Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2026

EDITED FOR PUBLICATION

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026, at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Jamie Murdoch, James Shields, and Greg Robinson. Also, present was Mayor John Morrison, City Attorney Matt Turman, 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.

The room was led in prayer.

Morrison called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. On roll call the following votes were recorded:

Morrison acknowledge the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Shields, seconded by Robinson to excuse the absence of board member Austin Garner – he notified the mayor or prior commitments. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Motion by Shields, seconded by Robinson to approve the consent agenda items as presented which include minutes, claims, and financials. The following votes were

recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison opened the floor to Michael Hoback, CPA with AMGL, P.C. Grand Island – provided a full review of the 2025 audit report - A copy of the report can be accessed at the Clerk's office at 223 South Chestnut Street, Kimball, NE 69145.

Morrison opened a discussion on BPW's recommendation to approve payment on Pay App #9 from Hackel Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Doug Louden, Olsson Engineering – Provided an update on the project and explained the current scope of work. The project is getting into a routine phase and continues to move forward steadily. Significant electrical work has been completed, and the motor control system has now been installed. The bar screen has been installed inside the building and is fully operational. The old generator has been removed, and the new generator is now onsite. Work on the clarifiers has also progressed, including coating, wiring, controls, and related components. Overall, the project continues to move forward. There is still an ongoing issue regarding the clarifier equipment. A firm delivery date has not yet been provided; however, they are currently estimating sometime in June. The team indicated they are working as quickly as possible.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the Pay ap #9 in the amount of $587,233.00 from Hackle Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Motion by Murdoch, seconded by Robinson to approve the request on an application to amend Liquor License No. 126386, held by TT's Hometown Pub and Grub, to add catering as a secondary business activity, located at 112 E. 2nd Street, Kimball NE 69145. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the water design presented which is the standing Longhorn with a red hat and red lettering. The following votes

were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison opened discussion regarding the LB840 Economic Development Plan, Resolution, and Ordinance. It was noted that some of the language has been updated. Board members were encouraged to take the documents home, review them thoroughly, and provide any proposed changes, ideas, or additions, as input is welcome. The Board will need to determine what changes, if any, should be made before moving forward with the public hearing and the appropriate adoption process.

Per Legal Counsel Turman, there is sufficient time to complete the process, with a deadline of the first part of September; however, it would be preferable to finalize the documents in June or July. The recent updates were described as limited, with the most significant revision occurring in the "Purchase of Real Estate" section, where additional and more detailed language was added. Members were advised that this would be the appropriate time to suggest any additional revisions.

It was also noted that board members should pay close attention to the ballot language included in the resolution. One ballot measure pertains to the plan itself, while the second relates to the tax component. Members were encouraged to carefully review the wording and provide any recommended updates or changes.

Adam Vath, MC Schaff & Associates, Inc., was present and provided additional information regarding the bid for the chip seal project. Vath stated that the cemetery project had already been approved, and work is anticipated to begin in July.

Vath also shared that he met with the Streets Department crew and presented the Board with a map identifying the proposed streets for the project work. Board Member Shields expressed concern regarding one of the streets included on the list, noting that he did not believe it was a heavily traveled roadway and felt there were other streets with a greater need for improvement.

Following discussion, board members agreed to approve the project based on square footage rather than specific street locations at this time. Vath, Streets Department, and the board will gather additional information and determine the specific locations for the work later.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch, to authorize M.C. Schaff & Associates, Inc. to proceed with the chip seal project with expenditures not to exceed $115,000. Specific roads and streets to be included in the project will be determined within the next week. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

City Administrator Annette Brower provided an update regarding the FEMA/NEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant related to the City's emergency siren system. The grant has been approved in the amount of $78,000, and the city will be working and coordinating with the State on the next steps of the project.

There are currently four emergency sirens located throughout the community. The sirens located at Gotte Park is the newer unit; however, the remaining three sirens date back to the 1950s, and replacement parts for those units are no longer manufactured. The approved grant funding will cover the replacement of three of the four sirens.

City Administrator Annette Brower provided an update regarding the Plant Nebraska Tree Grant. The city was awarded the grant in the amount of $160,000. Brower congratulated those involved and noted that the grant is very flexible, allowing the city to work within its parameters over the next three years. Chrissy Land will be in the office to discuss the grant further, and additional information was provided regarding the program. Appreciation was extended to the Tree Board for their efforts and involvement. Discussion also included the ongoing cleanup efforts related to the large number of dead trees throughout the community.

Reports -

Mayor Morrison reported that he and City Administrator Annette Brower attended the Association of Defense Communities conference in Washington, D.C. Morrison stated they were greatly encouraged by discussions with representatives involved with the Sentinel program, emphasizing the importance of remaining engaged and involved in the process. He noted that Kimball is unique compared to many other communities because it is located approximately 60 miles away, creating different considerations and opportunities.

Morrison shared that the Air Force has significant concerns regarding installations and bases across the country. One topic discussed was the national electrical grid and the need for improved energy resiliency. It was noted that approximately 90 percent

of bases receive power from the surrounding communities, and one concept being explored is the potential placement of small nuclear generators at military installations to increase energy independence and reliability.

Another major area of focus discussed was personnel retention and quality of life. Morrison stated there is a desire to better attract and retain personnel through investments in housing, childcare, and upgraded living accommodations.

Board Member Robinson - Provided an update from the Commissioners meeting held earlier in the day. Robinson reported several staffing changes at the county level. County Attorney-elect Andy Taylor was present at the meeting, and efforts are underway to establish an arrangement that would allow him to begin serving as early as July 1st.

Additionally, Clerk of the District Court Jamie Bright will begin her term on June 16th, and the County has expedited the transition process to allow these individuals to begin their duties as quickly as possible.

Robinson also reported that Transit has experienced another significant reduction in funding. As a result, Transit has decided to step back from its lease agreement and will no longer be leasing its building from Rek Industries. Additional updates and discussion were provided.

Board Member Shields **r**eported attending the Planning Commission meeting held on May 4. Shields stated it was a brief meeting, with discussion primarily focused on the Military District approval. The Planning Commission recommended approval and forwarded the recommendation to the Council for consideration.

Board member Murdoch – With the school year coming to an end, have not had the time to attend many meetings.

City Administrator Annette Brower provided several departmental updates. Work is ongoing to update lighting at the City Park; weather conditions have caused some delays, but the project remains in progress. The Electric Department continues to be very busy with multiple projects underway.

Brower also reported working with Clean Harbors regarding a potential expansion of the Castronics building. In addition, preparations are underway at pool for the summer season, with a tentative opening date of Saturday, May 30.

At the Power Plant, grating work has been completed, though weather has also caused some delays. There are a few remaining punch-list items with the City Electrical Engineer; otherwise, the project is nearing completion.

Brower noted that on June 3, representatives from NDWEE will be visiting the community to discuss cleanup and redevelopment opportunities for blighted and dilapidated properties. It was emphasized that the City must own properties to pursue redevelopment options. Brower specifically requested that the old wastewater treatment plant, which has been vacant since 1959, be included in the visit. She noted the site presents a strong redevelopment opportunity and emphasized that all areas of the community, including the north side, deserve investment and consideration. Anyone interested in participating in the discussion is encouraged to reach out.

Brower also emphasized the importance of the Mayor's recent visit to Washington, D.C. and discussions with federal partners. She noted that the City and County have long worked together to advocate for the community and ensure positive outcomes. She expressed appreciation for the responsiveness of Fischer's office and others involved.

Finally, Brower noted that the community is in a unique position due to the distance from the base but noted that we are missile field, distinguishing it from other communities such as Cheyenne or Minot, and reinforcing the importance of continued engagement with federal partners.

Public Comment –

Kim Baliman – Added a comment to this topic.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 2026, at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Shields, seconded by Murdoch, to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Shields, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk

City of Kimball-City Council Meeting-General Claims-May 19, 2026-Irma Mendoza-Contract Cleaning-600.00; AMGL PC-Audit-7,821.82; American Heritage Life-Premium-16.00; Brian's Carpet Care-Contract Cleaning-250.00; Center Point Large Print-Book Purchase-151.02; Combined Utilities-Utilities-2,177.89; Combined Utilities-Utilities-2,996.57; Combined Utilities-Transfer-16.00; Connecting Point-Copy Usage-

195.42; Dollar General Corporation-Supplies-130.45; Eakes Office Solutions-Telephone-207.60; Eitzen's-Services-1,713.85; FNBO-HAS-1,495.76; GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation-Lease-82.29; Hometown Leasing-Lease-107.55; Ideal Linen Supply, Incorporated-Services-64.45; Ingram Library Services-Book Purchase-938.87; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-854.49; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-5,136.38; Kimball Auto Parts-Supplies-126.57; Kimball County Register of Deeds-Services-20.00; Kimball Fitness Center-Memberships-4,480.00; Linda's Monograms & Beyond-Services-243.00; MicroMarketing, LLC-Media Expense-374.60; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-58.56; OPTK Networks-Internet-35.00; One Source The Background Check Company-Services-44.00; United States Treasury-Services-175.00; Viaero-Cell Phone-133.22; Western Nebraska Observer-Meeting Notices-505.00; Visa-Firstier Bank-Charges-3,973.90; Acushnet Company-Supplies-2,550.81; Alarm Security Technicians-Services-123.95; Black Hills Energy, LLC-Gas Service-625.87; Black Hills Energy, LLC-Gas Service-1,468.15; Brite-Services-59,934.40; CenturyLink-Telephone-105.22; CenturyLink-Telephone-209.40; Charter Communications-Internet-238.76; Combined Utilities-Transfer-73.60; DAS State Accounting-Support-110.00; DP Electronic LLC/Radio Shack-Security-21.49; Dollar General Corporation-Supplies-100.75; FNBO-HSA-1,495.76; Grainger-Supplies-2,097.93; GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation-Lease-82.29; High West Energy-Utilities-3,889.00; Holiday Inn-Lodging-220.00; Ideal Linen Supply, Incorporated-Supplies-635.14; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-582.62; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-4.19; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-24.50; Kimball Auto Parts-Supplies-1,056.82; Kimball County Hospital-Drug Screen-231.55; Kimball County Hospital-Drug Screen-416.79; Kimball County Register of Deeds-Filings-10.00; Kimball County Transit Service-Shuttle-150.00; Kimball County Treasurer-Services-621.75; Kimball Service Center-Repairs-27.02; LARM-Services-278.99; Legacy Cooperative-Fuel-1,490.22; MASA-Medical Air Services Association-Services-247.34; Masters Telecom LLC-Fax Service-15.86; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-43.60; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-58.21; Pack Rat Disposal-Services-150.00; Prairie Animal Hospital-Boarding-401.75; Praise Windows Incorporated-Services-98.00; Schadegg Oil Company & Motors Incorporated-Repairs-532.30; Star Seed LLC-Supplies-398.75; Amber Sweetland-Reimbursement-2,828.67; TaylorMade Golf Company, Incorporated-Supplies-2,055.13; The Potter State Bank-Loan-374.68; The Right Impression-Services-30.00; United States Treasury-Services-175.00; Verizon-Telephone-395.30; Verizon-Telephone-62.18; Viaero-Cell Phone-38.29; Voyager Fleet Systems-Fuel-122.91; WPCI-Drug Screen-175.00; Jeremy J. Williams-Reimbursement-91.15.