Kimball City Council
Special Meeting
August 25, 2026

A City Council special meeting was convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on August 25, 2026, 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 via ZOOM, 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 6:02 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 included minutes from the July 21st, and August 4th meeting. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison read the 2026-03 Airport Tax Resolution to the board and the public.

Morrison read the 2026-05 City of Kimball Cemetery Rate Schedule Resolution to the board and the public.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Shields to approve the Kimball Airport Authority Resolution #2026.03 for 41,067.50, and $25,000. The following votes were recorded: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison read the title of Resolution #2026-05: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATES AND FEES FOR THE CITY OF KIMBALL MUNICIPAL CEMETERY.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the cemetery rate changes as recommended by the Cemetery Board Resolution #2026-05. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Michelle Coolidge was present during the meeting to provide an update on the Land Bank and discuss how the City's dedicated contributions are being utilized. Michelle previously presented to the Council approximately two years ago regarding the Land Bank.

Since that presentation, a board has been seated, and the organization is working to finalize its structure. The board is actively developing policies and ensuring that all documents contain the appropriate wording and comply with applicable statutes and requirements. Work has also begun on developing the Land Bank's budget, which will include the City of Kimball's contribution.

Michelle noted that several legislative changes have been made that are favorable to Land Banks. One change addressed restrictions regarding board participation. Another expanded residency requirements include individuals living within the City's three-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), recognizing that potential participants may live just outside the city limits.

The Land Bank intends to take a cautious, step-by-step approach. The initial goal is to work on one property per community to become familiar with the process without becoming overwhelmed by managing multiple properties at once. Michelle emphasized that the organization would move slowly and carefully to ensure all applicable laws, requirements, and statutory provisions are understood and followed. There are multiple

layers involved in the process, and the Land Bank plans to address each step thoroughly before moving forward.

The Land Bank will also be actively pursuing grant opportunities. Grant funding will be continually evaluated so that potential opportunities are identified and not overlooked. The organization is currently in the early stages of establishing its accounting software and financial procedures. A financial advisor from Gering is assisting with putting a system in place. Until the accounting system is fully established, the City may use an Excel spreadsheet to track the contributions.

Michelle reported that there were no expenses to date other than her contract. Her contract provides for no more than 20 hours per week. She also noted that if funding becomes limited or unavailable, current activities can be paused until additional funds are available.

Currently, the Land Bank is relying heavily on established Land Banks in the eastern part of Nebraska for guidance and best practices. The goal is to learn from their experiences and determine what processes and approaches work best for the Kimball Land Bank. Michelle expressed enthusiasm about the progress being made and the future of the Land Bank. Board members participated in the discussion by asking questions and providing comments. Discussion only, no action taken.

Motion by Shields, seconded by Garner to approve the new job description of Landfill Foreman. The following votes were recorded. Aye: Robison, Garner, Sheilds, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Doug Louden was present via ZOOM; he gave the board an update on the progress of the WWTP project. This project is continuing, Hackle was supposed to wrap this up at the end of July, but they are behind schedule, now we anticipate the completion date of mid to late September.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the recommendation from BPW on WWTP Pay App #11 to Hackle Construction in the amount of $604,196.71. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Christy Warner, KCTS Administrator, was present to provide an update on KCTS operations and request parking accommodations. Warner reported that KCTS provided approximately 50,000 rides during the last fiscal year. She clarified that the recent funding reduction was not a federal budget cut, but rather a reduction in State funding. Warner noted that KCTS receives the most funding among the rural transit systems in Nebraska.

Warner discussed the need for a designated bus stop to allow passengers to safely transfer between buses. She proposed constructing the bus stop on the west side of the KCTS building and requested the City's assistance with funding and authorization to proceed with the project. The proposed bus stop would include an ADA-accessible ramp and would require approval from the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT).

City Administrator Annette Brower reported that she had contacted three contractors regarding the project, with one contractor responding. Board Member Murdoch asked how traffic and parking would be controlled while buses were using the stop. Warner stated that bus stop signs would be installed to designate the area. Board Member Garner suggested that City staff could move the existing concrete in-house to reduce costs. It was noted that contractor bids could be used to help determine the estimated value of the project. Board members discussed and suggested alternative options for the proposed bus stop to identify the most practical and cost-effective approach for the City. Discussion only, no action taken.

Morrison opened a discussion regarding amending Resolution 2016-09, Swimming Pool Rates, to include an updated rate schedule. City Administrator Annette Brower noted that the rates have not been updated in nine years. Board Member Murdoch stated that she had spoken with Pool Manager Renee Murdoch, who suggested increasing the rates to even-dollar amounts to make it easier for children to handle cash transactions. Further discussion was held among board members. Murdoch will provide the suggested rates to the city for review.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch, to follow Renee Murdoch's recommendation regarding the rate increase amounts. Board Member Murdoch will provide the updated and suggested pool rates to the City for purposes of updating the ordinance. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Council Board members reviewed the draft 2026–2027 Police Department budget as well as the draft 2026–2027 General Fund budget. Chief Lucero was present during the meeting to answer questions and provide clarification regarding the Police Department budget.

During the review, Board members identified and corrected a few inaccuracies in the line items. Further review and discussion of the 2026–2027 budgets will continue at the next City Council meeting.

Reports –

Chief of Police – James Lucero – Since the last meeting, the Police Department has responded to 114 calls for service and conducted 22 traffic stops.

The department continues to utilize social media as its primary method of communication with the community, as it has proven to be the most effective means of reaching residents. One recent announcement reminded the public that school had started and encouraged drivers to use extra caution when traveling through school zones.

Officer Leitza, Officer Lousberg, and Chief Lucero have all been serving the area around Mary Lynch Elementary School and the high school before and after school to help ensure the safety of students and the community.

The department has also been working closely with Legal Counsel Matt Turman to develop new tools and procedures for addressing parking complaints.

Regarding training, Officer Lousberg will be attending CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training as well as FTO (Field Training Officer) training. Officer Leitza will be attending active-shooter training.

The department has implemented weekly staff meetings, which have been well received by staff. Employees have expressed appreciation for the meetings and stated that they value being kept informed and involved in department matters.

The second Chief's Advisory Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, at the Kimball County Transit Center.

Greg Robinson – Nothing to report

James Shields – Nothing to report.

Austin Garner – The tree board meeting will be on the 27th of this month, things are moving along great with the tree grant steps and requirements. The seal bids will be open during that meeting.

Jamie Murdoch – Nothing to report.

Public Comment – No public comment.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st, 2026, at 5:00 pm held at the City Council Chambers. There being no further business, motion by Murdoch, seconded Shields, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 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