

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 16, 2026

The Wayne City Council met in regular session at City Hall on February 16, 2026, 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, Brittany Webber, Joe Whitt, Jason Karsky, Dallas Dorey and Matt Eischeid; City Administrator Wes Blecke; City Clerk Betty McGuire; and City Attorney Amy Miller. Absent: Councilmembers Parker Bolte and Dwaine Spieker.

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 west wall of the 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.

Mayor Brodersen talked about her newly implemented program "Recycled Rides" during the "Mayoral Announcements" which will be open for business on March 7, 2026.

Councilmember Houser made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Webber, to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 2, 2026, and to waive the reading thereof. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Minutes approved.

The following claims were presented to Council for their approval:

APPROVED FEBRUARY 2, 2026: GEHRING CONSTRUCTION, SE, 49,966.25; OTTE CONSTRUCTION, SE, 161,072.37; SARGENT DRILLING, SE, 74,757.27

VARIOUS FUNDS: ACE HARDWARE & HOME, SU, 3,393.16; AMERITAS, SE, 5,752.46; AMERITAS, SE, 72.00; AMERITAS, SE, 247.43; AMERITAS, SE, 35.00; APPEARA, SE, 316.53; ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION, FE, 100.00; ARC-HEALTH & SAFETY, SE, 174.00; BERNAL, GEORGINA, SE, 65.00; BUILDERS RESOURCE, SU, 1,138.57; CHASE PAYMENTECH, SE, 570.06; CHASE PAYMENTECH, SE, 56.03; CHASE PAYMENTECH, SE, 5,675.89; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 95.00; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 259.45; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 4,200.00; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 214.91; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 53.55; CITY OF NORFOLK, RE, 130.48; CITY OF WAYNE, PY, 139,805.27; CITY OF WAYNE, RE, 1,132.20; COTTONWOOD WIND PROJECT, SE, 14,612.83; DAS STATE ACCTG-CENTRAL FINANCE, SE, 119.73; DAVIS FORD, SE, 961.15; DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE, SE, 3,531.77; DORCEY, JEAN, RE, 150.00; DWEE-FISCAL SERVICES-IWM, FE, 40.00; EAKES OFFICE PLUS, SE, 233.87; ED M. FELD EQUIPMENT, SE, 300.00; EKBERG AUTO PARTS, SE, 245.00; ELLIS HOME SERVICES, SE, 2,784.13; FAST PIK, SU, 4,176.86; GROSSENBURG IMPLEMENT, SU, 72.28; HAWKINS, SU, 4,451.65; HILAND DAIRY, SE, 326.14; ICMA, SE, 374.23; ICMA, SE, 649.31; ICMA, SE, 245.66; ICMA, SE, 284.67; ICMA, SE, 153.04; ICMA, SE, 221.23; ICMA, SE, 1,355.60; ICMA, SE, 35,256.08; ICMA, SE, 611.34; ICMA, SE, 280.16; ICMA, SE, 44.70; IRS, TX, 6,134.02; IRS, TX, 26,228.08; IRS, TX, 16,119.22; J. F. AHERN CO, SE, 385.00; JAN X EXPERTS IN JANITORIAL SUPPLY, SU, 1,179.56; JEO CONSULTING GROUP, SE, 1,527.60; KNUST CONSTRUCTION, RE, 500.00; KTCH, SE, 175.00; LINCOLN WINWATER WORKS, SU, 2,380.00; MCCORKINDALE, BRAYDN, SE, 80.00; MICHAEL TODD INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, SU, 923.78; MIDWEST LABORATORIES, SE, 192.57; MONAHAN, PHILLIP, RE, 20.00; NAVIGATOR MOTORCOACHES, SE, 1,300.00; NE DEPT OF REVENUE, TX, 6,284.12; NE RURAL WATER, FE, 550.00; NEBRASKA JOURNAL LEADER, SE, 144.46; NPPD, SE, 8,321.62; NORTHEAST NE INS AGENCY, SE, 177,224.50; ONE CALL CONCEPTS, SE, 29.09; OPTK NETWORKS, SE, 531.54; O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES, SU, 88.90; PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL, SE, 60.00; PREMIUM FOOD AND BEVERAGE, SU, 849.08; QUADIENT, SU, 217.55; REELSTRONG, SU, 15,400.00; RETHWISCH, RICHARD, SE, 80.00; SCHWARZENBACH, ROBERT, RE, 150.00; STAPLES, SU, 219.16; STATE NEBRASKA BANK & TRUST, SE, 69.68; TRI-STATE COMMUNICATIONS, SU, 220.80; US BANK, SU, 11,312.63; US FOODSERVICE, SU, 2,168.31; WASTE CONNECTIONS, SE, 46.50; WAYNE AUTO PARTS, SU, 672.92; WAYNE AUTO PARTS, SU, 861.38; WAYNE HERALD, SE, 364.00; WAYNE HERALD, SE, 190.00; WAYNE VETERINARY CLINIC, SE, 70.00; WESCO, SU, 3,015.26; WISNER WEST, SU, 124.19; ZACH HEATING & COOLING, SE, 107.62; ALLO COMMUNICATIONS, SE, 1,572.10; BENSCHOTER, RE, 2,169.01; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, SE, 4,258.47; BROWN, SANDY, RE, 141.99; CASEY SCHROEDER, SE, 409.53; CITIZENS STATE BANK, RE, 2,442.42; CITIZENS STATE BANK, RE, 3,323.92; CITY EMPLOYEE, RE, 108.90; CROWNE PLAZA-KEARNEY, SE, 269.90; FIREMAN, RE, 400.00; ERWIN, BLAKE, RE, 1,000.00; FIREMAN, RE, 400.00; FIRST CONCORD GROUP, SE, 4,768.44; GRAINLAND ESTATES, RE, 2,338.70; GREENVIEW EQUIPMENT & AUTO SALES, SE, 689.95; HILAND DAIRY, SE, 13.23; JAN X EXPERTS IN JANITORIAL SUPPLY, SU, 597.58; K4 HOLDINGS, SE, 635.00; MCCORKINDALE, BRAYDN, SE, 80.00; MIDWEST TURF & IRRIGATION, SU, 33,910.00; NO SWETT FENCING, SE, 1,827.56; PIP MARKETING, SIGNS & PRINT, SU, 3,359.30; RETHWISCH, RICHARD, SE, 80.00; SEBADE HOUSING, RE, 1,832.36; SEBADE HOUSING, RE, 9,099.12; SEBADE HOUSING, RE, 4,113.06; STATE FARM INSURANCE, SE, 2,063.00; THRASHER, RE, 500.00; WAYNE COUNTRY CLUB, RE, 10,421.80; WAYNE HERALD, SE, 1,330.63; WAYNE RENTALS, RE, 2,289.66

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

Mayor Brodersen requested Council consideration to appointing Chris Rasmussen, the newly hired Asst. Director of Housing for Wayne America, Inc., to the Wayne Housing Authority Board.

Luke Virgil, Economic Development Director, introduced Chris Rasmussen.

Councilmember Houser made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Eischeid, approving the appointment of Chris Rasmussen to the Wayne Housing Authority Board. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Luke Virgil, Economic Development Director, representing Wayne America, Inc., was present requesting Council consideration to waiving the rental fee for the use of the City Auditorium on Friday, March 6th, and Saturday, March 7th, for their “Community Garage Sale” event.

Councilmember Houser made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Eischeid, approving the request of Luke Virgil, Economic Development Director, representing Wayne America, Inc., to waive the rental fee for the use of the City Auditorium on Friday, March 6th, and Saturday, March 7th, for their “Community Garage Sale” event. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Roger Protzman, JEO Consulting Group, Inc., reviewed an Agreement for Professional Services for the “Wayne 2026 Water Improvement Projects.” This project consists of a water main upgrade northeast of 7th and Main Streets. This upgrade would upsize lines from 7th to 10th Street on Logan, Nebraska and Windom Streets. This project is estimated to cost about \$1.7M. The City would apply for State Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) for this project. RLF gives a very low rate/admin fee on the loan, plus typically a small portion of loan forgiveness. This action item is to accept the scope of services contract with JEO (for design and bid) for \$157,000. This amount does not include the 5% discount.

Councilmember Karsky introduced Resolution 2026-14, and moved for its approval; Councilmember Houser seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-14

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC., FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATING TO THE “2026 WATER IMPROVEMENT – LOGAN, NEBRASKA AND WINDOM STREET (7TH TO 10TH STREET) PROJECT” - \$157,000.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The following Resolution would adopt the Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan – 2026 for the City of Wayne Public Transit Program. This is a requirement to receive funding for the transit program. The last time the same was amended/adopted was in 2023.

Councilmember Webber introduced Resolution No. 2026-15 and moved for its approval; Councilmember Karsky seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-15

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING TITLE VI – NON-DISCRIMINATION PLAN – 2026 FOR THE CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC TRANSIT PROGRAM.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Administrator Blecke prepared a “Request for Proposals” for the operation of the Wayne Recycling & Trash Center. The current agreement, which was for five years, with Waste Connections will expire in May. Proposals are due by March 27th, with the agreement being approved in April/May. Hours open were discussed – consensus was to keep the same at 20 hours minimum, with it being left up to the operator to increase or not.

David Poe, Cory Christensen and Schuyler Schweers, representing S2 Roll-offs and Refuse, were present and thanked the council for giving them the opportunity to bid this service.

Councilmember Houser introduced Resolution No. 2026-16 and moved for its approval; Councilmember Webber seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-16

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE “REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS” FOR THE OPERATION OF THE WAYNE RECYCLING & TRASH CENTER.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Dan Van Schepen, representing DGR Engineering, was present to review Amendment No. 2 to Task Order No. 05 on the “Proposed Generation Plant Project.” The additional engineering fees for the “Proposed Generation Plant Project” will be \$38,700.

Councilmember Houser introduced Resolution No. 2026-17 and moved for its approval; Councilmember Webber seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-17

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO TASK ORDER NO. 05 OF THE MASTER AGREEMENT WITH DGR ENGINEERING FOR THE PROJECT NAMED “PROPOSED GENERATION PLANT PROJECT” - \$38,700.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The following Resolution would approve the plans and specs for earth moving for the future substation and generation facility. We are at a point to start grading the substation site. The project is estimated to be around \$1M. Council must decide on whether to grade now for the generation portion or wait until we start bidding for generation services. If Council waits and makes this two separate projects, the engineer estimates it will cost an additional \$200k. One part of the project has a need for dirt, and the other has excess dirt. This is where the most cost savings would be realized at this time. Each project would be around \$500k if they are done simultaneously.

Dan Van Schepen, representing DGR Engineering, was present to review the plans and specs, and cost estimate for this project - \$1,122,000.

Councilmember Eischeid introduced Resolution No. 2026-18 and moved for its approval, with the addition that the dirt shall be moved to a location, to be determined by the City, within one mile of the site; Councilmember Houser seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-18

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND COST ESTIMATE FOR THE “NORTHEAST/CENTENNIAL ROAD SUBSTATION SITE GRADING PROJECT” AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councilmember Houser introduced Ordinance No. 2026-1, and moved for approval of the second reading thereof; Councilmember Karsky seconded.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A NON-EXCLUSIVE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH ALLO ASSET ENTITY 1, LLC, A NEBRASKA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (“ALLO”), ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councilmember Houser made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Eischeid, to suspend the statutory rules requiring ordinances to be read by title on three different days. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who was absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councilmember Houser made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Eischeid, to move for final approval of Ordinance No. 2026-1. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Council President Eischeid advised the Council that he is submitting his resignation as Councilmember because he has accepted the now vacant County Commissioner position.

Councilmember Webber made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Houser, to accept the resignation of Council President Matt Eischeid effective immediately, declare a notice of vacancy in Ward 2, and authorize the City Clerk to publish notice regarding the same. Mayor Brodersen stated the

motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor Brodersen then presented Council President Eischeid with a “Years of Service” plaque.

Councilmember Webber made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Whitt, nominating Jason Karsky as President of Council. Mayor Brodersen stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, with the exception of Councilmembers Bolte and Spieker who were absent, and one vacancy, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Administrator Blecke updated the Council on the State of Nebraska’s potential biennium budget adjustments/possible impact on the City of Wayne’s current and future budgets with pending municipal equalization funding eliminated for First Class Cities. He testified at the Appropriations Committee on February 5th in opposition to the Governor’s proposed biennium budget cuts to the Department of Revenue. The Governor’s proposal is to eliminate all municipal equalization funding (MEF) for First Class Cities. The City received approximately \$747,000 in FY ’25 from this fund and is expected to receive \$695,000 in FY ’26. The City receives these funds since the general levy is above the state average and the City’s valuation is lower per capita. That proposed cut is more than 10% of all general fund revenues for the City of Wayne. Drastic changes would be needed to the City’s budget going forward if these funds are eliminated (e.g. maximum property tax increases, major general fund department cuts, or a combination thereof). Ironically, the State plans to use these funds taken from First Class Cities to cut property taxes for the rest of the State.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mayor Brodersen declared the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.