

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 29, 2025

The Wayne City Council met in special session at the Wayne Fire Hall on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

Council President Jill Brodersen called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Councilmembers Austyn Houser, Parker Bolte, Dwaine Spieker, Brittany Webber, Clayton Bratcher, Jason Karsky and Matt Eischeid; Attorney Amy Miller; City Administrator Wes Blecke; and City Clerk Betty McGuire.

Notice of the convening meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three places. In addition, notice was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and agenda is on file with the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the Council convened in open session.

Council President Brodersen advised the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was located in the northwest corner of the Fire Hall, as well as on the City of Wayne website and was available for public inspection. In addition, she advised the public that the Council may go into closed session to discuss certain agenda items to protect the public interest or to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public hearing.

City Attorney Miller presented the Oath of Office to Jill Brodersen.

Councilmember Spieker made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Houser, declaring a notice of vacancy in Ward 4 and authorizing the City Clerk to publish notice regarding the same. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councilmember Webber made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Spieker, nominating Matt Eischeid as President of Council. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

RETREAT TOPICS DISCUSSED:

1. Wayne Public Transit Update
 - Proceed with having a transportation study done by Olsson
2. Water Service
 - Lead Service Lines — there could be State/Federal funding available for such projects. Staff was directed to look into said funding; to try and determine what it might cost each homeowner if it was cost-shared; and to determine what areas of town need to be concentrated on first.
 - Downtown Curb Stops — Staff will send a third notice, along with the waiver, to those property owners on Main Street who have not responded or fixed their curbstops.
3. Electric Update
4. Allowing poultry in city limits
 - Allowing poultry inside city limits was discussed. Both Councilmembers Houser and Spieker brought information with them (pros and cons) regarding the same. Wisner, Randolph, Norfolk, and Winside allow poultry inside city limits. Wakefield, Laurel, and Carroll do not. Similar sized cities to Wayne that do allow poultry were York, Seward and Chadron. However, Schuyler does not. Some concerns were rats, roaming chickens, noise, etc. A straw poll vote was taken and at this time, there were 4 yeas, 3 nays and 1 undecided.
5. Changing Council meeting dates
 - Councilmember Webber brought this forward. After discussion, consensus was to have staff prepare an ordinance to change the meeting dates to the first and third Mondays of the month and present the same at the next Council meeting. In addition, staff was directed to ask the Planning Commission if they could discuss changing their meeting date to a different Monday or different day of the week.
6. Ordinance clean-up
 - Councilmember Houser, when perusing through the Code Book, suggested to Administrator Blecke that some of the sections of the Code needed to be updated. For example, the Audit Committee (change to Finance Committee); Recreation-Leisure Services Commission (change to Park and Rec Board); Animal ordinance; Move 90.005 to 90.025 Definitions. Staff would start of the process of preparing ordinance amendments to bring to Council.
7. City-owned properties
 - FNBO – Consensus was to not sell the building; include the Park and Rec Board if/when the City would pursue a new sales tax. Staff was directed to reach out to community partners for involvement in promoting/cost-sharing in a new CAC/wellness center. Council thought the communication/promotion should be handled differently with next sales tax and more time should be taken to educate the public.
 - Old City Hall – Interested in pursuing all options – not necessarily getting rid of the building or tearing it down (e.g. keep the basement for the communication equipment; this could be a possible location for the Wayne transit; it could also be a possible location for library storage and/or the reread

event; possibly rent/lease out space; or give to the CRA). Consensus was to table the discussion until June or whenever the building is empty.

8. Long-term planning

- Transit
- Downtown (Hwy 15) Sidewalks and curb project
- New home for the Library

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mayor Brodersen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.