Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
September 1, 2026

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on September 1, 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 Administrator Annette Brower, City Treasurer Jean Klassen, and Deputy 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 5:06 p.m. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Shields, Murdoch, and Morrison.

Morrison acknowledge the Open Meetings Act.

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

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Shields to approve the minutes upon corrections. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Shields, Robinson, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison read Ordinance # 774 out loud. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, AMENDING §114.02 OF THE CODE OF KIMBALL TO DEFINE AND SET FORTH THE ALLOCATION OF THE NET PROCEEDS

FROM THE CITY LOTTERY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS KENO, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Per Morrison, we have exhausted every other option regarding the State of Nebraska tax that we are being charged, and this appears to be the only viable solution.

City Administrator Annette Brower explained that the loss of sales tax revenue in this upcoming fiscal year is due to the city's responsibility, per the State of NE, to refund any sales and use tax paid by a local Kimball County company that applied for and was awarded an exemption under the ImagiNE Nebraska Act. This incentive program offered by the State of NE provides for the delayed payment of certain local option tax refunds, and it requires the local municipality to 'repay' the claims to be paid under Nebraska Revised Statute section 77-6832 (2)(e) The claim amount is $85,784.87, and the State will automatically deduct it from the city's monthly sales tax remittance until it is paid in full.

These payments are scheduled to begin in January. Rather than using taxpayer dollars to repay this obligation, we believe amending the KENO ordinance and using available KENO funds for this purpose makes the most sense.

The City currently has funds available from our 75% share of KENO proceeds. We will continue using those funds to support Parks, Schools, and the Library. The Mayor's goal is for this to be a temporary solution for this year only, with the ordinance amended again next year. It did not feel right to penalize the City of Kimball by requiring taxpayers to cover the Nebraska tax when we have funds available through KENO that can be used for this purpose.

We will also continue to have funds available for individuals and organizations that apply for KENO funding. This approach allows us to address the tax obligation without placing an additional burden on local taxpayers while continuing to support the community through KENO funds.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch, to adopt Ordinance No. 774, entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, AMENDING

§114.02 OF THE CODE OF KIMBALL TO DEFINE AND SET FORTH THE ALLOCATION OF THE NET PROCEEDS FROM THE CITY LOTTERY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS KENO, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM," and, pursuant to statutory authority, to waive the requirement of three (3) readings.
The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Anthony Gurrola with Twin City Development was present during the meeting to discuss the organization's membership with the City of Kimball and its continued support of economic development.

Anthony explained that the organization recently changed its name to better reflect its regional focus. He noted that Trusted Community Development was chosen as a name that more accurately represents the organization's mission and expanded service area.

Gurrola shared that TCD has completed several highly successful campaigns and takes pride in managing multiple campaigns over the past four years. He explained that TCD has developed proven tactics and strategies that have contributed to the success of these campaigns.

He also discussed partnerships with other municipalities and noted that these relationships have helped TCD develop effective strategies and best practices. In addition, TCD offers a Business Retention and Expansion Program, grant-writing services, and educational classes for students to help them explore career opportunities and determine potential paths for their future.

Per Gurrola, TCD can provide annual reports detailing performance metrics and measurable successes. These reports include business expansions, business retention, grants written, leadership successes, and other relevant performance indicators.

Board Member Shields requested that the reporting frequency be changed from annually to quarterly, stating that he feels annual reporting is not frequent enough to meet the City of Kimball's expectations.

Morrison clarified that the primary reason the City reached out to TCD was to partner with them on the marketing campaign for LB840 in Kimball. He stated that this type of campaign is needed in Kimball and noted that TCD has a strong track record of assisting other communities with similar efforts, including Gering, Scottsbluff, and others.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Murdoch, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Kimball and Trusted Community Development, subject to the amendment requiring quarterly performance matrix reports instead of annual reports. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Christina Taylor, owner of TT's Hometown Pub and Grub, was present during the meeting to explain the proposed amendment to the existing liquor license. Per Taylor, the amendment would allow for the addition of an outdoor garden area where the public could enjoy the outdoors while visiting the facility.

Motion by Murdoch seconded by Robinson to approve the request from TT"s Pub and Grub to amend/add an outdoor beer Garden. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Murdoch, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: Garner. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion regarding the final review of the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year budget. City Administrator Annette Brower reported that the City's taxable valuation for the current year is $2,825,837, which is an increase from the previous year.

Brower presented the Board with a suggested mill levy of 0.400461, which would represent a 3.09% decrease from last year's mill levy of 0.412797.

The maximum levy allowed for the City is 0.45 per $100 of taxable value. The City also shares its tax levy with the Airport Authority. Further discussion and explanation were provided regarding the best options for the City of Kimball.

Brower stated that the Board needed to determine the mill levy during the meeting in order to meet budgetary deadlines and requirements. City Administrator Brower also reviewed several highlights of the proposed budget. A copy of the budget was provided

to Board members and the public for further review. A full copy of the budget can be found at the Clerk's office at 223 South Chestnut Street, Kimball, NE 69145.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Shields, to approve the Mill Levy for the 2026–2027 fiscal year at 0.400461, a decrease of 0.012797 from the previous fiscal year, representing a 3.096% decrease, for a total property tax levy of $843.401. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Robinson, Shields Nay: None Absent: Garner Motion carried.

Reports –

City Administrator Annette Brower reported that the water tank project is moving forward and progressing very well. The City's water crew is overseeing the project 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with crew members taking turns working nights to ensure the system continues to operate smoothly.

Brower addressed some misconceptions regarding the water system. She explained that a previously posted video showed the pressure release valves and that, while the tank is operating under increased pressure, the City is releasing pressure through the valve to maintain proper flow. The City is also restricting its own watering activities at locations such as the cemetery and Gotte in order to avoid imposing watering restrictions on residents. Watering days are being alternated to help prevent additional pressure on the system while the tank is out of service. Overall, Brower reported that the project is progressing very well.

Brower also reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project is nearing completion. Only a few minor adjustments and remaining items need to be addressed, with completion anticipated in late September.

Brower further addressed complaints and concerns regarding weeds throughout the community. She stated that the City takes pride in maintaining the appearance of the community; however, the process for addressing nuisance vegetation is not immediate. The City must follow established procedures and cannot simply enter a property and mow the lawn. Several property owners have already received letters from the City regarding mowing requirements. Brower explained that the City must allow at least 14

days after notice is provided, along with additional required steps, before further action can be taken.

Additional updates were provided.

Public Comment –

No public comment.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Shields, seconded Murdoch to adjourn the meeting at 6:01pm. 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