

**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MINATARE CITY COUNCIL, JUNE 10, 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 on the bulletin board.

1. **Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call: All Council present, however Council Member Main was running late and got to the meeting at 6:17. Also present: John Grumbles, Brandon Smith, Adrian P. Christy Manka, Pattie Yowell, Tommy Case, Rod Howlett, Kevin Lojka and Caryle Covalt.**
3. **Public Announcements. None.**

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 May 13, 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 May 13, 2025 Council Meeting, and the claims submitted to be paid, seconded by Council member Ross. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **"AYES": Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.**

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. **Caryle Covalt, Minatare Librarian --** Caryle was before the Council to ask about putting a library kiosk in the small park next to the Post Office. Discussion was had regarding purchasing a kit for between \$300 and \$500 or having the guys get materials to build one on their own. Also discussed was a type of bulletin board that would be waterproof to hang meeting notices and flyers in. Councilmember Lally stated she has something she would donate to the city for this purpose. Motion by Council member Ross to approve getting the kiosk and board put up in the park, seconded by Council member Costa. **"AYES": Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.** Caryle would also like to discuss the possibility of a splash pad, so this item will be added to the July Agenda.

- 2. Brandon Smith, Fire Dept.** – Brandon let the council know that the fire department sent 3 firefighters to school this year and the cost was \$744 per person. The City normally pays tuition for one person. Council member Ross made a Motion that was Seconded by Council member Costa to reimburse the Fire Department in the amount of \$744.94. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.** The Clerk/Treasurer will issue them a check. Brandon also told the council that the opportunity to buy a good, used fire truck has come up sooner than they expected, and they really want to make a bid on it before they lose their chance. A brief discussion was held regarding this, and Attorney Ellison told the Council that this wasn't on the Agenda and they needed to declare it an emergency so they could discuss it further. A motion was made by Council member Ross and seconded by Council member Lally to declare it an emergency agenda item. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.** Brandon said they are looking at a 2013 Pierce Velocity engine that is getting a new motor put in and he thought the cost, including decals, tires etc. would be around \$120,000. He said this could be less than that amount, but he wanted to make sure to have enough money. Discussion was had regarding paying \$50,000 out of the Fire Sinking Fund and then getting a loan from Platte Valley Bank for the other \$70,000. After some additional discussion, Council member Lally made a motion to proceed with bidding on the truck, which motion was seconded by Council member Main. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.** The Council directed the Clerk/Treasurer to get the financial documentation submitted to Platte Valley Bank for review to get the \$70,000 loan and to sign the loan documents for such loan when they are ready.
- 3. Attorney Jim Ellison – Easy Button lawsuit** Jim let the Council know that he had a meeting with the other attorney and they were trying to submit enough information to come to a resolution of the bill Easy Button owes. The formal discovery process has not started yet. The Easy Button Attorney is supposed to be sending Jim a letter and he will let us know when there is new information.
- 4. Attorney Jim Ellison – City Map Ordinance** – Attorney Ellison explained the need for the map ordinance to define the City boundaries and assist with the sales tax revenue from businesses within the boundaries. Council member Costa made a motion to waive the three readings of the ordinance and said motion was seconded by Council Member Lally. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.** A motion was then made to pass the City Map Ordinance by Council member Costa and seconded by Council member Main. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.** Ordinance Number **564** was signed by Mayor Nelson and Clerk/Treasurer Lojka and Attorney Ellison will get the Ordinance on file with the courthouse.
- 5. Tom Case – Well Ordinance** – Attorney Ellison brought up the Well Ordinance that was discussed at the last meeting. Discussion was had regarding what the permit fee would be for residents who wish to put in a private well. The proposed ordinance was discussed and an agreement was reached regarding the ordinance itself and Clerk/Treasurer Lojka is to call around to other towns and see what their permit fee is.

A motion was made by Council member Lally and seconded by Council member Ross to approve the Ordinance 565 and a different ordinance will be drafted to address the fee for the permit at the July meeting. "AYES": Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. "NAYS": None. Abstaining: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

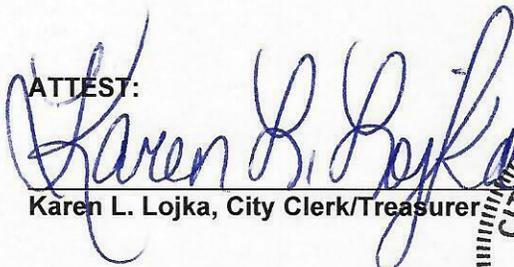
6. **Mayor Nelson – Special Meeting regarding pay and benefits for a Chief of Police Position** – A brief discussion was held while Council looked at their calendars. The date of June 19th would work for everyone's schedule at 6:00 p.m. Since it is a Holiday, Clerk/Treasurer Lojka was excused from attending. Someone else will take notes and give to her to finalize. Attorney Ellison will also not be in attendance.
7. **Melissa Lally, Council President – Fees for residents with no water:** Discussion was had regarding residents who get the benefit of trash, sewer and pest control without paying for it. There are several residents who have had water service but the water was turned off for non-payment. These folks are filling up buckets or jugs of water from other paying customers. It would be good if we had a way we could charge them for the other services since they are still dumping trash, flushing or running water down drains and having less mosquitoes in the summer. After a lengthy discussion, Attorney Ellison said that he didn't know if we could legally do anything about it but he will check into it. Matter tabled for now, no action taken.

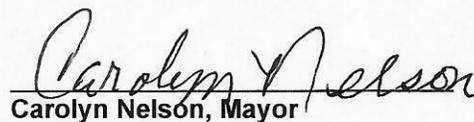
Open Comments: Rod Howlett asked again about street repairs and there could be no response by Council.

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

ADJOURN: 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST:


Karen L. Lojka, City Clerk/Treasurer


Carolyn Nelson, Mayor

