Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
January 20, 2026

EDITED FOR PUBLICATION

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. January 20, 2026, 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 Administrator Annette Brower, City Treasurer Jean Klassen, and City Clerk Paula Tarango. 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 5:00 p.m. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, Murdoch, and Morrison.

Morrison acknowledge the Open Meetings Act.

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

Morrison opened the public hearing at **5:02** p.m. to receive public comment regarding a proposed change to C-1 zoning to allow for conditional use permitting of signs in the downtown area, as referenced in Article 8, Sign Regulations, Section 8.04.002.

No public comment.

Morrison closed the public hearing at **5:03** pm

Morrison read out loud - **RESOLUTION 2025 - 15**
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF KIMBALL PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

Board members discussed the resolution. Legal Counsel Turman explained the purpose of the resolution, stating that it would allow Council to have direct conversations with department heads. He clarified that the Mayor retains authority over superintendents and city administration and that the resolution would not provide Council access to personnel records, files, or human resources matters. He noted that the intent is to allow Council an opportunity for direct dialogue with department heads. Board Member Shields asked whether this direct dialogue would go through committee and return to Council, stating that he wanted to be cautious about not crossing boundaries, laws, or statutes. He emphasized that the city is audited frequently and expressed trust that the City Administration is performing their duties appropriately. Board Member Murdoch reiterated that if Council is being asked to vote on an item, she wants to be fully informed to vote with confidence and effectively represent the community. Board Member Robinson agreed with Board Member Shields, stating that involvement in employee performance, evaluations, or human resources matters is not the role of the Council and is more appropriately handled by the Mayor. Board Member Garner asked legal counsel what the benefits would be of adopting the resolution. The City Administrator has no issues being held accountable by the Council board.

Motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to approve **RESOLUTION 2025 - 15**
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF KIMBALL PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch and Garner. Nay: Shields and Robinson. The mayor broke the tie vote voting Nay. Absent: None. Motion fails.

Morrison read out loud Ordinance **# 849** change to C-1 Zoning to allow for conditional use of permitting of signs in downtown area. Ordinance #849.

Motion by Shields, seconded by Murdoch, to approve the change to C-1 Zoning to allow for conditional use of permitting of signs in downtown area. Ordinance #849. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on accepting the resignation of Police Chief Ruiz and read out loud the formal resignation letter from Ruiz.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Robinson to accept the resignation from Police Chief Ruiz. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Murdoch to suspend the 3 readings for Ordinance #849. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Shields to approve the mayor's appointment and contract between the City of Kimball and Jose Juan Farias-Barboza for Interim Police Chief. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Oath of Office was administered to Joseph Leitza on January 20, 2026, by Annette Brower, City Administrator.

Morrison opened a discussion and read out loud **ORDINANCE NO. 848AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 670 AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 110 OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA:**

Morrison opened the floor to the public to receive feedback on this Ordinance.

Kimball Citizen and Board of Public Works Chair – Jim Cederburg stated that he is in favor of this Ordinance.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the 1st reading of: **ORDINANCE NO. 848 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 670 AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 110 OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.BE IT ORDAINED BY**

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA.
The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Shields, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to approve Olsson Engineering Work Order #3 2026 Consult Services. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion regarding the appointment of members to the Panhandle Area Development District (PADD) Board of Directors. One primary member and one alternate are required. Meetings are held on Thursdays at noon in Gering, Nebraska. The Mayor volunteered to serve as the primary representative if also another Council member wished to volunteer. Board Member Robinson stated that he could share the responsibility with Morrison, noting that he may not be able to attend every Thursday meeting.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Shields to approve board member Greg Robinson and John Morrison and the primary appointees to the Panhandle Area Development District (PADD) Board of Directors and Annette Brower as the backup. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the Mayor's signature on the City Maintenance Agreement Renewal with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Reports –

Mayor Morrison – January and February are usually the slowest months and there is not much to report.

City Administrator - Annette Brower reported that during the week of January 25 through January 31, the next phase of air permit testing will take place at the power generation plant, with the State and NMC crews on site. Early discussions are underway regarding the resumption of construction at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, weather permitting, with a projected start date at the end of March. The Building Inspector is working with Kelly from Clean Harbors on permitting the apartments being built in the Lighthouse Subdivision. Brower thanked Sherri Winstrom, the Assessor's Office, and the County for working with the city to align all 911 addresses for these structures.

Several streetlight concerns along Highway 30 have been addressed. The public is encouraged to contact the City Office if additional issues are observed so they can be corrected. Concerning landfill flyers have been updated, and a current copy is now available. Additional discussion will take place at the next Board of Public Works meeting. Brower reported that she and the Electric Department met with the City's long-standing engineering firm, noting that the firm was recently acquired by another entity, resulting in a loss of the existing relationship. The city is exploring opportunities to partner with them again for future electric engineering needs. The city sustained wind damage at the Kimball Recycling Center. Brower is working with Spud Rowley on repairs and thanked KKB for its continued partnership with the City. Street Department activities included taking advantage of warmer weather to install a culvert, fill cracks at various locations, perform sweeping and cleanup, patch potholes throughout town, and repair wind damage at the Gotte Park shelter.

Motion by Shields, seconded by Murdoch, to go into executive closed session at **5:36pm** pursuant to Section 84-1410n of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska for the protection of the public interest. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson seconded by Murdoch to exit executive closed session at **5:51pm.** The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Murdoch to go into executive closed session at **5:54pm** pursuant to Section 84-1410n of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska for the protection of the public interest. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Garmer, seconded by Robinson to exit executive closed session at **5:54pm.** The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Shields, seconded by Garner, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Shields, Robinson, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

John Morrison, Mayor

City Clerk

City of Kimball-City Council Meeting-General Claims-January 20, 2026-CenturyLink-Telephone-105.36; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-663.00; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-320.74; Kimball County Treasurer-Breach Agreement-3,777.00; Combined Utilities-City Utilities-2,958.70; International Institute of Municipal Clerks-Membership-160.00; CenturyLink-Telephone-209.57; United States Treasury-Services-175.00; FNBO-HAS-1,355.76; Amber Sweetland-Reimbursement-2,609.51; The Potter State Bank-Loan-374.68; Viaero-Cell Phone-132.71; FNBO-HSA- 1,695.76; United States Treasury-Services-175.00; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-1,195.20; Visa-Firstier Bank-Charges-2,613.06; Tracer Golf Accessories-Supplies-152.46; Alarm Security Technicians-Security-38.95; American Heritage Life-Premium-16.00; Benchmark Government Solutions LLC-Training-278.70; Black Hills Energy, LLC-Gas Service-906.51; Black Hills Energy, LLC-Gas Service-1,434.73; Blue360 Media, LLC-Supplies-294.35; Brian's Carpet Care-Contract Cleaning-200.00; Center Point Large Print-Book Purchase-148.62; CenturyLink-Telephone-209.40; CenturyLink-Telephone-105.29; Charter Communications-Internet-237.51; Chevrolet of Kimball LLC-Services-111.85; Combined Utilities-Utilities-648.54; Combined Utilities-Utilities-3,415.24; Connecting Point-Copy Usage-218.63; DAS State Accounting-Services-110.00; DP Electronic LLC/Radio Shack-Security-42.98; Dollar General Corporation-Supplies-37.45; Eakes Office Solutions-Supplies-217.74; Ellison, Kovarik & Turman Law Firm-Professional Services-1,664.55; Fastenal Company-Supplies82.93; GCSAA-Membership-530.00; GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation-Lease-111.60; High West Energy-Utilities-1,008.00; IAPE-Training-425.00; Ideal Linen Supply, Incorporated-Services-288.43; Ingram Library Services-Book Purchase-624.91; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-771.67; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-725.00; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-809.66; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-18.38; Kimball Auto Parts-Supplies-346.35; Kimball County Hospital-Drug Screen-46.31; Kimball County Register of Deeds-Services-10.00; Kimball Insurance-Premium-213.50; Kimball Service Center-Supplies-1,280.00; L.L. Johnson Distributing Company-Supplies-1,651.31; Legacy Cooperative-Fuel-2,594.22; MASA-Services-295.33; MASA-Services-88.89; MASA-Services-295.33; Marketing Consultants-Supplies-126.00; Masek Golf Car Company-Supplies-21.30; Masters Telecom LLC-Fax Service-15.87; Irma Mendoza-Contract Cleaning-600.00; MicroMarketing, LLC-Media Expense-237.47; Midwest Connect, LLC-Supplies-284.00; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-431.83; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-41.65; OPTK Networks-Internet-35.00; One Source The Background Check Company-Services-22.00; Panhandle Land Surveying-Repairs-837.50; Praise Windows Incorported-Services-88.00; Prestige Welding & Repair-Repair-89.38; R & R Products, Incorporated-Equipment-3,541.00; Staples-Supplies-55.57; The Country Printer-Supplies-365.00; The Potter State Bank-Loan-374.68; Verizon-Telephone-80.02; Verizon-Telephone-703.78; Viaero-Cell Phone-38.41; Viaero-Cell Phone-444.04; Voyager Fleet Systems-Fuel-383.40; WPCI-Drug Screen-35.00; Western Nebraska Community College-Training-100.00; Western Nebraska Observer-Meeting Notices-169.00; Western Nebraska Observer-Meeting Notices-186.35; Verizon-Telephone-62.28; Jeremy J. Williams-Reimbursement-374.99.