

*Kearney, Nebraska  
December 10, 2024  
5:30 p.m.*

A meeting of the City Council of Kearney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 5:30 p.m. on December 10, 2024, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were: Stanley A. Clouse, President of the Council; Peggy Eynetich, City Clerk; Council Members Randy Buschkoetter, Bruce Lear, Tami James Moore and Jonathan Nikkila. Absent: None. Brenda Jensen, City Manager; Michael Tye, City Attorney; Kayla James, Director of Finance; Andy Harter, Director of Public Works; Bryan Waugh, Chief of Police; Jason Whalen, Fire Administrator; Sarah Sawin, Director of Utilities; Scott Hayden, Director of Recreational Services; Eric Hellriegel, Director of Parks; Lauren Brandt, SportsPlex Manager; Nate Mollring, Director of Information Technology; Matt Williams, Library Director; Jim Lynaugh, Airport Director; Shawna Erbsen, Administrative Services Director; Brad Demers, Assistant to the City Manager and Jake Misener, Deputy City Clerk were also present. Members of the media present included Brian Neben, NRG Media; David Griek, News Channel Nebraska; and Emma Leek, NTV:

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Kearney Hub, the designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment or receipt of such notice is attached to these minutes. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and City Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

## **I. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

### **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

With the absence of a minister, the Council held a moment of silence.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Clouse announced that in accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review and is posted on the wall of the Council Chambers.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Moved by Lear seconded by Buschkoetter that the Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of November 26, 2024, be approved. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Clouse, Lear, Nikkila, Moore, Buschkoetter. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION**

**PRESENTATIONS OF CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION TO OFFICER LUIS AREVALO AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPLE HEART TO OFFICER JOHNNY EYNETICH**

Police Chief Bryan Waugh provided details of the event that took place on February 2, 2024 for which Officer Luis Arevalo is receiving the Certificate of Commendation and Officer Johnny Eynetich is receiving the Law Enforcement Purple Heart for their actions that evening.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM KEARNEY ELKS LODGE #984 TO MAYOR STANLEY CLOUSE**

Doug Kramer, Kearney Elks Lodge #984, presented Mayor Clouse with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**CERTIFICATE OF VOTE**

City Clerk read the following Certificate of Vote from the November 5, 2024 General Election for Kearney City Council by the Buffalo County Election Commissioner’s Office:

Jonathan Nikkila	7,695
Alex Straatmann	8,502
Bryce Nelson	2,772
Kurt Schmidt	5564
Shawna Meyer	5,512

Lisa Poff  
Buffalo County Election Commissioner’s Office

Moved by Clouse seconded by Nikkila to accept the Certificate of Vote from the Buffalo County Election Commissioner’s Office. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Clouse, Nikkila, Moore, Buschkoetter, Lear. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE**

City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council Members Jonathan Nikkila and Kurt Schmidt.

**NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT/MAYOR**

City Clerk stated that nominations would be received for President of the Council and Ex-Officio Mayor who will also serve as President of the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency. Council Member Kurt Schmidt nominated Jonathan Nikkila for this position; Council Member Tami James Moore seconded the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, it was moved by Buschkoetter seconded by Nikkila that nominations for President of the Council and Ex-Officio Mayor who will also serve as

President of the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency be closed. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Moore, Nikkila, Buschkoetter, Schmidt. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Jonathan Nikkila was nominated President of the Council and Ex-Officio Mayor who will also serve as President of the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency. Roll call for those in favor of Jonathan Nikkila for President of the Council and Ex-Officio Mayor who will also serve as President of the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency: Buschkoetter, Lear, Nikkila, Moore. City Clerk stated the ayes have it and Jonathan Nikkila is declared President of the Council and Ex-Officio Mayor who will also serve as President of the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency.

### **NOMINATION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT**

Mayor Nikkila stated that nominations would be received for Vice-President of the Council. Council Member Kurt Schmidt nominated Randy Buschkoetter for this position; Council Member Tami James Moore seconded the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, it was moved by Moore seconded by Schmidt that nominations for Vice-President of the Council be closed. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Buschkoetter, Schmidt, Nikkila, Moore. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Randy Buschkoetter was nominated Vice-President of the Council. Roll call for those in favor of Randy Buschkoetter for Vice-President of the Council: Nikkila, Moore, Buschkoetter, Schmidt. Mayor Nikkila stated having received the majority of votes, Randy Buschkoetter is declared Vice-President of the Council.

### **APPOINTMENT OF PEGGY EYNETICH AS CITY CLERK**

Moved by Moore seconded by Schmidt to appoint Peggy Eynetich as City Clerk. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Moore, Buschkoetter, Schmidt, Nikkila. Nay: None. Motion carried.

## **II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

## **III. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were no Public Hearings

## **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Schmidt seconded by Buschkoetter that Subsections 1 through 4 of Consent Agenda Item IV be approved. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Buschkoetter, Schmidt, Nikkila, Moore. Nay: None. Motion carried.

1. Approve the following Claims:  
PS Personnel Services

SMCS	Supplies, Materials & Contractual Services
ER	Equipment Rental
CO	Capital Outlay
DS	Debt Service

All Copy \$120.52 smcs; American Fence \$3,342.02 smcs; Anatum \$570.75 smcs; Arch, the \$75,000.00 smcs; Ask Supply \$2,157.05 smcs; Aurora Coop \$8,019.16 smcs; AVFuel \$92,687.92 smcs; Baird Holm Attorneys \$2,982.00 smcs; Baker & Taylor \$2,650.72 smcs; Beans, J \$80.00 smcs; Big Rack Shack \$7,539.00 smcs; Big Red Auto \$2,800.00 smcs; BlueCross BlueShield \$216,521.76 smcs; Bossfuels \$18,694.26 smcs; Broadfoot's \$82.50 smcs; Builders \$43.15 smcs; California Wing \$209.00 smcs; Cash-Wa \$1,094.03 smcs; CED/American \$8,700.00 co; Center Point Publishing \$81.81 smcs; Charge Point \$740.00 smcs; Chesterman \$914.50 smcs; CHS Agri Coop \$976.08 smcs; City of KY \$532,254.94 smcs,ps; City of KY CRA \$231,654.57 smcs; Cold Spring \$1,491.00 smcs; Comm. Actiion Partner. \$7,120.50 smcs; Cordova, T \$94.50 smcs; Cutting Edge Cleaning \$175.00 smcs; D & K Products \$203.75 smcs; Dandee Concrete \$3,606.12 co; Dan's Plumbing \$351.90 smcs; DataShield \$194.10 smcs; Davidson, K \$122.50 smcs; Depository Trust \$4,980.00 ds; Dev. Council Buffalo Co. \$435,000.00 smcs; Dostal, B \$94.50 smcs; Dowhy Towing \$544.50 smcs; Eakes \$14,499.00 smcs; Elliott Equipment \$26,791.35 smcs; Family Practice \$368.00 smcs; Faz, A \$94.50 smcs; Flaherty, T \$195.00 smcs; Gale \$576.59 smcs; Gary Gross Truck \$12,200.00 co; Gerdes, J \$149.80 smcs; Give Nebraska \$6.00 ps; Gmstek \$5,500.00 smcs; HD Supply \$9,743.82 co; HM Life Insurance \$82,934.76 smcs; Hometown Leasing \$508.94 smcs; IRS \$209,600.33 ps; John Deere Financial \$11,249.75 smcs; John T. Jones Const. \$483,184.47 co; KY Tennis Assoc. \$12,663.00 smcs; KY Towing \$125.00 smcs; KY Visitors Bureau \$250,649.56 smcs; Kelly Equipment \$23,005.00 smcs; Kiesler Police Supply \$11,082.00 smcs; Klingelhoef, C \$500.00 smcs; K-Log \$7,332.19 smcs; Konica Minolta \$430.94 smcs; Lanka, M \$60.00 smcs; Lincoln Nat'l \$10,274.29 smcs; Luke, D \$94.50 smcs; Macqueen Equipment \$534,336.65 smcs,co; Magic Cleaning \$8,690.00 smcs; Menards \$348.65 smcs; Mid-Atlantic Receptive \$20,000.00 smcs; Mid-State Engineering \$289.00 co; Midwest Connect \$11,244.33 smcs; Miller & Associates \$42,643.69 co; Mission Square \$8,091.65 ps; Municipal Supply \$55,691.46 smcs; NE Child Support \$1,688.81 ps; NE Dept. Revenue \$69,925.87 ps; NE Generator \$1,639.86 smcs; NE Machinery \$2,727.46 smcs; NE Public Health \$280.00 smcs; Newman Signs \$8,178.17 smcs; Northwestern Energy \$920.83 smcs; Novus Glass \$50.00 smcs; Obradovich, C \$94.50 smcs; Pep Co. \$371.93 smcs; Philby, J \$150.00 smcs; Platinum Awards \$50.45 smcs; Presto-X \$158.60 smcs; PrimeFlight Aviation \$1,115.54 smcs; Rapid Fire \$450.00 smcs; Rasmussen Mechanical \$30,623.41 smcs,co; RMV Construction \$17,638.50 smcs; Road Builders \$6,908.92 smcs; S&J Construction \$5,586.00 co; Sabah, C \$400.00 smcs; Salsbury Industries \$3,985.41 co; Saylor Screenprinting \$6.75 smcs; School District #7 \$4,485.00 smcs; Schumacher Fencing \$412.00 smcs; Sign Center \$1,809.01 smcs; Smoker Friendly \$84.00 smcs; State Of NE/DAS \$17.64 smcs; Steinbrink's Landscaping \$4,700.00 smcs; Stutsman \$2,745.00 smcs; Sughroue, M \$10,000.00 smcs; Sunbelt Rentals \$928.51 smcs; Taillon, R \$239.04 smcs; Thompson, D \$150.00 smcs; Turner Body \$5,102.59 smcs; Two Rivers Health \$5,845.00 ps; Tye & Rowling \$16,368.45 smcs; Union Bank & Trust \$116,991.18 ps; United Way \$54.00 ps; Village Uniform \$267.23 smcs; Virtra \$12,771.61 smcs; Waugh, B \$157.50 smcs; Wausau Tile \$88.18 co; Wessels, W \$760.00 smcs; Wintergreen Corp \$10,640.20 smcs; WT Cox \$12,135.96

smcs; Payroll Ending 11/30/2024 -- \$658,796.45. The foregoing schedule of claims is published in accordance with Section 19-1102 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and is published at an expense of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the City of Kearney.

- 2. Approve the Plans and Specifications in connection with the Apron Reconstruction project at the Kearney Regional Airport and set the bid opening date for January 7, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- 3. Approve the Plans and Specifications in connection with the HVAC Replacement project at the Kearney Public Library and set the bid opening date for January 7, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
- 4. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-164 appointing the fulfillment of the term vacated by Kurt Schmidt on the Golf Advisory Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-164**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2005-96 calls for Citizen Board/Commission member appointments to be made by resolution submitted by the Mayor to the City Council for final approval; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy currently exists on a Citizen Board/Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, that the following person, as proposed by the Mayor of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, is hereby appointed to the designated Board/Commission for the term indicated:

**GOLF ADVISORY BOARD**

Mark Palu appointed to fulfill Kurt Schmidt’s term through July 31, 2025

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

**V. CONSENT AGENDA ORDINANCES**

There were no Consent Agenda Ordinances.

**VI. REGULAR AGENDA**

There were no Regular Agenda Items.

**VII. REPORTS**

Mike Tye, City Attorney thank Mayor Clouse and Council Member Bruce Lear for their

leadership and stated they have truly made Kearney a better place and it is greatly appreciated.

Council Member Schmidt thanked the citizens of Kearney for voting at the November 5th election and allowing him the opportunity to serve on the Council for the next four years.

Council Member Randy Buschkoetter welcomed Council Member Schmidt to Council.

Mayor Nikkila thanked past Mayor Stan Clouse for his support and mentorship over the years and also thanked Council Member Lear over the years for his well thought out input on different issues over the years.

Council Member Tami James Moore thanked outgoing Mayor Clouse and Council Member Lear for making her feel at home during her time on Council with them. Council Member Moore reiterated that Kearney is the envy of so many other communities and it is due to the things that Stan and Bruce have done and she appreciates being a part of that. Council Member Moore also welcomed Council Member Schmidt and congratulated Mayor Nikkila on becoming Mayor.

Brenda Jensen, City Manager thanked Bruce and Stan for all they have done and their decades of leadership and noted Kearney is the place it is because of the things they both have done.

Mayor Nikkila thanked Staff for their efforts with the lighting of the Downtown Christmas tree and starting this new tradition.

### **VIII. ADJOURN**

Moved by Buschkoetter seconded by Moore that Council adjourn at 5:57 p.m. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Schmidt, Nikkila, Moore, Buschkoetter. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**ATTEST:**

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**JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK**