**Kimball City Council**
**Regular Meeting**
**June 16, 2026**

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on June 16, 2026, 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 Attorney Matt Turman, City Administrator Annette Brower, 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 Murdoch, seconded by Garner 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. Motion carried.

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

Doug Louden, Olsson Engineering, provided an update on the wastewater treatment plant project. Project is moving forward; electricians are here working currently while we are waiting on the clarifying equipment delivery. We did hear back on the clarifying equipment, and it should be ready to ship next week. Reminder original company we were going through did not work out but finally found a company to order it from. Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the recommendation from BPW to pay the Hackel Construction WWTP Pay App #10 for $84,551.30. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Louden presented the NMC Cat Final Substantial Completion Invoice. Discussion was held about if the punch list was completed and what items remained. Moved by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to approve the recommendation from BPW to pay the NMC Cat Final Substantial Completion Invoice for $198,753.48. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Brittany Cook and some of the Kimball Trap Team were present to request KENO funds for their trip to nationals held in Mason Michigan. This year there are 14 members that qualified as well as the team. Since this is a non-profit organization Kimball High School does not cover the cost. Registration is $110.00 per individual and $550.00 for the team. These funds would help to cover the travel, rooms, food, and registration fees. This is the sixth year for Kimball having a team and it continues to grow each year. Board discussed whether it should be funded per individual for a total of $3,500.00 ($250.00 per person) or $2,000.00 for just the team alone. Last year they were awarded $3,500 with everyone completing an application. Garner asked if for the community service portion, the team would consider cleaning up around Gotte Park and the fairgrounds or even helping at the park & Recreation volunteer cleanup next year. Cook indicated they absolutely would help. Motion by Garner, seconded by Murdoch to approve $3,500.00 ($250.00 per individual) in KENO funds for the Kimball Trap Team with the requirement of each individual to fill out a request form and checks would be issued to the individuals. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch to approve the Mayor's appointment of Brian Albee to the Loan Advisory Committee. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to approve the Mayor's appointment of Carl Salazar to the Tree Board. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Morrison opened discussion of the quarterly pay for councilmembers & mayor. Morrison stated this was just for discussion only with continued talks at future meetings. Morrison explained how we are asking these positions to take time away from family and other activities. Morrison reported that the Kimball County Commissioners receive $25,000.00 per year plus benefits. Garner would like to see what other entities do for their council and mayor. Turman indicated if passed this would be enacted with the next swearing in of councilmembers. Morrison stated that if someone must take off work to attend meetings, this could help them decide to run.

Ron Burchart, City of Kimball resident, provided comments regarding this topic.

No action was taken, will be placed on future agenda.

Morrison opened the discussion on consideration of changes to Ordinance 635 regarding the sale, use, dates and discharging of fireworks within the city limits and Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Morrison stated he would not be voting on this but feels that allowing them would not lead to the burning of Kimball.

Morrison asked the council members to state their opinions or thoughts. Murdoch stated that everyone who has contacted her out is against having them detonated this year, as are most of the comments on Facebook. Garner, from his experience in firefighting, knows that you must consider the humidity, wind etc. for fire hazards. Currently we are at a thigh risk, consider the areas around us that have burned. Garner understands that organizations and individuals use this as a fund raiser. Garner would like to see the sale of fireworks being permitted as you can only purchase them for a brief period, have citizens hold on to them and should conditions change shoot them off durn our Farmers Day celebration in September. Garner proposed setting fines of

$500.00 first offense and $250.00 for each offense after up to a maximum of $1,000.00. If caught on Red Flag Day, it would be an automatic $1,000.00 fine. Turman question when you are allowed to ignite in the state. Garner said he spoke with the State Fire Marshall, and you can detonate fireworks 365 days a year. Murdoch asked if smoke bombs, and pop its/snaps are considered fireworks. Since you can purchase these at many retail places, then no they do not fall under that umbrella. Robinson stated that he understands the concern; for me though I like fireworks and it will not feel like the 4th of July without them. Turman stated that the items in yellow on the resolution are what can be changed. This resolution could be repelled in a few weeks.

City of Kimball residents Rich Flores, Amber Sweetland, and Jean Klassen provided comments regarding this topic.

Turman stated that the fines would be added under D in the resolution. With fines it was questioned how they would be enforced with the limited number of City of Kimball Police officers currently. Murdoch indicated that the firemen could help to enforce the fines. Suggested that there could be a memo of understanding with the Kimball County Sheriff's department to help as well.

Andrew Bohac, Chief of the Kimball Volunteer Fire Dept, stated that as of now they have the show canceled and the fireworks put on hold. Bohac pointed out that 2012 has been our driest year, and there was a show performed that year. The discussion about having a show done during Farmers Day, just to let people know it would have to be on Friday, as the Department is required to be on site during the demolition derby.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Murdoch, to amend Ordinance No. 635 to prohibit the discharge of fireworks, including the community fireworks display conducted by the City of Kimball Fire Department, while continuing to allow the sale of fireworks. The amendment also added Section D, establishing fines of $500 for the first offense, an additional $250 for each subsequent offense up to a maximum of $1,000, and an automatic $1,000 fine for any violation occurring on a declared Red Flag Warning Day. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch and Garner. Nay: Robinson. Absent: Shields. Motion failed due to not receiving the required three affirmative votes of the City Council.

Moved by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch, to amend Ordinance No. 635 to prohibit the discharge of fireworks while continuing to allow their sale and permitting the community fireworks display conducted by the Kimball Volunteer Fire Department. The amendment also added Section D, establishing fines of $500 for the first offense, and an additional $250 for each subsequent offense up to a maximum of $1,000, and an automatic $1,000 fine for any violation occurring on a declared Red Flag Day. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, and Garner. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Reports:

Mayor Morrison – Nothing to report currently.

Board Member Robinson reported that he did not attend the County Commissioners' meeting as it was held on Monday.

Board Member Garner reported that he has been involved with the tree grant and doing inventory of trees around town.

Board member Murdoch – Nothing to report currently, have been out of town.

City Administrator – Annette Brower recapped that the wastewater treatment plant should be done by end of July. New lights for City Park came in today and the electric crew will start to install them. The city's 4th of July pool party is shaping up to be one of the best. Clean Harbors donated a $1,000.00 gift card to Main Street Market to help cover the cost of the hot dogs, drinks, chips, etc. Will be having a few special Tree Board meetings to finalize a few things regarding the implementation of the tree grant.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Murdoch, seconded by Shields, to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 pm. 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