

MINUTE RECORD FOR CITY OF ALMA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 2nd, 2026

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Alma, Nebraska was held at City Hall on Monday , the 2nd of March, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Present was Council Members: Larry Casper, Chris Mahalek, Tom Moulton, Joel Wheeler, and Mayor Hal Haeker. Administrator Steve Ardiana, City Attorney Doug Walker, Treasurer Tashia Butterfield, Clerk Janet Dietz, Utility Superintendent Russ Pfeil, Kent Fleischmann, Scott Kuhl, Water Superintendent, Jeff Lynch, Dennis & Keanna Leonard and Angela Belware, Harlan County Journal were also present. Notification of this meeting and the agenda was given in advance by posting, a designated method for giving notice. Advance notice of the meeting and the agenda were given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council. All proceedings hereinafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public, comments are allowed for agenda items only.

Mayor Haeker advised the public of the Open Meetings Act which is posted on the east wall of the meeting room, and then proceeded to call the regular meeting of March 2nd, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

Roll call: Larry Casper-present, Chris Mahalek-present, Tom Moulton-present, Joel Wheeler-present, and Mayor Haeker-present. Motion made by Casper , second by Wheeler to determine this meeting as previously publicized, duly convened and in open session. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Casper , Wheeler, Moulton and Mahalek. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to approve the minutes of February 18th, 2026, regular council meeting. Motion made by Moulton, second by Wheeler to approve the minutes of February 18th, 2026, regular council meeting. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Wheeler, Mahalek and Casper. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss the claims and invoices for period February 19th, 2026 through March 2nd, 2026 for a total of \$88,945.79. Motion by Moulton, second by Casper to approve the claims and invoices for period February 19th, 2026 through March 2nd, 2026 for a total of \$88,945.79. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Casper, Mahalek and Wheeler. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss the Treasurer's report. Motion by Wheeler, second by Moulton to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Wheeler, Moulton, Mahalek and Casper . Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss/approve the agenda request by Dennis Leonard for City to remove (2) trees on ROW of Dick Brown Dr., near corner of Cardinal Lane, in violation of Zoning regulations, section 509-visibility obstruction within 25' of intersecting ROW lines . Councilman Wheeler question section code 509, "trees over eight feet tall". City Attorney Doug Walker advised these trees do not violate Zoning regulation 509-visibility, Mayor Haeker stated Ordinances are for property owners to maintain, Leonard questioned easements, Councilman Moulton also stated property owners maintain easements. Mayor requested a decision, City Attorney advised City should be consistent, property owners maintain. Motion made by Moulton, second by Mahalek to deny tree removal request. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Mahalek, Casper and Wheeler. Voting no: None. Motion carried. Mr. Leonard thanked the Council for their time.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss/approve the Special Designated Liquor License request for Kent Shaffer. (this is a NEBKAN fundraiser event scheduled for April 25th, at the City Auditorium). Motion by Casper, second by Moulton to approve the SDL-request. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Casper, Moulton, Mahalek, Wheeler abstained,(he is a member of NEBCAN) Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor to discuss/approve the proposed publication of request for bid for airport hangar. This project is for the entire hangar, providing additional rental property and shop space. Project is with State Aeronautics Division and is funded with a 90% match. Motion made by Moulton, second by Casper to approve publication request for bid for airport hangar. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Moulton, Casper , Mahalek and Wheeler. Voting no: None. Motion carried.

Mayor opened the floor for the Administrator’s report. Electrical, fire alarm inspections are complete, correct auditorium chairs are being ordered, windows and doors are in process. Hoping for a grand opening in two weeks. City received a higher than normal nitrate level in testing of the city wells, more specifically east well. City is required to have (4) consecutive, quarterly tests under the 8.00 nitrate level. Scott Kuhl, Water Superintendent and Kent Fleischmann, provided they have been working with state officials Abby Scroeder and Andy Kale. (no sample can be greater than 10.00) . Currently well #4 is shut down, Council discussion, flushing the well, blending the wells into the system, Wheeler was not in favor blending into the system. City Administrator requested to be included on all documentation, using only Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab in Lincoln, and to continue with monitoring.

Motion by Mahalek, second by Moulton to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. There being no further discussion upon the motion made and upon roll call vote, the following voted yes: Mahalek, Moulton, Casper and Wheeler. Voting no: None. Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.


Hal Haeker, Mayor

I the undersigned Clerk hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advanced notification of the time place and of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.


Janet Dietz, City Clerk

