

Osmond City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2024

A meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Osmond, Nebraska, was held in the conference room at 325 North State Street, in said City on the 9th day of December 2024, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. Present were: Mayor Dennis M. Kuhl, Council Members Dennis Haselhorst, Douglas A. Schmit, and Neil E. Wattier. Absent: Daniel E. Timmerman. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication and was posted in three conspicuous public places in said City. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the Council. A copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda are on file at the City Clerk's office. 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 convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Kuhl publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held.

Minutes of the November 13th regular meeting were prepared and sent to Council Members. Councilman Wattier motioned to approve the minutes of the November 13th regular meeting as submitted. Seconded by Councilman Schmit. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Mayor Kuhl asked if there was any unfinished business to come before the Council before reorganizing. The following old business was brought forth:

The Community Sign lease agreement between the City of Osmond, Osmond Community School and Osmond Farm Supply was brought before council to review. Clerk Timmerman informed council that the agreement was sent off to the city attorney for review, which came back with a few minor changes. She has since sent those changes to Councilman Schmit, who stated the agreement and changes were given back to the Farm Supply for review. Council didn't need to make any decision this month on the agreement and will see it back before them for approval once everything is finalized.

Next, Clerk Timmerman informed council that she has finished going through all the blocks, lots and plots of the cemetery and compiled a list of more plots to reclaim. She stated there's some she's having maintenance check on and is hoping to have that completed by the end of this week, allowing her to compile the new list and get it to the attorney by end of next week. Timmerman hopes to have the new document back before council at the January 13th meeting.

Updates on vacant properties finally has started showing progress according to Clerk Timmerman's report. She stated that the property on West 2nd Street has been demolished and the lot cleared off, one property on Logan Street was supposed to have been demolished by end of last month but ended up with delays due to various reasons, which Timmerman stated she will follow up with the owner in the coming week to verify things are still moving forward. Another property status on Logan Street has been upgraded from the owner doing repairs to deciding to demolish the structures, Clerk Timmerman mentioned that the owner does have someone to do the demolition but they are currently on vacation and will get things squared away once they get back. Council was pleased to hear the updates on those three properties, however, Mayor Kuhl stated he hasn't heard any updates back from the owner of the lot along Highway 20 that was discussed a few months ago. He stated he will have a better update at the January meeting.

Moving onto the lease agreement with Tigers and Friends Childcare, LLC Clerk Timmerman mentioned that Paige Kumm had stopped by the office and stated the school has decided to offer her a spot at the school for her after school program. She said they are willing to let her use it all year long, otherwise she would've checked into using the auditorium as a backup for summer months. Kumm wanted to thank Council for considering to allow them the opportunity to have a place for the program.

Mayor Kuhl introduced Resolution 2024-11 Signing of the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent. Councilman Schmit moved for the adoption of said resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Osmond to sign the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent for 2024. Seconded by Councilman Haselhorst. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Absent: Timmerman. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-11

Signing of the Year-end Certification of City Street Superintendent 2024

WHEREAS: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2302, and 39-2511 through 39-2515 details the requirements that must be met in order for a municipality to qualify for an annual Incentive Payment; and

WHEREAS: The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) requires that each incorporated municipality must annually certify (by December 31st of each year) the appointment(s) of the City Street Superintendent(s) to the NDOT using the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent form; and

WHEREAS: The NDOT requires that each certification shall also include a copy of the documentation of the city street superintendent's appointment, i.e., meeting minutes; showing the appointment of the City Street Superintendent by their name as it appears on their License (if applicable), their License Number (if applicable), and Class of License (if applicable), and type of appointment, i.e., employed, contract (consultant, or interlocal agreement with another incorporated municipality and/or county), and the beginning date of the appointment; and

WHEREAS: The NDOT also requires that such Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent form shall be signed by the Mayor or Village Board Chairperson and shall include a copy a resolution of the governing body authorizing the signing of the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent form by the Mayor or Village Board Chairperson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor X Village Board Chairperson of City of Osmond is hereby authorized to sign the attached Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent completed form(s).

ADOPTED THIS 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024 at Osmond, Nebraska.

Dennis Kuhl (Mayor)

Dennis Haselhorst

Douglas A. Schmit

Neil E. Wattier

City Council/Village Board Member Doug Schmit

Moved the adoption of said resolution

Member Neil Wattier Seconded the Motion

Roll Call 3 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 1 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed, and billed as adopted.

Attest:

Brittney Timmerman, City Clerk

Mayor Kuhl asked if there was any other unfinished business to come before the Council. Since there was not, Councilman Wattier moved to adjourn for reorganizing, seconded by Councilman Haselhorst. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

At 7:10 p.m., Mayor Dennis Kuhl opened the meeting for reorganization and read the open meeting law notice and advised of it being posted in the meeting room.

Mayor Kuhl, Councilman Schmit and Councilman Haselhorst were all reelected in November. Mayor Kuhl stated he had received 345 votes, while Councilman Schmit received 295 votes and Councilman Dennis Haselhorst received 287 votes. All councilmen signed new oaths of office at the meeting.

Mayor Kuhl announced the following annual appointments for 2025:

Council Members

President of the Council – Street Commissioner - Douglas A. Schmit
Park, Cemetery, and Tree Board Commissioner – Dennis Haselhorst
Auditorium, Library and Pool Commissioner - Neil E. Wattier
Water, Sewer and Garbage Commissioner - Daniel E. Timmerman

City Office

Mayor – Dennis Kuhl
City Treasurer – Brittney Timmerman
City Clerk – Brittney Timmerman
Assistant Treasurer – Cindy Hoffman

Other Appointments

Physician - Kevin Lauck, PA-C
Newspaper - Osmond Republican
Attorney - Jewell & Collins
Engineering Firm – JEO Consulting Group, Inc.
Street Superintendent – Andrew Wilshusen
Emergency Management Director – Missy Hoppe
Police Chief – Tyler C. Wells
NENEDD Representative – Councilman Daniel E. Timmerman
LENRD Representative – Councilman Neil E. Wattier

Library Board (2 consecutive 4-year terms): Justin Orr (2nd term expiring 2026); Jennifer Wisely (1st term expiring 2026); Rebecca Geneski (1st term expiring 2026); Blake Gutz (1st term expiring 2027); and Denise Schmit (1st term expiring 2027).

Health Board: Mayor Dennis Kuhl; Council President Doug Schmit; Kevin Lauck, PA-C; Doug Ketelsen; Osmond Police Chief Tyler C. Wells; and a veterinarian will be appointed next month after hearing of Paul Oltjenbruns, DVM (of Bloomfield) retirement.

Tree Board (2-year terms): Clark Wilke, Kathy Wilke, Melissa Lind, Boyd Doyle, and one more that Clark Wilke will announce at a later date. All terms will expire in 2025.

Housing Authority (3-year term): Grant Albers (expires 2026); Doug Ketelsen (expires 2027); Walter Aschoff (expires 2027); Kelly Hodson (expires 2025); and Jim Schmit (expires 2025).

Park Board (3-year term): Marvin Kumm (expires 2026); Patti Ketelsen (expires 2026); Brian Gunther (expires 2027); Regina Lorenz (expires 2027); Missy Hoppe (expires 2025); and one vacant spot.

Summer Youth Committee (1-year term): Alli Aschoff will report any changes of the Committee members, LaVail Aschoff, Alan Steinkraus, Vanessa Steinkraus, Melanie Gutz, Calvin Gardner, Andrea Gardner, Erin Kumm, Tiffany Friedrich and Jennifer Gansebom.

Zoning Board: Phil Gutz; Brandon Brunckhorst; Paul Reineke; Kelly Hodson; Michael Koehler; Justin Bahr; and Steve Lind.

Several members for Northeast Power were in attendance for the Solar project discussion. Matt Sorenson, Operations Manager for Northeast Power, informed council that they are currently looking at putting in a small solar farm within two miles of the substation on a 20–25-acre patch of land. As of now nothing is set in stone as to when things will move forward until they locate a piece of land to do such work, but they wanted to

inform the council of their future plans which will also include changing out the substation transformer. All of the project should have no negative effects to the city but provide positive resources for both the community and those in the surrounding rural area by providing another power source if something would happen to the current substation. Just like the generator that was installed, the reconnection to electricity if power goes out will take some time for a team to get to Osmond.

Councilman Schmit made a motion to allow Treasurer Timmerman to open a new savings account for the new Highway Allocation Street Fund. Seconded by Councilman Wattier. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. Council agreed to have the same signers on the account as the rest of the savings accounts and general checking account.

Clerk Timmerman informed council even though JEO was previously appointed as the City Engineering firm, to keep it on the yearly agenda she asked if they would consider that motion again. After some discussion, Councilman Haselhorst motioned to appoint JEO Consulting Group, Inc, as the City Engineer for the City of Osmond for the year 2025. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wattier. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Wattier, yea; Mayor Kuhl, yea. Voting nay: Schmit. Motion carried.

Clerk Timmerman informed council that Andrew Wilshusen would need to be appointed as the 2025 street superintendent due to Baylor Bestgen not being able to apply for his Class A license until January. Bestgen will do any work the City of Osmond may need done under Wilshusen and then be appointed at next December's meeting for the following year. A motion was made by Councilman Haselhorst to appoint Andrew Wilshusen (License #S-1696 Class A) of JEO Consulting Group, Inc. as the City of Osmond's Street Superintendent (contract consultant) for 2025, seconded by Councilman Wattier. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Wattier, yea; Mayor Kuhl, yea. Voting nay: Schmit. Motion carried.

Next, Mayor Kuhl introduced **ORDINANCE No. 2024-11 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: HOURS OF SALE**. This Ordinance shall terminate at noon on January 1, 2026, and shall then revert to the hours effective prior to the passing of this Ordinance. Councilman Wattier moved that the statutory rule requiring a reading on three different days be suspended. Councilman Schmit seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote on the motion, the following members voted: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. The following voted nay: none. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said Ordinance No. 2024-11. Said Ordinance No. 2024-11 was then read by title and thereafter Councilman Haselhorst moved for final passage of said Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wattier. The Mayor then stated the question: "Shall Ordinance No. 2024-11 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following members voted: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. The following voted nay: none. The passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the Council, the Mayor declared the Ordinance adopted and the Mayor, in the presence of the Council, signed and approved the Ordinance and the Clerk attested the passage and approval of the same and affixed her signature thereto. A true, correct and complete copy of said Ordinance is available for inspection and distribution at the offices of the City Clerk at the City Office.

Councilman Haselhorst moved for the City to remove, for free, all natural (no artificial) Christmas trees without any ornaments from curbs until Tuesday, January 7th, 2025. Seconded by Councilman Wattier. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Treasurer Timmerman presented the suggested Christmas remembrances in Osmond Dollars list for regular and part-time employees/volunteers. Councilman Schmit moved to approve Christmas remembrances of \$50 in Osmond Dollars for regular & office employees and \$25 in Osmond Dollars for part time employees/volunteers. Seconded by Councilman Haselhorst. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Clerk Timmerman presented the list of City Council meeting dates for 2025 and stated no holidays were an issue with scheduling the normal council meetings on the second Monday of every month. Councilman Schmit moved to set the City Council meeting dates for 2025 as follows:

January 13th

February 10th

March 10th

April 14th

May 12th

June 9th

July 14th

August 11th

September 8th

October 13th

November 10th

December 8th

Seconded by Councilman Wattier. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Councilman Schmit made a motion to remove Tom Kruse and add Caleb Eckstrom to the ACH signature card at the bank. Seconded by Councilman Haselhorst. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Treasurer Timmerman reported on total claims in the amount of \$276,791.13. Councilman Haselhorst moved to approve to pay all non-conflicting bills, seconded by Councilman Wattier. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Councilman Wattier moved to pay the bill submitted by Allstar Parts, LLC. Seconded by Councilman Haselhorst. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Wattier, yea; Mayor Kuhl, yea. Abstaining: Schmit. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Treasurer Timmerman asked council during claims for approval to have the audit team complete the W-2s again this year, to allow her more time to get more comfortable and understand the process. She mentioned that they currently do the 1099s. Council agreed to allow Treasurer Timmerman to have AMGL complete the W-2s.

No reconciliations and bank statements were reviewed this month, since the office still had not received the general checking bank statement. Treasurer Timmerman informed Council they may have two months to review at next month's meeting.

There were no building or floodplain permits to review.

Mayor Kuhl stated city sales tax for September 2024 was \$15,361.01 (of that amount \$3,090.32 is from motor vehicle tax).

Correspondence received was a holiday card from JEO Consulting Group, Inc and a letter from Topkote Inc. notifying us of the permanent closing of their business.

Police Chief Wells presented a report on recent activity within the city including one possible EPC, two unlicensed vehicles, one assist with NSP pursuit and one theft report to name a few. Wells informed council all his continuing education hours are completed and submitted.

No attorney matters to report.

Next personnel matters were brought up and Clerk/Treasurer Timmerman requested council to consider going into closed session. At 7:53 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Wattier and seconded by Councilman Haselhorst to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Councilman Wattier moved to come out of closed session at 7:59 pm. Seconded by Councilman Haselhorst. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Mayor Kuhl, next moved onto setting 2025 wages. Council had a lengthy discussion on several wage increases this year. A letter was submitted to council in regards to Heather McWhorter's wage, which stated that she hadn't received any pay increase since she started working in 2017 up until last year. Also, Mrs. Timmerman wage increase was discussed in depth, since she has agreed to remain Clerk & Treasurer for the City with our newest employee taking on the role of Deputy Clerk after probation. With minimum wage increasing again the council had looked at increasing library wages straight across the board instead of a percentage this year.

After all the discussion that was had about wage and salary increases this year Councilman Wattier moved to increase all wages as follows:

Library Staff

Library Director: LaVail Aschoff from \$20.57 to \$21.57 per hr
Library Aide: Helen Steckelberg from \$11.14 to \$12.00 per hr
Library Aide: Jackie F. Schmit from \$10.82 to \$12.00 per hr
Library Aide: Lori L. Koehler from \$10.82 to \$12.00 per hr
Library Aide: Amber Brown from \$10.82 to \$12.00 per hr.
Library Cleaner: April Doyle from \$14.42 to \$16.00 per hr

Auditorium Cleaning

Cleaner: April Doyle from \$14.42 to \$16.00 per hr
Sub Cleaner: Whitney Kumm from \$13.00 to \$14.00 per hr

Police Department

Police Chief: Tyler C. Wells from \$64,933.44 to \$70,000.00 annually
Extra Duty: from \$31.46 to \$33.91 per hr
Part-Time Officer: Weston J. Torson from \$20.00 to \$20.40 per hr
Event Security Guard: Leon Herbolsheimer from \$86.95 to \$88.69 per event
Extra Duty: from \$11.36 to \$11.70 per hr

General Office Staff

Clerk/Treasurer: Brittney Timmerman from \$22.66 to \$25.66 per hr
Assistant Treasurer: Cindy Hoffman from \$25.00 to \$26.00 per hr

Floodplain/Zoning

Administrator: Heather McWhorter from \$25.75 to \$32.00 per hr

Governing Council

Mayor Annual Salary from \$3,000.00 to \$3,500.00
Councilmember Annual Salary from \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00
Mayor & Councilmember Extra Meetings: \$30.00/meeting

Seconded by Councilman Schmit. Roll call vote: Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea; Haselhorst, yea. Voting nay: none.
Motion carried.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Wattier, seconded by Councilman Haselhorst to adjourn the Council meeting at 8:22 p.m. Roll call vote: Haselhorst, yea; Schmit, yea; Wattier, yea. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

CITY OF OSMOND


Dennis M. Kuhl, Mayor


Brittney Timmerman, City Clerk

I, Brittney Timmerman, Clerk of the City of Osmond, Nebraska, hereby certify that the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available at City Clerk's office, that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least 24 hours prior to said meeting; that the minutes of the meeting of the City Council of the City of Osmond, Nebraska, from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within 10 working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.


Brittney Timmerman, City Clerk