MINUTES-August 17, 2026
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS-
1111 AVE E, WISNER, NEBRASKA 68791

The City Council of the City of Wisner, Nebraska met in regular session in the Council Chambers at the City Offices in Wisner, Nebraska, on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. Notice of the meeting was posted in three public places which are the Wisner Post Office, Wisner Public Library, and the Wisner City Office. Notice of the meeting and the agenda were mailed or emailed to the mayor and all members of the City Council. A true copy of their signed acknowledgement of the receipt of the advance notice of this meeting and the agenda is filed in the office of the City Clerk/Treasurer. An agenda for the meeting was kept continuously current and was available for public inspection at the City Offices three days before the meeting date. Agenda subjects were contained at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. The mayor presided and the City Clerk/Treasurer recorded the proceedings of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the general public.

Mayor Soden called the meeting to order, and announced the location of the Open Meeting Act, pursuant to Section 84-1412(8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Mayor Soden also announced that this meeting is being recorded.

Present on the roll call: Cathy Gobar, LJ Parker, Barry Meyer, Andrew Schweers, and Mayor Terry Soden.

Staff present: Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, Stephanie James, City Clerk/ Treasurer, Doug Salmen, Chief of Police, and Cody Lanagan, Police Officer.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CONSENT AGENDA – AGENDA, MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 3, 2026 REGULAR MEETING, AND CARE CENTER, CITY, & CITY/RURAL FIRE BOARD JULY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT. Moved by Meyer and seconded by Gobar to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Meyer, Parker, Schweers, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADOPTING AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CUMING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RECAP – DAVID BRANCH, CCED. Mr. Branch stated that when he started, they tried to do one-year agreements, the county commissioners would like to go back to a five-year agreement with an annual update to make it easier. Mr. Branch will be retiring in February of 2027. Mr. Branch gave an update for what CCED has done in Wisner through the year. The Federal Home Loan Bank Owner Occupied, this will continue as they are looking into doing an application for next year. To date has given $2.7 million in grant funding since 2020 and another $399,000.00 to the Beemer Housing Authority. Our office also makes administration fees off of these funds which helps our office to do projects for matching monies. During this past year we have completed six projects for over $108,000.00 in Wisner from the Federal Home Loan Bank, there are four additional projects pending approval. There are forty projects available for the 2025 application. We have received quite a few applications but it takes quite a while get them approved. CCED awarded $2,500.00 through the business improvement grant program to a Wisner business and provided four demolition grants totaling $13,555.00. We also contributed $50,000.00 for infrastructure in the Grandview Addition. We have continued to work with all four communities in Cuming County on housing projects and have contributed $250,000.00 in ARPA funds from the county for these housing projects. CCED has successfully secured funds through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development including $1.5 million through Rural Workforce Housing and $1.4 million through Nebraska Affordable Housing. These funds will be used to develop new housing in Cuming County. We have also continued to have funds from 2020 Rural Workforce Housing Funds that started with two duplexes and a triplex and still have some money left to start a spec house in the Grandview Addition for $200,000.00 that will be awarded to Casey Rathke. CCED has been working with Six Regions, One Nebraska. Mr. Branch asked if everyone was familiar with what that is. This is a project that is a collaboration between the Nebraska Chamber and the state to get different regions to work together and so they split it up between six regions. Each region was given so much in funds to work on projects, so the first thing Six Regions, One Nebraska did in Northeast Nebraska was create a website. During the process they talked about how we needed more developers in our area. So, they came up with the idea of the Sparks Developer Academy. They are out of Omaha and just completed their first graduation on Friday with fourteen graduates. Mr. Branch stated it was very interesting because he attended all the classes and graduation. Sparks Developer Academy has agreed to do a project here in Cuming County with three days in West Point and two days in Wisner in June of 2027. Mr. Branch asked if the council would put on their agenda between now and then to approve the use of the auditorium for the Sparks Academy for free. The council is more than welcome to attend. Mr. Branch asked the council if they know of someone that would be good to take over his role to let him know. They are going to start advertising in October. Mr. Branch hopes that it will be in collaboration between CCED and the supervisors for the search committee. Mr. Branch asked for the continued support and for future support. Mr. Branch stated that they decreased their budget by three percent and Cuming County Economic Development has increased their commitment by $4,000.00. Wisner's commitment would be $18,516.00. Moved by Meyer and seconded by Gobar to approve the signing of the five-year interlocal agreement with Cuming County Economic Development. Roll call: Ayes: Parker, Schweers, Meyer, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – AUTHORIZE NEXT REGULAR MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. Councilman Schweers stated that he will not be here on September 8th. Councilman Parker stated that he should be here. Moved by Parker and seconded by Gobar to authorize the next regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 due to the Labor Day holiday. Roll call: Ayes: Meyer, Parker, Gobar. Nay: Schweers. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – REVIEW ONE- & SIX-YEAR STREET PLAN; AUTHORIZE PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 AT 6:01 PM IN THE CITY OF WISNER COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1111 AVE E. Moved by Meyer and seconded by Parker to authorize the public hearing for Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:01 PM in the City of Wisner Council Chambers at 1111 Ave E. Roll call: Ayes: Meyer, Parker, Schweers, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. Mr. Woldt asked if council wanted to discuss paving that little section from Seventh Street to the alley on Avenue I. The section in front of Stoffel's house. This has been discussed before and Councilman Meyer doesn't think it is a bad idea. Mr. Woldt thinks that the city crew can pave it themselves. This section of paving is on the One- & Six-Year Street Plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SIDE-BY-SIDE. Mr. Woldt stated the only bid he received back was from Motoplex of Norfolk. There was another outfit out of Sioux Falls but they were $4,000.00 higher. The cost of the side-by-side is $24,138.97 with about $1,269.00 worth of accessories that they put on there that Mr. Woldt feels that they do no need. Councilman Meyer asked what will they do with the old one. Mr. Woldt said that they would give us about $2,500.00 for a trade in and feels that we could get $5,000.00 to $6,000.00 on Big Iron. Councilman Schweers asked Mr. Woldt if he tried the place in North Bend. Mr. Woldt said that he did not. Mr. Woldt stated that he will check on the price and if it is cheaper could go into a different direction. Mr. Woldt said that the side-by-side is like another pickup to them. Moved by Parker and seconded by Schweers to purchase a side-by-side from the company that has the cheapest bid. Roll call: Ayes: Meyer, Parker, Schweers, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – DISCUSSIN AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW POLICE VEHICLE. Chief Salmen stated that we would get a trade in for the old cop car (Stg. Rhodus) in the amount of $12,000.00. Chief Salmen said that the new one would be a Tahoe like the other two. Gregg Young has a brand new 2026 Tahoe in stock that was turned away from another city that decided they did not want it. The Tahoe would still come with a full three-year warranty and power train in the amount of $56,375.00. Chief Salmen went on to say that if they wanted to go with a 2027 Tahoe, it would have to be ordered and would not be here until January in the amount of $58,595.00. Councilman Meyer asked if we are looking into trading every five years. Chief Salmen stated that his vehicle will be the sample vehicle and will keep track of his milage and hope that if everything keeps going the way it is that it will be every six years. Chief Salmen gave an update on Stg. Rhodus' cop car. The car needs to be hooked up to a computer each month to have cleared out so it will go into reverse. This started back in December. Luckily Stg. Rhodus' husband has the computer to do so and is not costing the city anything to do so. Moved by Meyer and seconded by Parker to approve the purchase of the 2026 Chevrolet Black Tahoe Police 4WD police vehicle. Roll call: Ayes: Parker, Schweers, Meyer, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – MONTHLY POLICE REPORT – D. SALMEN. Doug Salmen, Chief of Police made available the monthly police activities report to the mayor and council. Councilman Schweers asked what the schedule is for the three full-time officers. He has been asked many times why we have what he calls a rent-a-cop. Chief Salmen stated he is only on when another officer wants to take vacation. He was on this last weekend due to Stg. Rhodus taking some vacation time. Before he was riding around to get used to the vehicle and the town. Chief Salmen said that he is limited by state law how many he can have on his schedule. I can have two but I am only going to work with one. He is currently a Stanton County Deputy Sherrif. He was working at the hospital for $17.00 an hour for his part-time gig and then I advertised for a part-time officer and applied over here and make $30.00 an hour and do what he loves to do. Chief Salmen said that he has come over here with some pretty good ideas. Chief Salmen said between Friday and Sunday he wrote fourteen citations. He brought over his radar from Stanton County and his is laser and can sit T-Bone to the highway which will be changing soon explained Chief Salmen.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - BUILDING PERMITS. Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, stated he has one building permits at this time. It is for 1323 Ave E. to put up a garage.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, COMMENTS BY COUNCIL, CITY OFFICIALS AND GENERAL PUBLIC.

A. Councilman Parker asked how the water treatment plant has been going. Mr. Woldt stated that there are a few bugs here and there that you have to work out. Mr. Woldt went on to say that the chemical guy came in and plugged into the wrong outlet and blew a fuse. That was fixed. The electricians were up there today working on the punch list. The one-year warranty won't start until the punch list is complete.
B. Councilwoman Gobar had a question regarding the pickleball net rental. Gobar stated that they have to come in a give a $100.00 deposit, but only during office hours. So, if they want to play at night or weekend, they can't do that. Mrs. James stated they can take it for the night and bring it back the next day or if it is Friday, bring it back on Monday. Gobar also took this time to thank the pool personnel. They did a wonderful job this year. We didn't think we were going to have a pool and we did and I am so glad we did. The aerobics were fun and they did a lot of extra things and very little problems. Gobar then asked what is the agenda for the basketball court. Work has not been done on it for a while. Mr. Woldt stated that we need to put in a retaining wall. Mr. Woldt was going to start hauling the block in this week but with all the rain that we got, mowing needed to be caught up. Once the retaining wall is put in, Woldt said that he will work with Jeremy Uhing's volunteers to see how we all can get the court poured. Councilman Meyer stated that it would be nice to get it wrapped up before winter. Mr. Woldt agreed. Gobar stated that there were a lot of concerns with kids playing at the park, that someone could get hurt. Gobar stated that if it doesn't get done till next year that a snow fence should be put up around it for safety. Mr. Woldt stated that his intent is to have it done this fall. Once the retaining wall is done, they will put a fence up for safety.
C. Mr. Woldt stated that there are to real estate agreements for council to review for the purchase of land for the cemetery. Council is asked to review the agreement from the city's attorney and this will be an agenda item at a later council meeting to approve.
D. Councilman Schweers asked if everything got moved on the east end of town for the four lane. Mr. Woldt stated that they are waiting for the electrical inspector to come. Once the electrical inspector gives his okay, the pump people will come out and get the pumps hooked in. This is where they are at right now. During that big rain, that one culvert was plugged, so all the water ran to the old lift station, and apparently there is a hole by the edge of the concrete and the water ran into that. So, the pump got extra working hours. The pump feeds the water over by Elvera Rabe's old house and then is gravity feed to the lift station on main street over by the bowling alley and both pumps worked harder during the rain fall. The culvert has been since dug out and hopefully drains better. Schweers then asked about the boom truck. Mr. Woldt is waiting for a guy to get

back to him from Sioux City. They have one in the shop they are working on and might be a possibility. Mr. Woldt has not seen anything else.

E. Councilman Meyer asked if everything else has been ordered for the 2026 Parks Improvement Project. Mr. Woldt said that the playground equipment has all been ordered and not sure when it will be in. The shower house is ordered and looking at October or November for it to be delivered. One of these days I will need the two council on the parks committee to meet at the park to find a place to put the new shower house. The lift station has been ordered for the shower house.
F. Dusty Kreuger asked if Mr. Woldt has heard anything more on the start of Eighteenth Street. Mr. Woldt stated that he has not heard of when the state will be starting.
G. Mayor Soden had the students from the government class introduce themselves and thanked them for attending tonight's council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - MOTION TO ADJOURN TO MEET IN REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, AT 6:00 PM. At 6:31 PM moved by Parker and seconded by Gobar that the City Council adjourn to meet in regular session on September 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers at the City Office. Roll call: Ayes: Schweers, Meyer, Parker, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk/Treasurer