year. It was noted that the draft currently does not include the budgets for the following departments: Police, Fire, Airport, and Cemetery.

- Brower stated that meetings will be scheduled with the Police Chief and Fire Chief to finalize the Police and Fire draft budgets.
- The Airport and Cemetery draft budgets will be reviewed by their respective boards, who must approve and recommend them to the Council. These board meetings are scheduled to take place prior to the next regular Council meeting on August 18th.

Brower also noted, as previously mentioned by Sweetland, that sales tax revenue is down, which is reflected in budget constraints across the general departments. Brower proceeded to review each department's draft budget, highlighting major expenditures and areas of concern.

During the review of the Economic Development budget, Council requested that this item be added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion. The Council noted ongoing conversations regarding a possible joint venture with the County and acknowledged the existing sunset provision, which is currently set to take effect in 2027.

Reports

Mayor – Morrison stated that with the review and working on the next budget that the city needs to be mindful and good stewards of these funds. Looking forward on how to help Kimball grow in the coming years.

City Administrator –

Electric Department: Coordination continues with the R-Tech team, who will be engaging with MEAN. The electric project is progressing well and is approaching the next phase of development.

Wastewater Treatment Plant: Construction remains on schedule. The building structure is complete, and the roof was poured earlier today.

Street Department: Crews continue with summer maintenance projects. Parking lines and downtown crosswalks are scheduled for repainting in the coming days.

Pool – Seasonal Closure: The final day of the pool season will be **Friday, August 15**.

Tornado Siren Grant Applications: The City Administrator is working with Bill and Taylor on grant applications through FEMA and NEMA to fund the replacement of three tornado sirens, originally installed in the 1970s.

Air Force Town Hall – Cancellation Notice: The **August 28** town hall meeting scheduled by the Air Force has been canceled. Residents are encouraged to visit the Air Force's official website for updated information.

Code Enforcement – Property Maintenance: Eight letters have been issued to property owners concerning unsafe or hazardous property conditions. These actions are part of ongoing efforts to address safety concerns and improve property standards across the community.

Chief of Police – Not in attendance.

Public Comment - None

There being no further business, motion by Pike, seconded by Garner, to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Robinson, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

_____ _____

John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk