Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
July 7, 2026

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on July 07, 2026, at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Jamie Murdoch, Austin Garner, Jamie 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.

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

Morrison opened a public hearing at 5:03pm to receive public input, comments, and questions regarding the proposed Economic Development Plan of the City of Kimball pursuant to the provisions of the Nebraska Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LB840), Neb. Rev. Stat.§§ 18-2701 through 18-2739, Resolution 2026-03 Approving an Economic Development Plan and Calling for Submission of a

Ballot Question to the Voters, and Ordinance 853 Adopting an Amended Economic Development Plan.

No public comment.

Morrison closed the public hearing at **5:04pm.**

Morrison read Resolution #2026-03 out loud.

Resolution 2026-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, APPROVING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL OPTION MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT (NEB. REV. STAT. §§18-2701 TO 18-2739), CALLING FOR SUBMISSION OF A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Morrison read Ordinance #853 out loud:

Ordinance 853

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, KIMBALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO ADOPT THE AMENDED CITY OF KIMBALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (AMENDED 2026); REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Shields to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-03 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, APPROVING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL OPTION MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT (NEB. REV. STAT. §§18-2701 TO 18-2739), CALLING FOR SUBMISSION OF A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Morrison opened discussion on Ordinance No. 853. He explained that, according to City Attorney Matt Turman, the Board may approve the ordinance subject to any revisions the Board determines are necessary.

Board Member Austin Garner recommended adding a section addressing employee performance evaluations. He identified the specific location within the ordinance where he believed the language should be incorporated, noting that it would be on the second page, second paragraph. Board Member Garner stated that he felt the ordinance should be more tailored and suggested including a performance evaluation matrix. The Board discussed additional ideas regarding what such a performance evaluation process or matrix might include.

Board Member Jamie Murdoch also participated in the discussion and provided input regarding the proposed revisions.

Board Member Greg Robinson agreed that a performance evaluation section should be added to the ordinance. He suggested that the Loan Advisory Board develop the performance evaluation matrix and have the flexibility to modify or revise it as needed over time.

Legal counsel Matt Turman stated that the ordinance includes language allowing for amendments or modifications as necessary, providing flexibility for future changes.

Motion by Murdoch seconded by Robinson to approve the passage and adoption of Ordinance #853 and waving the three readings:

Ordinance 853

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, KIMBALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO ADOPT THE AMENDED CITY OF KIMBALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (AMENDED 2026); REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the SDL request from KIMB FM and BR Entertainment, LLC for setting up of a beer garden and liquor sales in Gotte Park for the KIMB community celebration July 25th, 2026. The following votes

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

Motion by Garner, seconded by Shields to approve TT's Pub Addition to the building and liquor license extension. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Garner, Murdoch, Shields, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Chief of Police candidate James Lucero was present to discuss his vision and goals for the Kimball Police Department should the Council choose to move forward with his appointment as Chief of Police. Mr. Lucero emphasized the importance of public safety, treating all individuals with respect, accountability, and transparency within the department. He shared that he is familiar with rural communities, having grown up in a small town in Colorado, and stated that it has long been his goal to retire in a small town like Kimball. He noted that he has more than 25 years of law enforcement experience and remains passionate about policing and serving the community.

Mr. Lucero outlined his strategic plan for his first day, first week, first month, first year, and second year as Chief. He also stressed the importance of community involvement, explaining that he believes it is essential to seek public input to better understand the needs and expectations of the citizens. Additionally, he discussed the importance of addressing issues promptly, maintaining accountability, and ensuring transparency within the Police Department. He stated that he believes in doing policing the right way and providing regular reports, at least monthly, to keep the Council and the public informed of the department's daily operations and activities.

Motion by Shields, seconded by Murdoch to approve the Mayor's appointment of Mr. James Lucero as the City of Kimball Police Chief. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

Mayor Morrison – Very pleased that his appointment got accepted with a unanimous decision and for working towards a common goal with the LB840. Thank you!

Board Member Robinson – Did not attend the Commissioners meeting due to a prior commitment. The 4th of July was very boring without the fireworks.

Board member Shields – There was no planning commission meeting, nothing to report.

Board Member Austin Garner - Reported that the Tree Board is continuing to make progress on the tree grant program. The Board is actively seeking an FFA student to serve as an intern, and if an FFA candidate is not secured, the search will be expanded to include other local high school students.

Garner also reported that the Tree Board is working on completing a tree inventory. A public information release will be issued outlining the criteria that will be used to assess trees for the program to ensure the evaluation process is fair, consistent, and free from bias or preferential treatment.

Garner stated that the Tree Board is excited about the progress being made and looks forward to seeing results from the program soon.

Board member Murdoch – Very impressed with the Kimball citizens taking the fireworks ban very seriously, there was little to no fireworks being lit. Big shoutout to the swimming pool and water department because they did a phenomenal job with the 4th of July celebration.

City Administrator Annette Brower shared that she agreed with Council Member Murdoch and gave a special thank you to the pool staff and everyone involved in making the Fourth of July celebration a success. She noted that she was able to enjoy the holiday without having to work and expressed her appreciation to Clean Harbors, the many local businesses that donated their time and financial support, and the Kimball Volunteer Fire Department for helping make the event a tremendous success.

Brower reported that the City is now entering the budget season, with budget discussions scheduled to begin at the upcoming Board of Public Works meeting. She

also informed the Council that the City will again be responsible for budgeting the Imagine Nebraska Act refund. She recently received notification that the City's required reimbursement has increased from approximately $78,000 to nearly $86,000, and those funds will need to be included in the upcoming budget.

Addressing concerns regarding abatements, weeds, nuisance properties, and similar code enforcement matters, Brower stated that comments suggesting the City is not taking action are inaccurate. She explained that, after not having a building inspector for many years, the City now has one in place and is actively addressing these issues. However, she emphasized that code enforcement follows a legal process and cannot be handled immediately by simply assessing fees or taking enforcement action without following the required procedures. Brower stated she would like to begin discussions regarding the possibility of hiring a dedicated Code Enforcement Officer to assist with these efforts.

Additional administrative updates were also provided.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Murdoch, seconded Garner, to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 pm. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Shields, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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John Morrison, Mayor City Clerk