Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
November 18, 2025

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. November 18, 2025, held at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Jamie Murdoch, Austin Garner, James Shields and Greg Robinson. Also, present was Mayor John Morrison, City Clerk Paula Tarango, 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.

Morrison acknowledge the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the consent agenda items as presented which include minutes from the meeting held on November 4th, 2025, claims, and financials. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, Robinson, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Jim Cederburg – BPW Chair - The Wastewater Treatment Plant has discontinued to work until spring, they will be doing minor touch-ups through the winter months, but we are now using the plant like we were before. We are on schedule. We recommended approval of the Pay App #7 as requested.

Motion by Murdoch to approve the Pay App #7 – Hackle Construction in the amount of $171,430.30. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to ratify the new members for the Kimball Fire Department: Trey Allen and Nathan Wayne Entingh effective 10/28.2025. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, Garner, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

City Administrator Annette Brower administered the Law Enforcement Oath of Office to Officer Lousberg. Officer Lousberg affirmed that he will uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of NE, faithfully perform the duties of a Police Officer, and serve the residents of Kimball with integrity and professionalism. Officer Lousberg signed the official Oath of Office, which will be placed into the permanent personnel file of the Police Department. Council and attendees welcomed Officer Lousberg and congratulated him on his appointment.

Morrison opened a discussion on the appointment of Gabe Ingram to the Landbank Committee. Per Matt Turman, the original committee had 6 appointees, and Statue requires an odd number, a total of 7 is needed. Gering requested that it would be someone from Kimball.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Shields to approve the appointment of Gabe Ingram to the Landbank Committee. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Morrison opened a discussion of the enforcement of City of Kimball Building Codes.

Brian Johnson of Johnson's Construction addressed the council regarding consistent enforcement of the City of Kimball's building codes. He presented printed copies of city regulations and expressed concern about roofing permits and recent roofing work he believes was completed incorrectly and not up to code. Johnson stated that the addition of a Building Inspector is a positive step but feels the city is not yet ensuring full compliance among all contractors. He also questioned the use of a Planned Unit

Development (PUD) for the Lighthouse subdivision, stating that he is not opposed to the development but believes the same rules and standards should apply to all projects.

Legal Counsel Matt Turman explained that the Planned Unit Development (PUD) is established by statute to recognize that standard zoning and subdivision regulations cannot anticipate every development scenario. He noted that while regulations provide a framework, flexibility is sometimes necessary. Turman then read from the Ordinance, stating that the purpose of a PUD is to permit flexibility in land-development regulations; encourage innovation in land use, design, and structure types; promote efficient use of land, natural resources, energy, and public utilities; preserve useful open space; and provide improved housing, employment, or commercial opportunities tailored to the needs of a specific area. He emphasized that the intent of the PUD is to allow flexibility where appropriate.

Per City Administrator Annette Brower, the City is approximately 80% of the way toward establishing a proper building inspection process. Rod Sterkel, hired one year ago, has been leading the implementation of a new, comprehensive system. Kimball has not had formal building inspections for decades, and this effort will ensure homes are safe for residents.

Brower thanked Johnson for raising his concerns and noted that accountability is appreciated. A follow-up item will be added to the next council meeting agenda, and he can expect progress, as work is already underway. She emphasized that the full transition will take time, given that Sterkel has been in the role for only one year.

Building Inspector Rodney Sterkel provided an overview of the proper protocol and procedures for roof installation, outlining the steps required to ensure compliance and quality workmanship. This item was for discussion only; no action was taken.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the recommendation from Board of Public Works to accept the proposal for water tank rehabilitation from Maquire Water Tank Experts. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison opened discussion on Resolution #2025-01 regarding the year-end certification of City Street Superintendent Jim Shoup for calendar year 2025. Although this item was completed in September, the State determined that action was taken too early and requested that it be placed on the current agenda.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the Resolution #2025-01 Signing of the year-end certification of City Street Superintendent Jim Shoup for calendar year 2025. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, Robinson, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Reports –

Mayor's report - Morrison – The city park is open again some minor details need to be completed but it can be used fully. The Lighthouse subdivision is making progress, they anticipate having the apartment buildings in place by mid-January 2026. We are pleased with the growth currently happening in Kimball. Attended a meeting today regarding the sentinel project and we received good updates.

City Administrator – Annette Brower - The electric crew continues daily work at the Lighthouse Subdivision and is currently trenching for the innerduct. Vista-Beam and Charter are also on-site. They have approached the city to utilize the existing trenches for their conduct to pull their lines without sending their own crews, and they will be paying the city $40,000 for this use. The final week for grass route collection will be the last week of November. Rodney Sterkel continues to work on abatements of nuisance properties. The city recently completed a two-day audit. Special thanks were extended to Jean Klassen and all staff for their hard work during this process.
City Administrator Brower attended a telephone conference with the State of Nebraska regarding the Kimball Janicek Dam and its potential failure mode analysis on the Janicek Dam. Surveyors, engineers, and representatives from the State of Nebraska will meet in mid-December to conduct a survey of the dam. The hope is that the structure will no longer be designated as a dam, allowing the city to utilize the area for other purposes.

Chief of Police – Jose Ruiz – Some of the calls that the Police Department has taken have been parking complains, animal calls, alarms, funeral escorts, noise complaints,

civil standbys, disturbance calls, deceased persons, domestics, DHHS referrals, thefts, assaults, traffic stops, complaints, narcotics calls, suspicious persons, suspicious vehicles, assisted other agencies with traffic stops. Larger calls include, child abuse calls, physical domestics, and suicidal persons. Recent arrests include: Driving under suspension, child abuse and terroristic threats. K9 Lucy and his partner have been requested on multiple occasions, on one of those detentions over 20lbs of marijuana and over $40,000 cash were found. Dessert snow is a well-recognized drug interdiction course and they will be coming to Kimball in 2026, there will be 40 seats available. The Kimball Police Department was awarded a mini grant from the State of Nebraska for data improvement., the funds will be used to implement in-car computers. The amount of the grant was $38,934.00. Big Thank you to Rachael Hudson our Administrative Assistant for her work toward making this happen and we are pleased with the positive impact she's had working for our agency.

Public Comment –

Gabriel Miller – Kimball Citizen – Added a comment to this topic.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, at 5:00pm.
There being no further business, motion by Shields, seconded by Garner, to adjourn the meeting at 6:23p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Shields, Robinson, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk