Kimball City Council
Regular Meeting
October 6, 2026

A City Council meeting was convened in open and public session at 5:00 p.m. on October 06, 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 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 5:00 p.m. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Robinson, Garner, Murdoch, and Morrison.

Morrison acknowledge the Open Meetings Act.

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

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

Morrison read Resolution 2026 – 08 City of Kimball Pool Rates out loud.

This conversation took place during another City Council meeting a couple of weeks ago, when the rates were recommended. City Administrator Annette Brower subsequently updated the rates as recommended.

Motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to approve Resolution 2026-08 City of Kimball Pool Rates as presented. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Murdoch, Garner, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: Shields. Motion carried.

Morrison opened a discussion on K-9 Lucy –

Per City Administrator Annette Brower - As you know, K-9 Lucy has been at Ragnar Defense in Casper, Wyoming, since March 31. They have been providing housing and training for her as part of our working relationship. However, they are no longer able to absorb those costs and are having difficulty finding a placement for her.

There has been some hesitation regarding potential placements, but the biggest concern is the cost associated with keeping a K-9. Ragnar has not had success placing her and suggested that we consider donating her. However, any agency receiving her would still need to consider its budget constraints. There are some interested parties, but I told Ragnar that they need to pause any placement discussions until the City Council has had an opportunity to approve a direction.

If we decide to keep her here, the estimated cost would be approximately $2,400 per month for food, boarding, care, and maintenance. At this point, I am looking for guidance from the Council on how we should proceed.

If we decide to go in another direction, she could potentially be placed as a retired pet, but the new owner would need to be qualified to properly care for and handle her.

I would like to see her continue to use her skills, as she has proven her capabilities here. There are several options available, and we have also had some local agencies express interest in her. However, the same budget considerations apply.

Chief Lucero added to Annette's comments: I still do not anticipate having a need for a K-9 at this time. I appreciate what K-9s are used for and recognize that they can

supplement the work we do on a daily basis. However, I also believe there are other enforcement methods that can be used to address the drug problem.

My main concern is the ongoing cost of maintaining a K-9, including veterinary bills, retraining, and other expenses. Those costs can range from approximately $15,000 to $35,000 per year just to maintain the program. When we are talking about a budget the size of ours, that does make a significant difference.

I am also concerned that we currently do not have a K-9 handler. We would have to train a new handler, and finding someone willing to take on that responsibility is very difficult. The two officers we currently have are not interested in becoming K-9 handlers, and training a new handler would also come at a significant cost.

I also need to mention an issue I have seen with K-9 traffic stops. Officers who have trained dogs can sometimes turn what would normally be a five-minute traffic stop into a 45-minute stop. This can create problems within the community, make people feel frustrated, and result in additional complaints and trust issues. Even with good supervision, I have seen this occur.

If I were to get an officer who was trained as a K-9 handler, I would still have the same concerns regarding the impact on traffic stops and community relations. The work that needs to be done can be accomplished without a K-9.

At this point, I do not have an intention of utilizing the dog, and I believe we need to consider cutting our losses.

Board member Murdoch: I would agree that we cut our losses and absorb the approximately $4,000 we currently owe. Within two months, we would likely spend that amount on maintaining the K-9. She has a job and wants to continue doing it, so we need to look at what is in the best interest of both her and the City. I believe we should cut our losses and move forward.

Garner: Perhaps there is another agency that may be interested in taking the K-9 and could provide equipment, such as radios, gear, or other needed equipment, in exchange. This could help the City recoup some of its financial loss.

Annette Brower: She stated that she could make some phone calls to other agencies to explore the available options and see what she could come up with.

Morrison opened a discussion on approving the MOU between City of Kimball and Brian Johnson.

City Administrator Annette Brower: Brian has reached out to me as a citizen and local business owner to discuss what we could do as a community to help clean up some of these properties. He has offered to volunteer his staff, time, and equipment to help with cleanup efforts throughout the City.

He could also contact property owners whose properties need to be cleaned up, and we could potentially turn this into a community cleanup event. I believe this could be a fantastic partnership.

Johnson Construction has requested that the City absorb the landfill charges. However, the Board of Public Works has a very specific resolution regarding landfill fees. Regardless of the agency involved or the type of partnership, there is no free landfill disposal.

If we decide to move forward, my suggestion would be that any fees associated with materials brought in by Johnson Construction be reviewed individually. The materials would primarily consist of construction and demolition debris (C&D) and tires, which are subject to disposal fees.

If there are additional charges associated with the cleanup, we would need to discuss whether KENO funds could be used to cover those costs. C&D materials and tires are the primary areas where disposal charges would apply.

Matt Turman: The intent was to focus on the City of Kimball, specifically within the corporate limits. We could potentially extend the effort beyond the corporate limits, but it appears the primary focus is the City of Kimball.

Robinson: Asked who would be responsible for coordinating the cleanup efforts.
Brower: She stated that coordination would be between her and Brian. He has volunteered to take this on as a citizen and as a neighbor and we want to thank him for his willingness to help the community.

Brian Johnson – Kimball Citizen - I started seeing the discussion on Facebook and realized that the City does not have thousands of dollars available to spend on cleaning up these properties. We want to help, which is why we reached out to Annette.

The only thing we would need assistance with is the landfill fees. This will be a learning process for everyone as we work through logistics. If there are properties the City would like us to address, we can reach out to the property owners and coordinate the cleanup.

This is not something we can do full-time, but we can schedule two or three days to come out and get as much completed as possible. We do not need to have a large number of items at each location. If there are materials such as concrete, tires, or other debris, we can coordinate the stops accordingly to help ensure the process goes smoothly.

I understand that this will be a process of learning and adjusting as we go. If the community helps us, we can get a lot accomplished. We want to help get some of these properties cleaned up and make a positive difference in the community.

I think this is going to work out great, and I appreciate the City staff working with us on this. We have family here, and the long-term picture of the community is important to us.

We can also reach out to other local businesses and volunteers who may be willing to help so we can get the work done more quickly.

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Garner to approve the MOU between City of Kimball and Johnson Construction for Community Cleanup Partnership. The

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

Morrison opened a discussion on considering Creative Districts.

Per City Administrator Annette Brower: She has done some additional research into our options. One of the things we learned at the League conference is that the State is becoming very focused on communities pursuing Creative District designation. This is another good reason for us to consider looking into this opportunity.

There are several criteria we would need to meet to qualify. We would need approximately three to four local nonprofit organizations to participate and partner with the City. We already have organizations such as the theater, Historical Society, and PADD that could potentially be involved.

Once we complete the application and receive approval, the City would receive a $10,000 grant. Those funds could be used in a variety of ways, including painting murals and other projects that would enhance the community. For example, Downtown Hickory Square was completed using Creative District funding.

Becoming a Creative District could also open up additional opportunities for CDBG funding and other funding sources, including CCF funds that could potentially be used for projects such as a recreation center or swimming pool. It would give us more possibilities when applying for these types of grants.

If the City decides to pursue downtown revitalization, we could be a strong candidate for CDBG funding for sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements. Some of those programs provide a 75% match.

We could also potentially incorporate façade improvements into the project. We currently do not have the proper accessibility in some areas, so there are opportunities to address those issues as part of a larger revitalization effort. For a façade grant, we would need buy-in from the local businesses, likely involving at least half a dozen businesses. We would need to determine what improvements would be necessary to make the downtown area look revitalized and attractive.

There is also a 25% local match required for those projects. The $10,000 grant received simply for becoming a Creative District could potentially be held and used to help businesses meet that 25% match requirement.

Overall, there is a significant range of opportunities available to us if we pursue Creative District designation. It could provide a broader umbrella for downtown improvements and open the door to several additional funding opportunities.

Reports

Mayor: I don't have anything additional other than it is nice to see people cleaning up around town, particularly some of the older abandoned buildings. A couple of properties have been purchased, and the new owners have been making efforts to clean them up. We have also been working with a property owner on a house that needed to be demolished, and that house has now been torn down.

City Administrator – Annette Brower -
There is a public notice that the City will be accepting bids on the old church building located at 101 South Nadine. The public will have an opportunity to submit bids for the property. The notice will be advertised in the newspaper and through other outlets shortly.

I am still working with the State of Nebraska on several projects. I have gone ahead and purchased the new tornado sirens and will continue to keep the Council updated on that project.

We were also awarded a security grant for the Water Department to install security cameras at the water wells and water tank. We are currently waiting for the federal government to release the funds so we can move forward with that project.

The tree program is also underway through the tree grant, which is a very good opportunity for the community.

On the electric side, we are continuing to work on streetlights and poles. You will see some work taking place as we wait for parts to arrive. We will also be addressing some long-standing issues with poles and lighting that have apparently been concerns for nearly two decades. We plan to begin tackling those issues soon. Please let me know if you notice any additional problems with streetlights or poles. Thank you to everyone who has brought these issues to our attention.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project is almost complete. The blowers will be started tomorrow, and the engineers will be onsite at 9:30 a.m. We expect to have everything wrapped up this week and the plant back up and running.

Once completed, we will have a completely refurbished WWTP that is up to code and should serve the community for the next 40 to 50 years.

Our contractor encountered some equipment issues with the water tank, but they are expected to be back on Thursday. We anticipate beginning to fill the tank by next Friday. Once we begin filling it, the process will take approximately two to three days. We also needed to allow for a 12-day curing period. Our goal is to begin filling the tank around October 30 or 31.

Once the tank is filled, we will need to complete the required testing and chlorination in accordance with State of Nebraska requirements to ensure the tank is clean and ready for use.

Other than those projects, it is business as usual.

Other business - No other business.

Public Comment - No public comment.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th at 5:00pm. There being no further business, motion by Murdoch, seconded by Garner to adjourn the meeting at 5:46pm. 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