



CITY OF MINATARE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated that a quorum of the Council was present, and City business could be conducted.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT - NEB.REV.STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14

As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act, posted in the meeting room. Agenda items may be moved up or down on the agenda at the discretion of the Mayor. Additions may not be made to this agenda less than 24 hours before the beginning of the meeting unless they are considered under this section of the agenda and Council determines that the matter requires emergency action”.

- 1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call: Mayor and Council present. Also present were: Chris Lally, Street Superintendent; Karen Lojka, Clerk/Treasurer; Caryle Covalt, Librarian; Jim Ellison, City Attorney; Pattie Yowell; Kristy Manka; Jonathan Grumbles; Matt Rockwell, Minatare PD; Mike Winget, Minatare PD; Troy Brown, Scotts Bluff County Chief Deputy; Seth Imus; Wayne Kilmer; Brandi Ehler.**
- 3. Excuses:** None
- 4. Public Announcements:** Closed President’s Day, Feb 16th

CONSENT AGENDA:

(Items under the Consent Agenda are proposed for adoption by one action for all items unless any member of Council requests that an item be considered separately.)

- 1. Approve minutes of the January 20, 2025 Special City Council Meeting.**
- 2. Approve Claims, attached**

Motion by Council Member Lally and seconded by Council Member Main to approve the Claims as submitted. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.**

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- 1. Wayne Kilmer – Advisory Board update** Wayne explained why we are being overcharged based on population and the next meeting is April 21, 2026. He expects we are going to get some type of credit for the population being lower now. They keep trying to change the Interlocal Agreement. If we want Wayne to bring anything to the meeting, we need to let him know before the next meeting.

2. **Brandi Ehler – Fire Dept. update** Brandi let the council know that she officially went back in as Chief last night. She passed around a picture of the new fire truck and explained that the graphics got messed up and we need to figure out how to go about fixing it. It has Melbeta on it and it shouldn't have. Brandi did not see the graphics before they were done. It will be a month or two before they get the truck back from getting the tank heater built.
3. **Mayor Nelson/Chief Deputy Brown – Service Contract with Sheriff's Department** Mayor Nelson indicated that she would like to try the Sheriff's office helping us out on a trial basis for a few months. Discussion was held on the salary for a full-time chief for us and having a committee actively looking to fill that position. Mayor Nelson assigned Council President Lally and Council Member Costa to work on this together. Interim Chief Winget stated that his other part-time officer should be ready to start after ACL surgery in the middle of March.

Motion by Council Member Lally and seconded by Council Member Ross to get the template started to move forward with the Sheriff's office and for Council President Lally and Council Member Costa to meet with Troy upon his return from vacation to start to finalize the trial plan. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **"AYES": Lally, Main, Ross and Costa. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

4. **Jim Ellison – DOT Title Company/sale of property to State** Jim told us that we are ready to sign documents to submit to the closing agent for selling our right-of-way to the State for \$30,000.00. He said we need to give formal permission to the Mayor to sign off on whatever documents are needed to close and receive our payment. Motion by Council Member Costa to authorize Mayor Carolyn Nelson to sign whatever documents are needed to sell our interest to the State and get the transaction completed. Council Member Ross seconded the motion. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **"AYES": Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

BIDS/PROPOSALS: None

REPORTS: None

OPEN COMMENT: Discussion or action by Council regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only.

Interim Chief Winget let the Council know that if they wanted to increase the salary range for the full-time Chief position, to let him know and he would do it and get the word out.

Wayne Kilmer brought up the sign issue for the Special Meeting regarding Seth Imus' property at 909 Main. Chris and John will take care of making the sign.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Council Member Lally and seconded by Council Member Main. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **"AYES": Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

ADJOURN: 6:30 p.m.

Carolyn Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen L. Lojka, City Clerk/Treasurer