



**THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MINATARE CITY COUNCIL, AUGUST 12, 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. Also present: Beth Phelps, Gail Hobday, Patti Yowell, Rod Clause, Auston Kellog, Dennis Wecker, Bill Wehling, Christy Manka, Roger Brown, Marlena Leonard, Cheryl Spencer, Troy Brown.
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 July 9, 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 July 9, 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. **Bill Wehling, NDOT-highway expansion through town:** Bill explained to all present what their plans are for the Highway 26 widening through town. He had maps and a powerpoint presentation available. (These can be viewed at the City office if anyone from the public is interested.) They are asking for the re-platting of 10th Street into an alley. It was agreed that NDOT would get us the legal descriptions and information we need to draft the Resolution and the remainder of the discussion was tabled until the September 9, meeting. Roger Brown left with Bill to talk private about the expansion and his properties along Highway 26.

2. **Brandi Ehler/Brandon Smith** – Update on new fire truck: There is no tank heater in the truck and the Fire Department is seeking \$20,000.00 additional funds with which to put in the heater. Motion by Council member Lally to figure out the additional \$20,000.00 from funds that are available without adding to the loan, 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.**
3. **Carolyn Nelson** – Discussion re: 606 Ave C: Jennifer May was present regarding the flowers and weeds on her property and how they have gotten completed out of hand outside of her fence and into the City’s ROW. A great deal of discussion was had regarding this and the decision was reached that she has 15 days from the date of the meeting to get the area cleared and if not, the City will take corrective action on its own. A Motion was made by Council member Main as to getting this taken care of in the 15 days, which motion was seconded by Council member Ross. **“AYES”:** **Lally, Ross, Main and Costa.** **“NAYS”:** **None.** **Abstaining:** **None.** **Absent:** **None.** **Motion Carried.**
4. **Jim Ellison** – Resolution for LARM: Discussion was had regarding the proposal from LARM regarding the City’s insurance policies. After some discussion, Council member Lally made a Motion to table this until the September meeting and the Clerk is to see if Nate Fox can attend the September meeting to explain how LARM works to the Council. Motion was seconded by Council member Costa. **“AYES”:** **Lally, Ross, Main and Costa.** **“NAYS”:** **None.** **Abstaining:** **None.** **Absent:** **None.** **Motion Carried.**
5. **Dennis Wecker** - Beer garden for Tabor Days: Dennis would like to have a beer garden in the parking lot of the Broken Spoke again this year. He stated the hours would be from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. A Motion to approve the Special Designated License 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.**
6. **Tiffany Hall** – Minatare cats: Tiffany updated the Council on how many cats in town have been spayed or neutered and how many have been rehomed. She has had some fund raisers and will continue to do so. She is also looking into the possibility of becoming a non-profit so she can apply for grant funds. For now, she asked for additional funds to use for a colony located on the east side of town and after some discussion a Motion was made by Council member Costa and seconded by Council member Ross to designate \$1,000.00 from our Keno fund to Midtown Animal Hospital for the purpose of spaying and neutering additional cats that are caught. **“AYES”:** **Lally, Ross, and Costa.** **“NAYS”:** **Main.** **Abstaining:** **None.** **Absent:** **None.** **Motion Carried.**
7. **Caryle Covalt** – Resolution for splash pad: Caryle let the Council and public know that they are still looking into grants and other items regarding the splash pad and that they are not ready to move forward with the Resolution at this time. This item is tabled for 60 days.
8. **Carolyn Nelson** – Annual stipends for Street and Fire: Carolyn explained that since the Clerk/Treasurer was unaware of the stipends given to the Street and Fire Departments

each year, the 2024 ones were missed. It is also now time for the 2025 ones. Discussion was had regarding making up for 2024 and paying out 2025 now also, or should we just pay out for 2025 and go forward. A Motion was made by Council member Lally to pay out the amounts for 2024 and 2025 which Motion was seconded by Council member Costa. The Clerk/Treasurer will transfer \$20,000 to street sinking and \$20,000 to fire sinking. **“AYES”:** Lally, Ross, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** None. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Carolyn Nelson** – Police presence at night/overnight & possible contract with the Sheriff’s Office: Troy Brown, Chief Deputy for the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff’s Office also appeared to address a possible contract with the Sheriff’s Office. Chief Deputy Brown suggested a trial run with the Sheriff’s office contract, having a dedicated Deputy in Minatare for 10 hours per day, 7 days a week. He suggested the trial run be three to six months, to see if the City is going to get what it wants out of a contract like that. At the end of the trial period, it would be brought back to the table to discuss if it worked or didn’t work, what changes need to be made, etc. The cost for this would be around \$193,000 per year, or approximately \$16,000 per month. Discussion was had regarding our curfew ordinance ages and times, tagging cars for tow, our part-time officers and what their full-time jobs are, Deputies being available for special events such as Tabor Days, multiple Deputies handling rounding up juveniles for citation or jail, on-call officers only during the hours of 0200 to 0600 and we wouldn’t be charged for on-call Deputies. Troy is going to take it to the County Commissioners to draw up a contract like that and the Council would like to do a 6-month trial run. The Minatare PD would still work their part-time shifts and be on-call in the meantime, the Sheriff’s Office would still respond to calls when Minatare doesn’t have an officer on duty or on-call. We will discuss again once we have a contract to review.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Beth Phelps asked about cutting her tree down.

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

ADJOURN: 7:47 p.m.

Carolyn Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen L. Lojka, City Clerk/Treasurer