

McCook City Council
September 2, 2025
5:30 P.M.

A MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK, NEBRASKA convened in open, regular, and public session at 5:56 o'clock P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Linda Taylor, Councilmembers Jerry Calvin, Gene Weedon, Jared Muehlenkamp, Darcy Rambali.

Absent: None.

City Officials present: City Manager Nate Schneider, City Attorney Nate Mustion, City Clerk Lea Ann Doak, Assistant City Manager Tera Koetter, Library Director Jody Crocker, Utilities Director Pat Fawver, Fire Chief Marc Harpham, Police Chief Kevin Hodgson, Public Works Director Kyle Potthoff, and Senior Services Director Beth Siegfried.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the McCook Daily Gazette on August 28, 2025, the designated method of giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the Mayor and members of the City Council and a copy of the Acknowledgement of Receipt of such notice is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the Mayor and Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Taylor announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted by the entrance to the Council Chambers and available for public review. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

Individuals who have appropriate items for City Council consideration should complete the Topic for Consideration for City Council Agenda form located at the information table by the entrance to the Council Chambers. If the issue can be handled administratively without Council action, notification will be provided. If the item is scheduled for a meeting, notification of the date will be given.

1. Announcements & Recognitions.

There were no announcements or recognitions.

2. Public Hearings.

2.A. Public Hearing - Set Final Tax Request at a different amount than the prior year.

Motion to recess as a City Council and convene a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public

comment on setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year, with the City Attorney to act as hearing officer. This motion, made by Muehlenkamp and seconded by Taylor, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA

YEA: 5, NAY: 0

The City Attorney offered and received into evidence Exhibit #1 - the City Manager's Report dated September 2, 2025 (1 page); Exhibit #2 - Notice of Hearing published (1 page); and Exhibit #3 - Property Tax Request Computation Form (1 page).

City Manager Schneider reviewed the information presented in the notice of hearing published.

All department heads reviewed highlights of their requested budgets.

With no one present to comment, motion to adjourn the public hearing and to reconvene as a City Council. This motion, made by Calvin and seconded by Muehlenkamp, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA

YEA: 5, NAY: 0

3. Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by Weedin and seconded by Muehlenkamp, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA

YEA: 5, NAY: 0

- 3.A. Approve the minutes of the August 18, 2025 regular City Council meeting.
- 3.B. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-23 approving and accepting the 2025 Red Willow County Local Emergency Operations Plan.
- 3.C. Approve the agreement between the City of McCook and J Bar J Landfill, Inc., a Nebraska Corporation, d/b/a Waste Connections of Nebraska, Inc., for the deposit of solid waste collected at the City's Transfer Station into said landfill and authorize the Mayor to sign.
- 3.D. Approve the McCook Public Schools request to close the intersection of Norris Avenue and "C" Street at approximately 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 to allow for school homecoming activities.
- 3.E. Approve the St. Patrick Catholic Church request to close portions of East 4th, East "F" and East "G" Streets and to utilize city property for their Annual Fall Festival on October 12, 2025.
- 3.F. Approve the request from Autumn Miller, General Manager of Anytime Fitness, to host a 5K run utilizing city streets and walking trails on Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 7:00 A.M.

to 10:00 A.M.

- 3.G. Approve an application from Viaero Fiber Networks, LLC to occupy city right-of-way for the purpose of installing underground fiber optic conduit, cable, and new ground-level vaults from North Highway 83 to West 4th Street, including West 4th Street, north to the communications tower.
- 3.H. Approve the request from the McCook Rotary Club to host an inflatable costume relay race in Norris Park as part of the Heritage Days Celebration, on Saturday, September 20, 2025 immediately following the wiener dog race.
- 3.I. Approve Employment Agreement with City Manager Nathan A. Schneider for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and authorize the Mayor to sign.
- 3.J. Ratify the Mayor's appointments to the Airport Advisory Commission - appoint Tammy Stewart - term expires November 2028; the Board of Zoning Adjustment - reappoint Tammie Hilker (Planning Commission Representative) - term expires September 2028; the Economic Development Plan Citizen's Advisory Review Committee - reappoint Warren Jones - term expires July 2028; the Housing Agency Board - appoint Doug Skiles - to fill remaining term of Shane Fagot - term expires November 2026; the Planning Commission - reappoint Tammie Hilker - term expires September 2028; and the Tree Advisory Board - reappoint Leigh Farrell and Ashley Sydow - terms expire April 2030.

4. Regular Agenda.

- 4.A. Update regarding the youth sports complex project.

City Manager Schneider gave an update on the youth sports complex project, stating that work continues on grant applications and that with the recent announcement that the Work Ethic Camp would be utilized by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), he wanted to make sure that the public understood the sports complex is going to continue moving forward as mandated by the vote of the citizens of McCook.

- 4.B. Ordinance No. 2025-3104 providing for the adoption of the budget for FY 2025/2026.

Mayor Taylor asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-3104 by title.

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ordinance No. 2025-3104 has been read by title and I move to approve upon its second of three readings. This motion, made by Rambali and seconded by Muehlenkamp, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

- 4.C. Ordinance No. 2025-3105 providing for the adoption of the FY 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Employee Classification Pay Plan.

Mayor Taylor asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-3105 by title.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK, NEBRASKA PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION AND PAY PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLASSIFICATION AND PAY PLAN; REPEALING ANY AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR A TIME AND DATE FROM AND AFTER WHICH THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE.

Ordinance No. 2025-3105 has been read by title and I move to approve upon its second of three readings. This motion, made by Muehlenkamp and seconded by Calvin, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

- 4.D. Ordinance No. 2025-3106 providing for the amendment of Chapter 38: Appendix E, Water Department Rates and Fees.

Mayor Taylor asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-3106 by title.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 38: FEE SCHEDULE - APPENDIX E , WATER DEPARTMENT RATES AND FEES; OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR A RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER BY THE MCCOOK WATER DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-3088 AND ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR A TIME AND DATE FROM AND AFTER WHICH THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE.

Ordinance No. 2025-3106 has been read by title and I move to approve upon its second of three readings. This motion, made by Muehlenkamp and seconded by Rambali, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

- 4.E. Ordinance No. 2025-3107 providing for the amendment of Chapter 38: Appendix D, Sewer Department Rates and Fees.

Mayor Taylor asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-3107 by title.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 38: FEE SCHEDULE - APPENDIX D, SEWER DEPARTMENT RATES AND FEES, OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-3089 AND ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING A TIME AND DATE FROM AND AFTER WHICH THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE

ENFORCED.

Ordinance No. 2025-3107 has been read by title and I move to approve upon its second of three readings. This motion, made by Rambali and seconded by Weedin, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

4.F. Council Comments.

Councilmember Weedin noted the new flooring that has been installed at the Senior Center, it looks very nice.

4.G. An Executive Session may be held upon a majority vote of the Council for the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to collective bargaining - McCook Professional Firefighters Association Local 2100.

Motion to go into executive session for the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to collective bargaining - McCook Professional Firefighters Association Local 2100 at 6:38 P.M. This motion, made by Muehlenkamp and seconded by Taylor, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

Mayor Taylor stated for the record that at this time, pursuant to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, a closed session will be held for the purpose of the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to collective bargaining - the McCook Professional Firefighters Association Local 2100. The Council will reconvene in public session following this closed session.

Included in the executive session were City Manager Schneider, City Attorney Mustion, City Clerk Doak, and Fire Chief Harpham.

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:05 P.M. This motion, made by Calvin and seconded by Weedin, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedin: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Linda Taylor, Ex-officio Mayor

and Council President

ATTEST:

Lea Ann Doak, City Clerk-Treasurer