

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2025**

The Wayne City Council met in regular session at City Hall on December 15, 2025, at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Jill Brodersen called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, with the following in attendance: Councilmembers Austyn Houser, Parker Bolte, Dwaine Spieker, Joe Whitt, Jason Karsky, Dallas Dorey and Matt Eischeid; City Administrator Wes Blecke; City Clerk Betty McGuire; and City Attorney Amy Miller. Absent: Councilmember Brittany Webber.

Notice of the convening meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Wayne Herald, Wayne, Nebraska, the designated method of giving notice, as shown by Affidavit of Publication. 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.

Mayor Brodersen advised the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the table in Council Chambers, 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.

Shawn Ovenden and Adam Wilmes, representatives of the Nebraska Water Environment Association, presented the "Golden Manhole Society Award" to Doug Echtenkamp for his work in safety, leadership and innovation in operations of the treatment plant in his 42 years of service at the Wayne Water/Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Councilmember Spieker made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Bolte, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2025, and to waive the reading thereof. Mayor Brodersen stated

the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Minutes approved.

The following claims were presented to Council for their approval:

VARIOUS FUNDS: ACE HARDWARE & HOME, SU, 355.99; ALERT 360, SE, 84.24; APPEARA, SE, 130.79; ARROWHEAD DEVELOPMENT, RE, 2,000.00; BAUE, COLTON, SE, 34.00; BENSCOTER CONSTRUCTION, SE, 9,650.00; BERNAL, GEORGINA, SE, 65.00; BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD, SE, 57,807.97; CERTIFIED TESTING SERVICES, SE, 550.50; CERTIFIED TESTING SERVICES, SE, 1,432.50; CHASE PAYMENTECH, SE, 4,759.34; CHASE PAYMENTECH, SE, 492.22; CHESTERMAN, SU, 209.59; CINTAS, SU, 252.95; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 584.25; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 3,798.23; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 406.62; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 484.90; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 100.00; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 2,453.80; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 275.00; CITY OF WAYNE, RE, 386.77; CONNELL, BRIDGETT, RE, 200.00; COTTONWOOD WIND PROJECT, SE, 13,574.64; CROWNE PLAZA-KEARNEY, SE, 1,439.55; DEAN, JACE, SE, 180.00; DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, SE, 3,403.40; DORING, BRENT, RE, 500.00; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY, SU, 6,084.00; FAST PIK, SU, 4,634.69; FASTENAL, SU, 549.72; FLOOR MAINTENANCE, SU, 456.22; GEHRING CONSTRUCTION & READY MIX, SE, 78,069.14; GLOBAL PAYMENTS INTEGRATED, SE, 1,152.57; GROSSENBURG IMPLEMENT, SU, 394.36; GUARDIAN, SE, 798.80; HANSEN, DAWSON, SE, 167.00; HARMS OIL, SU, 1,111.57; HILAND DAIRY, SU, 113.49; HILAND DAIRY, SU, 198.72; HOMETOWN LEASING, SE, 375.26; HORIZON CONSTRUCTION, RE, 1,000.00; INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES, SU, 1,970.80; JOHN'S WELDING AND TOOL, SU, 87.75; JOHNSON HARDWARE, SU, 533.50; KAI, MARK, RE, 75.00; KARSKY, RYAN, SE, 34.00; KTCH, SE, 175.00; LINDSAY, JEANNE, RE, 150.00; MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, SU, 973.44; MAIN STREET GARAGE, SE, 1,215.00; MERCHANT JOB TRAINING, SU, 650.00; MIDWEST LABORATORIES, SE, 192.57; MIDWEST TAPE, SU, 52.48; MILLER LAW, SE, 6,343.75; MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, SU, 48,448.00; NPPD, SE, 184.00; NPPD, SE, 7,984.08; NNEDD, SE, 570.00; NNEED, SE, 332.50; NORTHEAST POWER, SE, 6,525.00; NORTHWEST ELECTRIC, SE, 2,319.62; ONE CALL CONCEPTS, SE, 56.65; OPTK NETWORKS, SE, 531.54; O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES, SU, 967.80; OVERDRIVE, SU, 2,441.50; PAC N SAVE, SU, 1,059.43; PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL, SE, 41.02; PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL, SE, 52.56; PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL, SE, 60.00; QUALITY 1 GRAPHIC, SU, 50.00; QUALITY FOOD CENTER, SU, 19.98; RIDENOUR, BRELAND, SE, 150.00; SILVER SILO DESIGN, SU, 75.00; STADIUM SPORTING GOODS, SE, -204.00; STADIUM SPORTING GOODS, SE, 72.00; STAPLES, SU, 59.39; STATE NEBRASKA BANK & TRUST, RE, 2,950.00; STATE NEBRASKA BANK & TRUST, SE, 69.84; STEFFEN TRUCK EQUIPMENT, SU, 1,057.64; TNT SALES AND SERVICE, SU, 14,793.00; TOTAL GRAPHICS, SU, 472.80; TR HARRIS CONSTRUCTION, SE, 296,843.08; US FOODSERVICE, SU, 2,773.61; WALLING, TANNER, SE, 17.00; WASTE CONNECTIONS, SE, 46.50; WAYNE AUTO PARTS, SU, 1,021.29; WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER, TX, 3,911.80; WAYNE HERALD, SE, 190.00; WAYNE HERALD, SE, 1,608.00; WAYNE HERALD, SE, 760.20; WAYNE VETERINARY CLINIC, SE, 112.00; WESCO, SU, 593.85; WESCO, SU, 2,272.68; WAPA, SE, 25,118.95; WISNER WEST, SU, 81.57; A TO Z VAC N SEW, SU, 59.90; ALLO, SE, 1,582.60; AMERITAS, SE, 200.23; AMERITAS, SE, 35.00; AMERITAS, SE, 5,457.86; AMERITAS, SE, 72.00; APPEARA, SE, 120.92; AWWA, FE, 385.00; BAUE, COLTON, SE, 34.00; BINSWANGER GLASS, SU, 5,109.10; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, SE, 1,600.63; BMI, FE, 446.00; BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, SU, 557.99; CARLSON WEST POVONDRA ARCHITECTS, SE, 141.75; CASEY SCHROEDER, SE, 1,561.55; CINTAS, SU, 222.93; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 474.19; CITY OF NORFOLK, SE, 130.48; CITY OF WAYNE, PY, 129,812.75; CITY OF WAYNE, RE, 647.12; DAS STATE ACCTG-CENTRAL FINANCE, SE, 119.73; DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, SE, -3,398.36; DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, SE, 3,398.36; DGR, SE, 30,025.50; EAKES OFFICE PLUS, SE, 759.62; FAITH REGIONAL PHYSICIAN SERV, SE, 185.00; FASTSIGNS, SU, 395.52; FIRST CONCORD GROUP, SE, 4,481.12; FLOOR MAINTENANCE,

SU, 754.26; GROSSENBURG IMPLEMENT, SU, 37.06; GROUNDWORKS, RE, 1,000.00; HANSEN, DAWSON, SE, 17.00; HAWKINS, SU, 1,969.41; HEIMAN FIRE EQUIPMENT, SE, -23.31; HERITAGE HOMES, RE, 200.00; ICMA, SEM, 158.98; ICMA, SE, 270.84; ICMA, SE, 214.81; ICMA, SE, 148.60; ICMA, SE, 623.47; ICMA, SE, 584.44; ICMA, SE, 369.23; ICMA, SE, 11,244.12; ICMA, SE, 272.00; ICMA, SE, 1,324.36; ICMA, SE, 43.40; IRS, TX, 5,112.28; IRS, TX, 21,859.62; IRS, TX, 15,606.91; J. F. AHERN, SE, 17,921.00; JACK'S UNIFORMS, SE, 55.89; JEO CONSULTING GROUP, SE, 464.63; KARSKY, RYAN, SE, 17.00; KATE JORGENSEN TRUST ACCOUNT, RE, 400000.00; KTCH, SE, 1,000.00; LUBBERSTEDT, BRENDA, RE, 240.00; MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, SU, 1,616.62; NE DEPT OF REVENUE, TX, 6,606.78; OPEN ACCESS TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, FE, 650.00; O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES, SU, 138.94; OTOCAST, SE, 1,500.00; POSPISIL, NATHAN, RE, 500.00; RESCO, SU, 904.98; REYNOLDS, MORGAN, SE, 180.00; SEILER INSTRUMENT & MFG, SU, 1,000.00; SID DILLON CHEVROLET, SU, 73,830.00; STAPLES, SU, 1,139.51; STURM, CHASE, SE, 17.00; THE RADAR SHOP, SE, 449.00; TR HARRIS CONSTRUCTION, SE, 38,160.59; TRI-STATE COMMUNICATIONS, SU, 947.11; US BANK, SU, 19,709.48; USA BLUE BOOK, SU, 495.72; UTILITIES SECTION, FE, 325.00; WALLING, TANNER, SE, 17.00; WESCO, SU, 1,649.41

Councilmember Eischeid made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Bolte, to approve the claims. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent and Councilmember Karsky who abstained, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Luke Virgil, Wayne Economic Development Director, representing Wayne America, Inc., was present requesting Council consideration to waiving the rental fees (\$600) for the City Auditorium. The organization has reserved the City Auditorium on December 24th & 25th, to help sponsor a Christmas Dinner with HIS Baking Co., Refind & Refresh, Sweet Peppers, and several other anonymous donors. The \$200 security deposit would still be paid.

Councilmember Bolte made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Spieker, to approve the request of Luke Virgil, Wayne Economic Development Director, representing Wayne America, Inc., to waive the City Auditorium rental fees (\$600) for December 24th & 25th, to help sponsor a Christmas Dinner with HIS Baking Co., Refind & Refresh, Sweet Peppers, and several other anonymous donors. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Joel Hansen, Street and Planning Director, presented his annual report.

Discussion took place on Ordinance 2025-18, which came on for its third and final reading. Mayor Brodersen requested Council to consider amending/changing the age limit to 16 instead of 17.

Councilmember Spieker noted the reason he proposed age 17 was that 17 is the age limit for specialty vehicles (e.g. motorcycles). He also thought another year of experience would be helpful.

After discussion, Councilmember Eischeid introduced Ordinance No. 2025-18, and moved for approval of the third and final reading thereof as written; Councilmember Karsky seconded.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WAYNE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE VII TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 70 GENERAL PROVISIONS – ALL-TERRAIN AND UTILITY-TYPE VEHICLES TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SECTIONS; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Discussion took place on Ordinance 2025-19, which came on for its third and final reading. The discussion concerned amending the age limit to 16.

After discussion, Councilmember Bolte introduced Ordinance No. 2025-19, and moved for approval of the third and final reading thereof as amended: to change the age limit to 16 years instead of 17 as written; Councilmember Whitt seconded.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WAYNE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE VII TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 70 GENERAL PROVISIONS – ALL-TERRAIN AND UTILITY-TYPE VEHICLES TO ADD A SECTION PERTAINING TO GOLF CARS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SECTIONS; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Spieker opined he thought the age limit should be kept at 17, regardless of how fast a golf cart can go.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent, and Councilmembers Houser and Spieker who voted Nay, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Paul Davis, Engineer with DGR Engineering, advised the Council that one bid was received on the “Furnishing Control Enclosure – Northeast Station Project.” Said bid was received from Trachte, LLC, for \$605,978.00. This company has successfully completed similar projects for them in the past, and they

know of no reasons why they would not perform well on this project. Subject to final agreement on contract terms by City staff, DGR recommended awarding the contract to Trachte, LLC, at a total price of \$605,978. Their estimate was \$530,000.

Councilmember Eischeid introduced Resolution No. 2025-75 and moved for its approval; Councilmember Houser seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-75

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BID AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR THE FURNISHING AND INSTALLING OF A NEW CONTROL ENCLOSURE FOR THE “NORTHEAST SUBSTATION PROJECT” – TRACHTE, LLC, FOR \$605,978.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Administrator Blecke stated the Park and Rec Board met to review the suggestions made by staff to increase/change the CAC membership fees and rec sports fees. They also recommended that said fees be increased 20% each year for another two years. CAC fees have not been amended since 2015. At one point, the City tried to keep the membership fees a little below Providence Wellness Center’s (PMC) fees. At this time, the PMC’s fees are at \$612 (does not include tax); the CAC fees are at \$330 (includes tax). This rate increase would still be below PMC levels. In addition, the Board was recommending reducing the different levels from 26 to 18.

Councilmember Dorey had concerns about the “young adult” fee - \$150. He would also like to see just a one-year increase at this time to see what memberships do this first year and then revisit it.

After discussion, Councilmember Dorey introduced Resolution No. 2025-72 and moved for its approval, with only a one-year rate increase at this time - 2026; Councilmember Karsky seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-72

A RESOLUTION AMENDING SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The following Resolution would amend the Wage and Salary Schedule by including a 3% cost of living increase that was approved in the budget. This would be effective with the first payroll period in January, 2026. It was noted that the minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 per hour January 1, 2026.

After discussion, Councilmember Bolte introduced Resolution No. 2025-73 and moved for its approval; Councilmember Houser seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-73

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WAGE AND SALARY SCHEDULE.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Administrator Blecke stated the City received three proposals from eligible financial institutions (BankFirst, Elkhorn Valley Bank, and State Nebraska Bank) for the solicitation for primary checking account services. The Finance/Audit Committee met on December 1st to review said proposals. The Committee looked at the Council-approved selection criteria to evaluate each: rates (both fixed and variable); fees; and, experience and qualifications. The Committee agreed that all proposing institutions had the needed experience and qualifications to provide checking account services to the City.

At this time, the City is currently receiving a variable interest rate of 1.25% on its primary checking account. Each 1.00% of interest (or 100 basis points) for one year earns the City \$10,000.00 of interest income for every \$1,000,000.00 of account balance.

The proposals received were as follows:

- BankFirst – proposed a fixed 1.15% rate for five years. Another account with a higher rate would be used to offset all fees.
- State Nebraska Bank – proposed a fixed 2.00% rate for five years; the variable rate would be 1.00% over the bank’s Super NOW rate. As of November 3rd that variable rate would have been a combined 2.25%. Variable rates would be determined by the bank, but that rate changes as the Federal Reserve adjusts rates. No fees would be imposed.
- Elkhorn Valley Bank – proposed a fixed 3.00% rate for 5 years; the variable rate could be tied to two different indices (City choice) – 60 basis points under the effective federal funds rate (EFFR) OR 35 basis points under the 3-year US treasury rate; both of these rates with calculated discounts as of November 3, 2025, were approximately 3.26%. These rates would be adjusted the first of each month. The only fees charged that the City would incur would be wire fees (\$5 each incoming; \$20 each outgoing). *The City only receives

incoming wires on bond proceeds and outgoing wires on bond payments (currently three per year).*

After discussion on the selection criteria, the Committee is recommending to the Council that the City conducts business with Elkhorn Valley Bank for the next five years for its primary checking account services, using the 3.00% fixed interest rate.

Councilmember Eischeid, a member of the Finance/Audit Committee, stated their responsibility as well as that of the committee, is to taxpayer dollars. If Council would choose a bank other than the one with the highest rate, where would the City come up with those extra dollars lost, which could be somewhere in the range of \$250,000 or more over 5 years. The Council has to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars – they are elected to do that.

Councilmember Houser, who is also a member of the Finance/Audit Committee, agreed with Councilmember Eischeid. Fiduciary responsible is their job as elected representatives. When you are comparing the rates and everything the RFP outlined, Elkhorn Valley is who came out ahead. He noted that Councilmember Webber, also a member of the Committee who was absent, wanted her point shared that she supports the decision presented and recommended by the Finance/Audit Committee.

Councilmember Dorey suggested tabling the matter so Council can talk to more people about it and get more information.

Discussion took place on what the word “local” means. Administrator Blecke reminded Council staff has to be black and white. In regard to the local part, Council approved the banks must be inside city limits. The proposals were then limited to four possible applications. He and staff did not think property taxes or volunteer hours would come into play on this decision. In addition, he noted the School went out for bids this spring. He obtained a copy of their RFP, and the Finance/Audit Committee scaled down the criteria to what Council approved on November 3rd. If the Council awards the RFP to Elkhorn Valley, the intent is to still keep an account open at State Nebraska Bank. The balance today is \$4.8 million, so staff would be moving at least \$4 million of that amount to Elkhorn Valley.

It was noted that staff obtains proposals on CD's when they come due, and the same fluctuates and goes to whoever has the highest rate. There was a time in 2023 that State Nebraska Bank was down to \$560,000 and Elkhorn Valley was at \$9,000,000. There are times when banks will pass, because they do not want the money. In 2025, there is \$8,000,000 with State Nebraska Bank and there is \$7.6 million with Elkhorn Valley in CD's. There are no CD's at the other banks.

Matt Ley, Greg Ptacek, Chele Meisenbach, Morgan Jueden, Dave Ley, and Mason Ley, spoke against moving the checking account to Elkhorn Valley, citing that State Nebraska Bank is the only true locally owned banking institution in Wayne, even though their rate was 1% lower than Elkhorn Valley Bank's rate.

Corby Schweers, representing Elkhorn Valley Bank, was present to speak on the RFP process and awarding the contract to the bank with the highest rate.

After discussion, Councilmember Dorey made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Karsky, to table action on Resolution 2025-74 to obtain more information.

Administrator Blecke stated Council needs to decide if the parameters or criteria would be the same when staff seeks bids/rates on CD's. If so, the investment policy would need to be amended. Nothing, however, would change the operations of the City if the Council tabled this item.

After some discussion, Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being three Yeas (Councilmembers Witt, Karsky, and Dorey), and four Nays (Councilmembers Houser, Bolte, Spieker, and Eischeid), and Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion failed.

Councilmember Houser then introduced Resolution No. 2025-74 and moved for its approval – approving the Finance/Audit Committee's recommendation to award the contract for the City of Wayne's primary checking account to Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust at a fixed rate of 3% for five years; Councilmember Eischeid seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-74

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF ELKHORN VALLEY BANK AND TRUST FOR THE CITY OF WAYNE'S PRIMARY CHECKING ACCOUNT'S DEPOSITORY.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being three Yeas (Councilmembers Eischeid, Karsky and Houser), and four Nays (Councilmembers Bolte, Spieker, Witt and Dorey), and Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion failed.

Councilmember Bolte then introduced Resolution No. 2025-74 and moved for its approval – awarding the contract for the City of Wayne’s primary checking account to State Nebraska Bank at a fixed rate of 2% for five years; Councilmember Spieker seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-74

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF STATE NEBRASKA BANK FOR THE CITY OF WAYNE’S PRIMARY CHECKING ACCOUNT’S DEPOSITORY.

Councilmember Eischeid noted he is voting in the affirmative for the reason that to stay at a 1.25% interest rate is unacceptable.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being five Yeas (Councilmembers Bolte, Spieker, Witt, Karsky and Eischeid), and two Nays (Councilmembers Houser and Dorey), and Councilmember Webber who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councilmember Spieker made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Bolte, to change the Council meeting date from Monday, January 19th (Martin Luther King Day) to Tuesday, January 20th. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmember Eischeid who voted Nay, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mayor Brodersen declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.