

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MINATARE CITY COUNCIL, MAY 13, 2025

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

Mayor Nelson stated: That the Open Meetings Act is posted for the public to see.

1. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: All s present. Also present: John Grumbles, Christy Manka, Wayne Kilmer, Tammy Flores, Tammie Hinebauch, Pattie Yowell, Brandi Ehler, Michael Winget, Matt Rockwell, Tommy Case, Rod Howlett and Caryle Covalt.
3. Public Announcements. (Rabies Clinic 5/31 @ 9:00)

PUBLIC HEARING ON HEIFER’S BAR & GRILL, LLC LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION:

Mayor Nelson asked for a Motion to open the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. Motion was made by Council member Costa and seconded by Council member Lally. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Motion carried.** Mayor Nelson asked if there were any comments from the public either for or against the liquor license, and no one from the public made any comments. Mayor Nelson then asked for a Motion to close the Public Hearing, and such motion was made by Council member Costa and seconded by Council member Main. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Motion carried and Public Hearing was closed at 6:05 p.m.**

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 April 8, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting.
2. Approve Claims.

APPROVED CLAIMS APPEAR ON LAST PAGE

Motion by Council member Lally to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2025 Council Meeting, and the claims submitted to be paid, seconded by Council member Costa. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.**

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Tammy Flores, Manager at Heifer’s Bar & Grill, LLC—Tammy introduced herself and bar owner, Tammie Hinebauch and laid out their plans for what hours the bar

would be open and what their vision is for the property including things to do for kids and being involved in the community. They would like to have a chalk wall, a lego wall, craft fairs, arcade games, karaoke and other things that will include families. They are not able to cook in the kitchen at this time, until the hood is replaced. They can cook outside or in crock pots and/or roasters. They have acquired a temporary liquor license. The final purchase price is still being negotiated. Motion by Council member Lally to recommend the Liquor License be approved, seconded by Council member Costa. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.**

2. **Brandi Ehler, Fire Dept.** – Brandi said she is still working on bids to repair the fire truck and looking into the purchase of a used truck from another entity. She asked for a 60-day extension of time to gather information. No action was taken on this item and is tabled until the July 2025 meeting.
3. **Karen Lojka, City Clerk/Treasurer** – Karen was before the Council to ask for authorization to open a new bank account with Platte Valley Bank. Per Ordinance 561, the 1% City Sales Tax we are collecting is to be divided 50% to Street and Public Improvements, 25% to Community Improvements (Police) and 25% to Downtown Redevelopment. We have bank accounts for street and police, but we need one for the other 25% to go into. Motion by Council member Ross and seconded by Council member Lally to approve the opening of a “Downtown Redevelopment” account with Platte Valley Bank. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Karen Lojka, City Clerk/Treasurer** – Karen then brought up the City’s health insurance for full-time employees. She has been advised by JG Elliott that the BCBS Insurance the City has will increase in price on July 1, 2025 by 9.7%. After looking through several other options that would interrupt the employees’ continuity of care and overall insurance benefits, it was recommended that the City stay with BCBS. A motion to approve staying with BCBS and the increase in premiums was made by Council member Ross and seconded by Council member Lally. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.**
5. **Mayor Nelson – Chief of Police & Police Dept. Tahoe** – A lengthy discussion was held regarding hiring a full-time Police Chief. Research is to be conducted regarding hourly wages, benefits, and proposed hours per week. It was decided Mike Winget will be the Interim Chief while the research is being completed. Attorney Ellison will provide the Clerk with any information he has regarding prior discussions on this topic, to include Resolutions, etc. Council member Costa made a motion to table this topic until an idea of pay and benefits is decided on and then the ad could be put in the newspaper. The motion was seconded by Council member Lally. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.** The discussion then turned to an update on the new Tahoe and what all needs to be completed before it can be placed in service. Interim Chief Winget indicated he is waiting on a quote from Cozad Signs on the decals and he has been in communication with Action Communications regarding the radios. Action will be looking at the radio next Wednesday to see what can and can’t be done to get the one in the Tahoe working. Mike will get the quote for decals out to Council when he receives it.

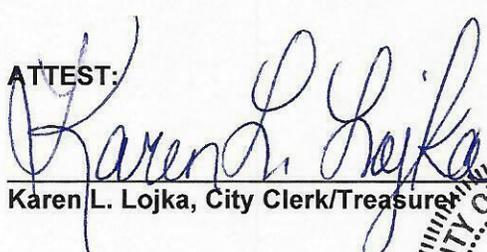
6. **Tommy Case – Summer help and private wells:** Tom was before the Council to ask about hiring summer help for the 2025 summer. A discussion took place regarding this and Mayor Nelson indicated there are a lot of things they would like to have done around town this summer including painting of curbs and fire hydrants. She thinks we would have enough work for two summer employees. Tom said that Noah Manka was interested in working for us again this year. The positions would pay \$15 an hour and be 30 hours per week. Work would begin on June 2nd. Council member Main moved to hire two seasonal helpers and it was seconded by Council member Lally. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.** The discussion then turned to the issue of private wells. In the past with 3 well houses, we didn't want the public to use their private wells. The one well house has been decommissioned and the one on the north end of Avenue B is going to be decommissioned also. Several residents have asked Tom about being able to go back to using their private wells for irrigation only. The City currently has an existing ordinance against private wells. We will need to repeal the existing ordinance and then pass a new ordinance to allow the use of the wells. Council member Lally made a motion and it was seconded by Council member Ross to table the discussion until the next meeting when we can repeal the old ordinance and pass the new one. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.**

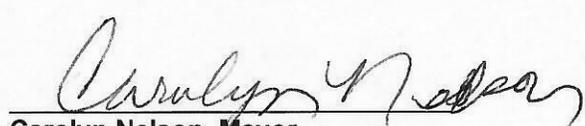
Open Comments: Tom brought up the prairie dog issue and that we need to stop them from coming across the highway and the link. Wayne Kilmer brought up our account credit with the 911 dispatch center. He also spoke for David Park stating that they are hoping to get RWMC helicopter to bring in a flag and have the color guard put the flag up. The flag will not need to fly in the dark, as it will only be up during daylight hours. Rod Howlett asked about street repairs being done and he was advised that no one could respond during open comments.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Council member Main and seconded by Council member Costa. AYE all in favor, Motion carried.

ADJOURN: 6:52 p.m.

ATTEST:


Karen L. Lojka, City Clerk/Treasurer


Carolyn Nelson, Mayor

