

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Peru, Nemaha County, Nebraska were called to meet at City Hall at 614 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Peru, Nebraska 68421, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of SEPTEMBER 2025, at 6:00 P.M., for a Regular Meeting, open the general public advance notice of said regular meeting, the designated method of giving notice, including the agenda for said meeting, or the availability thereof was posted at: Peru City Hall, Western National Bank (Bank of Peru), and the Community Bulletin Board.

Mayor Katy Novak called the meeting to order and informed the public of the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

**Agenda Item 1 – Roll Call**

A roll call was taken and the following were marked present at 6:00pm CT:

Mayor Katy Novak  
Councilmembers Theresa Westfall, Josh Whisler, Brent Brown and Rachel Brown.

Upon roll call, a quorum was declared pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 17-105.

**Agenda Item 2 – Recognition of Visitors:**

Mayor Katy Novak informed the public that a copy of City Resolution #2017-02 Pertaining to Conduct Rules for City Council Meetings may be requested from the City Clerk.

Said resolution was read aloud by Councilmember T. Westfall.

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Hearing: None**

**Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda:**

**A. Approval of Minutes:**

- (i.) Approval of Minutes from the August 18<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting.
- (ii.) Approval of Minutes: from the August 27<sup>th</sup> budget workshop.

**B. Approval of Claims:** The following claims were presented to the Council by the City Clerk, review, and approved for payment: Regular Claims: Black Hills Energy (Fire/Rescue) - \$80.07 // Black Hills Energy (Gen) - \$58.58 // Kinetic/Windstream (Internet/Utility) - \$558.97 // OPPD (Gen) - \$948.71 // OPPD (Streets) - \$1,199.69 // Personnel Payroll including tax & retirement for check deposited 8/29 (Gen) - \$9,632.03 // Personnel Payroll including tax & retirement for check deposited 9/15 (Gen) - \$10,261.36 // xpress-Billpay (Wtr/Swr) - \$168.00 // Quick Med Claims (Fire/Rescue) - \$95.66 // Access Systems (Gen) - \$246.48 // American Recycling & Sanitation (Wtr/Swr) - \$2,660.00 // Auburn Board of

Public Works for Professional Services for Waterline Project (Wtr/Swr) - \$55.75 // Auburn Board of Public Works for Booster Station (Wtr/Swr) - \$14,927.96 // Auburn Newspaper (Gen) - \$22.00 // Badger (Wtr/Swr) - \$3,560.54 // Bound Tree Medical (Rescue) - \$423.15 // Casey's Business Mastercard (Gen/Maint) - \$574.81 // CNH Industrial (Wtr/Swr/Gen/Street) - \$10,148.14 // First National Bank (Card) (Gen) - \$2,715.97 // Grainger (Wtr/Swr) - \$948.00 // Heather L. Pemberton (Gen) - \$3,433.75 // Johnson Feed Inc (Streets) - \$4,732.09 // NAPA (Gen/Maint) - \$52.68 // Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (Wtr/Swr) - \$115.00 // Nebraska Public Health Env Lab (Wtr/Swr) - \$34.00 // One Call Concepts (Wtr/Swr) - \$15.93 // Sack Lumber (Wtr/Swr) - \$29.95 // Sara Harms (Gen) - \$400.00 // Stryker (Rescue) - \$1,088.00 // Verizon (Gen) - \$36.81 // Wildland Warehouse (Fire Grant) - \$7,500.00

C. Approval: Changing Name of Official Newspaper to Read: "Nemaha Valley Observer".

D. Approval: Changing Location of Posted Notices to: "Western National Bank, Peru City Hall, and Community Bulletin Board".

There was discussion about possibly posting notices in the window of City Hall for after-hours viewing due to the closure of the Post office. It was also noted that the Community Bulletin Board is available after hours 24/7.

E. Approval: To change the Auburn Board of Public Works Water Account to Autopay.

F. Approval: The closure of 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Park Avenue to Main Ave on October 4<sup>th</sup> between 8:00am and 1:00pm CT or the Peru State College Homecoming Parade and other activities.

Councilmember T. Westfall made a motion to approve consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Whisler.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows: T. Westfall – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, R. Brown – AYE.

The AYES were 4, the NAYS were 0.  
Motion Carried.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Correspondence**

G. There were no correspondence for this meeting.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Old Business**

H. Water Report: Mayor Novak was stated that there is a copy of the water report in the Clerk's Office. There was no further discussion.

I. Mayor's Report: Mayor Katy Novak gave the Mayor's Report.

She stated that she was asked as Mayor to be on the Presidential Search Committee for Peru State College, and that her committee obligations are complete. She stated that candidate forums are on Tuesday and Wednesday of that week for public comment.

She stated that the work on the water tower was complete and that there was a meeting the next day. She stated that they were working hard on the budget and that there was a meeting a couple week prior and another one that night.

She stated that she anticipated that the budget would be finalized at the next meeting.

She then stated that the Homecoming Parade was coming up and that she is interested putting a parade float for the city and for any councilmembers interested in being on the float to wait for an email from her.

She stated that a maintenance employee was injured on the job the last Thursday, and that he is doing well "ish". She stated that he will be out for 3 weeks and that they're keeping them in her thoughts. She stated that Mike wanted to thank everyone who checked in on him and helped him out.

She stated that the city was interviewing for a Maintenance Technician position and are advertising for the Maintenance Supervisor position. She stated that she hopes that staffing would be in place soon.

J. Grant Report: Deputy Clerk and Grant Coordinator Mary Williams gave the Grant Report.

She stated she was working with the state to close all the grants closed out. She stated that there were two open and the state has had some turnover. She stated that she has submitted all of the claims and that she is waiting to hear back.

K. Committee Reports:

1. Parks and Recreation Commission: Nick Novak gave the Parks and Recreation Commission Report.

He stated that they were working on getting the concession stands with Nemaha County Leadership. They were working on getting materials allocated and sourced. They are looking at October 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. They are looking to work with Nemaha County Leadership and get volunteers from the town as well to get the concession stands repainted and reroofed.

They are also looking to start winter fundraising in the near future.

The commission planned to have a meeting on Wednesday. They are planning on having the Softball tournament later next year.

2. Streets and Alley's Committee: Councilmember Theresa Westfall gave the Street and Alley's Committee update.

She stated that the One and Six-Year plan was going to be considered at the council meeting on Tuesday. She noted that there isn't a lot on the plan except for regular maintenance and that there's going to be more on next year's plan.

She noted that the North End project is not planned until they can pursue it legally.

3. Animal and Humanity Committee: Councilmember Theresa Westfall gave the Animal and Humanity Committee Report.

She noted that there wasn't anything new except that the new animal tags were ordered.

## **Agenda Item 7 – New Business**

### **L. Discussion: Agenda Item from Kathy Tynon, “Alley and Yard Damage – Water Erosion”**

Kathy Tynon addressed the council with a request for the city to resolve and repair the water erosion and resulting property damage to her property on 713 Washington Street. She requested that the city have an engineer to evaluate the damage to hey alley way and the resulting damage. She stated that she was concerned about sinkholes, and that it could affect the value of her property. There was a discussion that followed about the issue and possible solutions. No action was taken.

### **M. Discussion with Possible Approval: The Appointment of Dennis Kirkpatrick to the position of City Clerk / Treasurer.**

Mayor Novak stated that Dennis had been helping out in the office for a couple weeks and that she is asking for the council to appoint him to the City Clerk / Treasurer position.

Councilmember J. Whisler moved to approve the appointment of Dennis Kirkpatrick to the position of City Clerk / Treasurer. R. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows: T. Westfall – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, R. Brown – AYE.

On this roll call vote: The AYES were 4, the NAYS were 0.  
Motion Carried.

### **N. Ordinance 2025-08: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS; FIXING COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PERU; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.**

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to keep the minutes of these proceeding to be kept in a separate and distinct volume known as the “Ordinance Record of the City of Peru”. B. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows: R. Brown – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

The AYES were 4, the NAYS were 0.  
Motion Carried.

Councilmember T. Westfall introduced the proposed Ordinance as ORDINANCE 2025-08: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS; FIXING COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PERU; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

A discussion was held. There was discussion about the budget implications of this ordinance. There was concern that the budget would not account for the changes for this ordinance. Further, there were questions regarding the funding for an administrative assistant (AA) position and the part-time laborer that was already on the books. There was further discussion about the viability of promoting the current part-time laborer to an open Maintenance Technician position. Mayor Novak clarified that the technician position needed to have some kind of technical certification and that the current part-time laborer was not interested in receiving any certification. There was further discussion about the viability of having one full-time Maintenance Supervisor, two full-time Maintenance Technicians, and one full-time General Laborer. Maintenance Supervisor Phil Wernhoff told the council that he didn't think the maintenance supervisor position needed to be full time with 3 full-time maintenance workers. And that there isn't a need for that amount of manpower. Mayor Novak also noted that there were trainings that were not happening and that the maintenance staff was asking for safety training. She also stated that there was a need for certain certifications for more people than just the Maintenance Supervisor.

There was no further discussion.

Having read the Ordinance 2025-08, Councilmember B. Brown moved for its approval on its first reading and that its title be agreed to. R. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows: T. Westfall – NAY, J. Whisler – NAY, R. Brown – AYE, B. Brown – NAY.

The AYES were 1, the NAYS were 3.  
Motion Fails.

O. RESOLUTION 2025-08: A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SIGNERS ON CITY BANK ACCOUNTS; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS; REPEALING ANY CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS OR SECTIONS THEREOF; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

There was no discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to approve the resolution. J. Whisler seconded the motion.

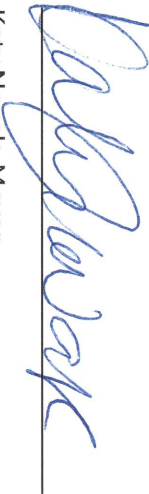
On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows: R. Brown – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE.

The AYES were 4, the NAYS were 0.  
Motion Carried.

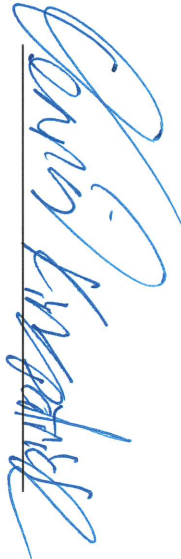
### **Agenda Item – 8: Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned on the same day at 7:10pm CT.

**HEREBY ATTESTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED:**

  
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Katy Novak, Mayor

  
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Dennis Kirkpatrick, City Clerk

