

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

April 7, 2026

As per the notice in the Webster County Sun, the Mayor and the City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the Community Center. Members present: Mayor Horne, Councilman Daehling, Hobbs, Councilwoman Elliott, Attorney McCracken, Clerk Schmitz, and Superintendent Long. Councilman Goebel was absent.

Mayor Horne called the meeting to order and ask those present to join the council in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He then stated the Open Meetings Act is posted on the west wall for public viewing.

First on the agenda was Adam Vetter from the chamber, he was present to ask questions on this year's Street Car Days celebration. His main question was for the parade route the chamber suggested check-in at Kenny's Hardware, then line up on water tower road and have the parade start at Franklin Street then end at the intersection of Franklin St. and Hwy 136. The council agreed that it would be a good route but to maybe think about trying to incorporate the nursing home, the Chamber will try to get some more ideas. The car show location will stay the same, the detour will be changed for the weekend.

Red Cloud Volunteer Fire Department Chief Wes Olson was present to give the annual report on the department. Wes informed the council on the calls they have had this year and said they will be needing six sets of new bunker gear. Chief Olson said the department is looking into getting a training facility, also informed them that it would be a good idea to start looking into updating the city pumper. Clerk Schmitz said she would look into grants for updating the truck.

Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve the Volunteer Fire Department members, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

Clerk Schmitz was present to inform the council that Judith Stanton has submitted a grant for electrical infrastructure and now are waiting to hear back from the state.

Cherry Corner was next on the agenda; Brad Burgess was present to give a general update on the facility. He informed the council that the board has hired a new administrator and with the council's approval she would be able to start on the 20th of April. They are looking for agencies to help fill the open spots on night shift. They currently have nine residents. Councilman Hobbs made the motion to approve the board hiring the new administrator, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve the sheriff's report, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Elliott made the motion to approve the bid from Great Plains Power for the Hwy 281 Electrical Relocation, seconded by Daehling. Motion carried.

Councilman Hobbs made the motion to approve the contract between JEO and The City of Red Cloud on the Grid Resiliency Grant, seconded by Daehling. Motion carried.

Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

Public comments were then opened. Juan Gomez was first to ask the council about parking during the time of the highway project; he wanted to ask if the public could use the city's truck parking during this time. Brandi Hitchler with Hotel Garber was also present to ask the same questions. The council informed the public that there is public parking behind Heritage Bank and at the community center. Councilman Daehling suggested for the time being to make the truck parking behind the post office parking for the public during this project. The council will have to have a special meeting to vote on making that public parking during the HWY 281 Project. Next to speak were the owners of 740 N Cherry they were present to speak to Attorney McCracken about their property being on the nuisance list, Attorney McCracken informed them he will be in contact with them about the progress of their clean up.

Councilman Hobbs made the motion to approve water rate change resolution #920, seconded by Daehling. Motion carried. This will go into effect for the October 2026 bill due in November 2026.

Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve minutes from last meeting, seconded by Hobbs. Motion carried.

Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting, seconded by Hobbs. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Elliott made the motion and was seconded by Daehling to approve the financial reports and city sales tax report. The city sales tax for January received in March was \$24,086.07 compared to \$25,086.07 for the same period last year. Motion carried.

Councilman Daehling made the motion and was seconded by Elliott to approve the claims. Motion carried. These will be listed in full at the end of the minutes.

Next, there was the Superintendent's report. Clerk Schmitz informed the council that Pierce Electrics was here and fixed a belt on the tornado siren. She then informed the council that she would be posting for part-time help for the office clerk's position and for summer help. Superintendent Long was next to speak to the council; he informed the council that the Hwy 281 project has begun, and they have been helping with that, the project at CPI is also underway. Mowers are ready for spring/summer. Superintendent Long then informed the council that we are needing to get two new water valves for the Hwy 281 watermain project, the need for the valves is so then water must be shut off fewer places have to be shut off for longer periods of time. Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve the water valves, seconded by Hobbs. Motion carried. Red Cloud Animal Health and Troy Schmitz got fence permits. Weston Johnson got a building permit.

Attorney McCracken was next on the agenda; he was present to give the council a general update. First, he informed the council of needing to approve an ordinance to vacate alleys. Councilman Daehling made the motion to wave the three readings, seconded by Hobbs. Motion carried. Councilman Hobbs made the motion to approve ordinance #677 which vacate streets and alleys located in railroad addition, seconded by Daehling. Motion carried. Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve resolution #921 which approves the purchase of 302 N. Seward St, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried. Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve resolution #922 which approves the purchase of 310 N. Seward St, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

Under old business Clerk Schmitz informed the council that SCEDD will be at the May meeting to start the 2026 nuisance year.

Under new business the council discussed what to do with the bricks that will be left at the C&D/Compost site. The council discussed the possibility of selling them by the ton. The council will decide at the next meeting.

Councilman Hobbs made the motion at 7:46 pm to enter executive session for employee evaluation and review applications, seconded by Daehling. Motion carried. Councilman Daehling made the motion and was seconded by Hobbs to return to regular session at 8:33 pm. Motion carried. Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve raises as discussed, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried. Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve the new part-time cleaning hire, seconded by Hobbs. Motion carried. Councilman Hobbs made the motion to approve May 7th at 6pm for the next council meeting, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried. Councilman Hobbs made the motion for April 20th at noon for a special meeting to discuss the truck parking, seconded by Daehling. Motion carried. Councilman Daehling made the motion to approve Councilman Goebel and Councilman Hobbs be the new hiring committee, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to be had and done by the Mayor and City Council, Councilman Daehling made the motion and was seconded by Hobbs to adjourn said meeting at 8:36 pm. Motion carried.

Total Salaries	\$26,376.40
Withholding – 3/15 payroll	\$1,004.81
Social Security – 3/15 payroll	\$2,189.16
Medicare – 3/15 payroll	\$511.96
Nationwide – 3/15 payroll	\$1,874.91
St. Income Tax – month of March	\$1,037.01
Professional Choice Recovery – garnishment	\$217.49
R&M Disposal – trash collection	\$12,233.50
Cherry Corner – payroll/vendor	\$18,000.00
Judith Stanton Grant Admin. – grant research	\$1,600.00
Kennys Hardware – park bathrooms, paint, glue	\$1,912.26
SCEDD – grid resiliency grant	\$500.00
City of Red Cloud – applied deposits	\$1,200.00
City of Red Cloud – applied deposit to final bill	\$200.00
Withholding – 4/1 payroll	\$1,452.07
Social Security – 4/1 payroll	\$2,678.88
Medicare – 4/1 payroll	\$626.50
Nationwide – 4/1 payroll	\$2,223.43
Professional Choice Recovery – garnishment	\$272.63
C. Vogel – insurance	\$220.80

W. Olson – retainer March/April	\$500.00
Cherry Corner – payroll/vendor	\$16,000.00
Petty Cash – postage, refund	
Electric – bond & interest	\$2,000.00
Sewer – CM sewer reserve	\$625.00
Water – CM water reserve	\$625.00
Hometown Leasing – copier agreement	\$136.64
P. Calkins – attorney fees	\$75.00
Various – business insurance	\$10,318.33
General – police contract	\$3,295.72
P. Long – phone bill	\$44.00
M. Goebel - phone bill	\$44.00
R. Hitchler – phone bill	\$44.00
D. Long – phone bill	\$44.00
Various – officers’ salary	\$1,234.68
Various – to general	\$2,500.00
Webster Co. Sherriff – sheriff contract	\$3,254.83
M. Schmitz – contract labor	\$1,200.00
Municipal Chemical Supply – enzymes	\$700.00
Barnes & Noble – books	\$145.46
CPI – Fuel & mount tires	\$1,019.41
Presto-X- pest control	\$404.99
C&D Service Center – hitch pin, loop pin	\$18.18
Eakes – notary stamp	\$35.69
Midwest Automatic Fire – annual/5-year inspection	\$705.00
Eakes – toner	\$1,025.56
Hometown Market – City Dads	\$1,371.33
Principal – dental insurance	\$484.41
The Lincoln National Life Ins. – life insurance	\$114.73
Great Plains Communication – phone/internet	\$962.99
South Central Public Power – power at compost site	\$2.62
Aflac – insurance	\$391.21
MEAN – NDEE permit/deviations	\$1,200.00
Eakes – paper, trash bags, towels	\$415.94
Aramark – janitorial	\$242.44
Farabee Mechanical – crankcase door gaskets	\$2,958.00
One Call Concepts – line locates	\$21.16
Municipal Supply Inc. – repair clamp, wire	\$568.75
MEAN – purchased power	\$88,180.28
JEO – 281 electrical relocation	\$11,542.35
Various – employee insurance	\$10,384.82
Crowl Tree Service – trimming trees out of power lines	\$9,944.50
MEAN – purchased power	\$89,189.50
Micro-Marketing – books	\$48.00

Auld Public Library – janitor, SRP, office supplies	\$111.73
Sunbelt Solomon – CPI transformer	\$25,000.00
Municipal Supply Inc. of NE – 3 x 12 match galloon	\$3,140.00
D. McGuire – mileage	\$90.30
Presto-X – pest control	\$233.47
CPI – fuel, oil change, etc.	\$501.52
RCVFD – annual compensation	\$4,150.00
Top Tier Window Cleaning – window cleaning	\$60.00
Border States – bare SD	\$250.70
Black Hills Energy – natural gas services	\$2,675.42
Cardmember Services – water fountain, lights, gloves, etc.	\$2,285.78
Hometown Market – paper towels	\$10.36
MicroMarketing – books	\$45.59
J&A Auto Supply – parts	\$67.38
Ingram – books	\$24.96
Rose Equipment – sweeper lease	\$17,250.00
One Call Concepts – line locates	\$45.88
MidWest Pump Works – sewer pump	\$4,405.01
Webster County Sun – minutes, ads, bids	\$324.98
Olsons Enterprises – fuel, pickup service	\$860.19
MEAN – certificate of compliance	\$1,750.00
WAPA – purchased power	\$7,713.80
Aramark – janitorial	\$277.30
Pierce Electronics – tornado siren maintenance	\$213.00
Dutton-Lainson Comp. – 3-phase box pad	\$2,674.10
Presto-X – pest control	\$57.46
Eakes – staples, correction tape, etc.	\$63.85
Confluence – Hardwick Park	\$40,388.50
Kennys Hardware – Cherry Corner, sprayer, etc.	\$1,056.57
Auld Public Library – DVDs	\$21.46
Petty Cash – computer work	\$25.00
Landmark Imp. – oil, oil filter, wrench	\$265.85
Energized Electric – install new air handler	\$2,898.00
Total	\$456,376.40

Gene Horne, Mayor
Maddy Schmitz, City Clerk