Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
September 15, 2026

EDITED FOR PUBLICATION

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2026, at the City Council Chambers, 223 S. Chestnut St. Council members present were, Jamie Murdoch, James Shields, Austin Garner, and Greg Robinson. Also, present was Mayor John Morrison, City Administrator Annette Brower, City Treasurer Jean Klassen, 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, Garner, Murdoch, and Morrison.

Morrison acknowledge the Open Meetings Act.

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

Morrison changed the order of the agenda due to Doug Louden with Olsson Engineering joining the meeting via ZOOM and having limited time.

Louden provided an update on the WWTP construction project and discussed Change Work order #5.

The equipment portion of the project was completed last month, and the project is now down to electrical work.

Louden stated that one of the major items still needed before startup is the startup of the blowers. The project is also awaiting review by the Fire Marshal, who had been out of the office for a few weeks.

The goal is to complete a final walkthrough by this time next month. Louden stated that he will be on site for the final walkthrough.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the recommendation from the Board of Public Works to approve the Change Order #5 for WWTP. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion and read Ordinance #854 as follows:
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA: AMENDING TITLE VII, CHAPTER 70, SECTION 70.99 RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS; AMENDING TITLE VII, CHAPTER 73, SECTION 73.65 RELATING TO TICKETS FOR NONMOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS; ADDING SECTIONS 73.67 THROUGH 73.73 TO ESTABLISH A VIOLATIONS BUREAU FOR THE COLLECTION OF PENALTIES FOR NONMOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS PURSUANT TO NEB. REV. STAT. § 18-1729; PROVIDING THAT EACH TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PERIOD DURING WHICH A VIOLATION CONTINUES SHALL CONSTITUTE A SEPARATE OFFENSE; PROVIDING FOR THE QUARTERLY REMITTANCE OF FINES TO KIMBALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

Per Legal Counsel Matt Turman, this would be a new provision—a new city code—that would allow you to enforce non-moving violations without going through the

county court process. The benefit would be that police could issue a ticket and give the person a chance to pay a significantly reduced fine, as well as an opportunity to move the vehicle. That avoids having the matter go through county court, along with all the expenses and fees associated with that process. From the city's perspective, it would be a way to quickly and easily address those violations without going through a process that could take months. The fines are specifically set at very low levels for that reason. This also eliminates a public court record. If they refuse to move the vehicle, then that would be a violation of the city code. This type of provision is also used within other municipalities.

Motion by Garner, seconded by Murdoch to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 854 and to waive the statutory requirement for three separate readings. #854 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA: AMENDING TITLE VII, CHAPTER 70, SECTION 70.99 RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS; AMENDING TITLE VII, CHAPTER 73, SECTION 73.65 RELATING TO TICKETS FOR NONMOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS; ADDING SECTIONS 73.67 THROUGH 73.73 TO ESTABLISH A VIOLATIONS BUREAU FOR THE COLLECTION OF PENALTIES FOR NONMOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS PURSUANT TO NEB. REV. STAT. § 18-1729; PROVIDING THAT EACH TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PERIOD DURING WHICH A VIOLATION CONTINUES SHALL CONSTITUTE A SEPARATE OFFENSE; PROVIDING FOR THE QUARTERLY REMITTANCE OF FINES TO KIMBALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.** The following votes were recorded: Aye: Garner, Murdoch, and Shields. Nay: Robinson. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Board Member Robinson voted "Nay" because he believes all three readings should have been completed, given that this is an important change for the town.

Morrison opened a discussion on Resolution 2026-06 Violations Bureau Fine Schedule Per Legal Counsel Matt, the rates can be adjusted as needed. The proposed rates are simply a starting point and can be changed at the Board's discretion based on what the Board believes will work best.

Member Shields expressed concern that front office city staff may face increased backlash when collecting these fees from citizens. He stated that he is concerned the situation could become more difficult than it already is.

Motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to approve Resolution 2026-06 – Violation Bureau Fine Schedule. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Garner, Murdoch, Shields. Nay: Robinson. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Shields to ratify the new volunteer members for Kimball Fire Department Gaige Medica effective 08/25/2026. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Shields, and Murdoch. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Morrison read Ordinance #855 as follows: 2026-2027 Budget Appropriations - **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM.**

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Shields to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 855 and to waive the statutory requirement for three separate readings. **2026-2027 Budget Appropriations - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIMBALL, NEBRASKA, TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM.** The following votes were recorded: Aye: Garner, Murdoch, Shields, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Shields, seconded by Murdoch to approve Resolution #2026-07 Setting property Tax Request. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Garner, Robinson, Murdoch, and Shields. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.
Reports -

Mayor Morrison –

Tonight, the City Council approved the 2026–2027 budget. The property tax request was reduced by 13%, while property valuations increased by 6% and the tax request increased by 3%. As a result, the overall property tax rate was lower. For the remainder of the fiscal year, the city will be implementing the approved budget.

If you are interested in learning more about how the city and the Board of Public Works operate, residents are encouraged to attend meetings and become informed about the work being done. If you have questions about city operations or decisions, please ask. Questions about what is being done should be directed to the Mayor and/or City Administrator Annette Brower.

City Administrator Annette Brower –

Thank you to the Kimball County High School, Daniel Reader, and her students for allowing us to partner with them on a project to remove graffiti by the railroad tracks. They will be painting over it, and the City will supply the necessary materials and paint.

The students have been going out there and helping for approximately two hours at a time. The east side is looking pretty good. This will be an ongoing project. Thank you to Kelly O'Brien at the Union Pacific for being so helpful and getting this moving forward. It is not an easy process.

We have issues all over town with weeds. One of those areas is along the Union Pacific railroad. We have received final approval for the City to go in and mow. They have a vegetation crew, but sometimes it takes weeks for them to get areas cleaned up.

The water tank project is moving along smoothly. The projection is that it should be back up and running by the end of September or the first week of October. It has been a very successful project.

There have been concerns raised about utility bills increasing because of the project, and that is incorrect. The pressure release valve has to be there. Due to the need to control the water pressure.

The Water Department is working 24/7 and monitoring every aspect of it. We have decided not to restrict residents from watering; instead, we have restricted ourselves at the different locations such, as the Cemetery, Parks, etc. Thank you to the crew for working around the clock.

Any water coming through the pressure-release valve is essentially water being discharged back into the ground, but it is necessary at this time. There have been questions about whether this water is being charged to other residents' bills. That is incorrect. Water cannot be charged to anyone unless it goes through a meter. All of these readings are documented. I would also like to remind everyone that we are audited by a third-party auditor. When the auditors come in November of each year, one of the first things they do is pull the staff utility records to ensure that no utilities are being manipulated.

I am also working on Farmer's Day, which is coming up. The Sentinel Team for Farmer's Day and the USDA would like to join us. They will set up a booth in front of the Fire Hall. It turned out well two years ago. We are still working on getting Air Force airmen for the parade and hopefully, we will have everything in place soon.

As far as the WWTP, the final wall is expected to be completed during the week of October 8.

I wrote a letter of support to NEMA regarding flood mapping. They are working on mapping for Kimball. According to FEMA, everyone will be mapped whether we like it or not. This will eventually be mandated statewide.

A local contractor has expressed interest in partnering with the City of Kimball regarding property cleanups. It is a lengthy process for the City to become involved, so I want to thank this local contractor for being willing to partner with us to get some of these cleanups completed, with the City assisting on the other end. It will be a great partnership and will help us take care of properties in the community.

LB840 is coming up. Ballot information fact sheets will be available to the public. The City will provide the facts and answer questions. Anyone with questions can contact me. I am meeting with NEMA tomorrow to finalize the grant process to get our sirens updated.

Regarding property abatements, we have gone through the process with 12 properties. We selected the most egregious and dangerous properties, including properties at the entrances to town. One property has already been demolished by the owner. Thank you to that owner for taking care of it. It is happening. We are working on these properties, but it takes time. We are continuing to work on them.

I would like to thank Chief Lucero and his staff, who are also helping us tackle the weed problem. The complaints keep coming in and we are moving as fast as we can address them.

The way the City tackles weeds is through systemic spraying. We spray the weeds with a treatment that allows them to die systemically, as intended. We cannot immediately chop them down because the treatment needs time to work throughout the entire plant. Once the weeds turn brown, we go back out and either remove them or mow them. It is not simply a matter of spraying them and leaving them to look ugly. Gotte Park was covered with windmill grass, which is quite invasive. The only way to get rid of it is to kill it completely. That is why the area is currently looking dry. We started that process there, and then we will go back and address the area again.

As mentioned before, we are monitoring the water usage at the cemetery to control the pressure during the tank rehabilitation project, however, that may mean that at some point the cemetery may not look perfect. As for private property, we have chosen to take it upon ourselves to restrict our own water usage to control the pressure rather than place additional restrictions on residents.

Public Comment -

No public comment.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to adjourn the meeting at 5:37pm. 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

City of Kimball-City Council Meeting-General Claims-September 15, 2026-AL's Lock & Safe Incorporated-Repairs-37.75; Kimball Cheer-Fundraiser-20.00; American Heritage Life-Premium-16.00; Brown Construction & Irrigation-Rental-267.50; Combined Utilities-Utilities-3,547.01; Department of Treasury-Payment-1,481.18; FNBO-HSA-990.00; GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation-Lease-156.14; GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation-Lease-156.14; Hometown Leasing-Lease-107.55; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-129.91; Kimball County Register of Deeds-Recording-10.00; Kimball Service Center-Repairs-11.34; Carinda McConnell-Grant-500.00; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-.30; Praise Windows Incorporated-Services-40.00; Sandberg Implement Incorporated-Supplies-217.63; Viaero-Cell Phone-133.25; Acushnet Company-Supplies-2,529.98; Alarm Security Technicians-Security-38.95; Black Hills Energy, LLC-Gas Service-1,714.62; CenturyLink-Telephone-105.44; CenturyLink-Telephone-178.87; Charter Communications-Internet-238.76;Combined Utilities-Utilities-9,283.76; Connecting Point-Copy Usage-280.63; DAS State Accounting-Services-110.00; DP Electronic LLC/Radio Shack-Security-21.49; Ellison, Kovarik & Turman Law Firm-Professional Services-1,992.60; Enviro Service Incorporated-Services-30.00; FNBO-HSA-990.00; FNBO-HAS-990.00; FYR-TEK, Incorporated-Services-1,157.42; Hays Contracting-Services-3,200.00; High West Energy-Utilities-5,559.00; Ideal Linen Supply, Incorporated-Services-47.01; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-976.12; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-587.50; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-1,078.21; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-80.38; Kimball Auto Parts-Supplies-265.68; Kimball Volunteer Fire Department-End of Year Funds-4,750.00; L.L. Johnson Distributing Company-Supplies-539.84; Legacy Cooperative-Fuel-5,222.28; Masek Golf Car Company-Lease-4,538.00; Masters Telecom LLC-Fax Service-15.91; NFPA-Supplies-1,122.16; Napa Auto Parts-Parts-33.95; Napa Auto Parts-Supplies-686.72; Northwest Pipe Fittings, Incorporated of Scottsbluff-Parts-102.32; One Source The Background Check Company-Background Check-65.00; Police Chief's Association of Nebraska-Dues-120.00; Prairie Animal Hospital-Services-176.75; Praise Windows Incorporated-Services-18.00; R & R Products, Incorporated-Parts-655.30; Sherwin-Williams Company-Services-142.24; The Potter State Bank-Loan-374.68; Tracer Golf Accessories-Supplies-1,164.20; Verizon-Telephone-568.91; Verizon-Telephone-62.29; Verizon-Telephone-40.01; Viaero-Cell Phone-38.31; Viaero-Cell Phone-356.22; Voyager Fleet Systems-Fuel-371.23; WPCI-Drug Screens-105.00; Westco-Supplies-793.76; Western Nebraska Community College-Services-60.00; Western Nebraska Observer-Meeting Notices-250.00; Western Nebraska Observer-Meeting Notices-250.00.