



CITY OF MINATARE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 9, 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

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, except Barb Ross. Also present were: Jeff Wolfe, Chris Lally, Caryle Covalt, Christy Manka and Troy Brown.**
- 3. Excuses:** Motion by Council Member Lally and seconded by Council Member Costa to excuse Barb Ross due to a death in the family. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**
- 4. Public Announcements.** The City will host a retirement party for Tom Case on Saturday, December 27th at 5:30 p.m. at the Broken Spoke. Please bring a salad or side to share.

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 November 12, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting & November 18, 2025, Special Meeting**

- 2. Approve Claims, attached**

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

One and Six Year Street Plan Public Hearing – MC Schaff, Jeff Wolfe

Motion by Council Member Costa and seconded by Council Member Main to open the Public Hearing for the 1 & 6 Year plan for next year. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**

Motion by Council Member Costa and seconded by Council Member Lally to close the Public Hearing for the 1 & 6 Year plan for next year. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**

Motion by Council Member Main and seconded by Council Member Costa to pass the 1 & 6 Year plan as presented by the City Engineer. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**

CURRENT BUSINESS:

Chief Deputy Troy Brown – Questions & Answers re: Service Contract – the contract was modified slightly on #5, regarding “Law Enforcement Service” and what that entails. He also modified the Memorandum of Operations to account for serving ordinance violations when they are on shift in Minatare. Also discussed was the trial period of 4-6 months. The Mayor would like to do the trial period and see how it goes. Discussion regarding number of hours per day, flexible hours, number of days per week was also had. They will only bill for the hours they spend in Minatare. One day could be 10 and the next could be only 5. There was a long discussion regarding the police budget, raising our base pay to attract other officers for Minatare. It was decided to table the ideas and thoughts until the next meeting when Barb can be in attendance and all of the information from Troy can be reviewed. Motion by Council Member Costa and seconded by Council Member Lally to table the police/Sheriff discussion until the January meeting. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**

Nebraska Dept of Transportation – Discuss offer of DOT to purchase right of way for Highway 26 project Jim told us that the current offer from the State is \$19,770.00. Jeff Wolfe told us we could give them a counteroffer. Discussion was had regarding the property and double checking the legals involved. Jim intends to work with the Title company regarding the legals.

Motion by Council Member Lally and seconded by Council Member Costa to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract subject to the counter-offer and Jim Ellison to negotiate the price for the property, starting at \$30,000.00 and taking no less than \$28,000.00. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**

Mayor Nelson – Appointments for 2026

1. Changes in Appointments to Council Standing Committees
 - Park & Buildings – Ross & Lally
 - Streets & Alleys – Costa & Main
 - Water & Sewer – Costa & Main
 - Landfill – Costa
 - Sgt at Arms – Police Officer on Duty

Motion by Council Member Costa and seconded by Council Member Lally to accept the changes in the appointments to avoid a nepotism conflict. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**

Mayor Nelson – Set a special meeting for Utility Worker Hire Applicant

Motion by Council Member Costa and seconded by Council Member Main to set the special meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing another Utility Worker applicant. Mayor Nelson called for the vote. **“AYES”:** Lally, Main and Costa. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstaining:** None. **Absent:** Barb Ross. **Motion Carried.**

Mike Winget – Issues with Fire Department Call-Outs – Mike brought it to the Council's attention that there was a lot of miscommunication with Minatare Fire Dept., Scotts Bluff County Sheriff, Scottsbluff Rural Fire, Nebraska State Patrol, Central Communications, State of Nebraska Dept of Roads and Scotts Bluff County Road Dept., during a fatal car accident between Melbeta and McGrew. It seemed like no one wanted to help with the quick dry and the equipment that was being called for was incorrect. It seemed that it was all a big mix up and Brandon Smith helped clear up some of the miscommunication. Melissa invited Brandon to the after-action meeting regarding this accident.

BIDS/PROPOSALS: None

CLOSED SESSION:

(Council reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.)

REPORTS: None

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

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

ADJOURN: 7:30 p.m.

Carolyn Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen L. Lojka, City Clerk/Treasurer