Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2026

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. March 17, 2026, held at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Jamie Murdoch, Austin Garner, and Greg Robinson. Also, present was Mayor John Morrison, City Treasurer Jean Klassen, and Deputy City Clerk Rosa-Ellen Williams. 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.

Randy Bohac led the room was in prayer.

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

Morrison acknowledge the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Murdoch to excuse the absence of board member James Shields due to prior commitments. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the consent agenda items as presented which include corrections to the March 3, 2026, minutes, claims, and financials. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

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.

There were no comments.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Murdoch to approve the 2nd 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, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Morisson stated that the resignation of Sergent Jose Barboza effective March 22, 2026, was in the packet. Motion by Garner, second by Murdoch to accept the resignation of Sergeant Jose Barboza effective March 22, 2026. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Morrison opened discussion on K-9 Lucy. With Barboza resigning it leaves K-9 Lucy without a handler. Our option would be to find another officer with a lateral move who would be her handler. They would both have to go to the academy to be trained together and recertified. We could also see if there is another agency who would want to purchase her from us. Murdoch asked if there was someone who could house her while options are being looked at. Garner expressed concern that trained dogs may lose some confidence when switching handlers. He noted that this effect could be compounded if the dog is not working or trained regularly while being housed. Consensus of the council is to find a place to house K-9 Lucy while options are being investigated. This was discussion only and no action was taken.

Morrison presented the recommendation from the Loan Advisory Committee to approve an LB840 loan to Beauty & The Butcher. Council discussed that they would like to see additional information on how the Loan Advisory Committee came to their recommendations i.e., the credit background was good, they put up "xyz" collateral, or a review prior to council meeting of the application & business plan. Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the LB840 loan to Beauty & The Butcher as recommended by the Loan Advisory Committee. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, and Morrison. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Abstain: Garner. Motion carried.

Reports –

John Morrison, Mayor – We have recently lost two officers, and our chief has resigned. Annette and Paula are working to fill these vacancies. With the growth driven by Clean Harbors and the upcoming Sentinel project, it is critical that we move quickly to restore full staffing and ensure our police department is adequately prepared to serve the community.

Annette Brower, City Administrator – Not present for the meeting.

Public Comment –

Austin Garner – City Council Member – Provided an update on items he has represented the city.

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

Rich Flores – Kimball Citizen/Kimball County Commissioner – Added a comment to this topic.

Ron Buchart – Kimball Citizen – Added a comment to this topic.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner, to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk