

**Kearney, Nebraska**  
**September 9, 2025**  
**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 September 9, 2025 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were: Jonathan Nikkila, President of the Council; Peggy Eynetich, City Clerk; Council Members Randy Buschkoetter, Tami James Moore, Kurt Schmidt and Alex Straatmann. Absent: None. Brenda Jensen, City Manager; Michael Tye, City Attorney; Kayla James, Director of Finance; Brian Schultz, Director of Finance; Andy Harter, Director of Public Works; Luke Dutcher, City Engineer; Sarah Sawin, Director of Utilities; Gabriel Kowalek, Chief of Police, Kevin Thompson, Operations Commander-KPD; Shawna Erbsen, Director of Administrative Services; Eric Hellriegel, Director of Parks; Nate Mollring, Director of Information Technology; Jake Misener, Deputy City Clerk; Bradley DeMers, Assistant to the City Manager were also present. Members of the media present included: Peter Rice, News Channel Nebraska.

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 Nikkila 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.

### **RECOGNITION/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no Oral Communications.

## **II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

### **III. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED/REAL PROPERTY FROM KEARNEY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Mayor Nikkila opened the public hearing on the proposed acquisition of an interest in real property through the donation of a tract of land being part of Government Lot 1 and accretions thereto, part of Government Lot 2 and accretions thereto, part of Government Lot 3 and accretions thereto, and part of Government Lot 4 and accretions thereto, of Section 9, Township 8 North, Range 15 West of the 6th P.M., Buffalo County, Nebraska, and consider Resolution No. 2025-105.

Mike Tye, City Attorney presented this matter to the Council. Mr. Tye prefaced his discussion by stating that State Statute requires the City to hold a public hearing when the City acquires property. The City is receiving this property through a donation from the Kearney Area Community Foundation. The property currently has a lease for a gravel extraction business that runs through 2028; this lease will be transferred to the City of Kearney once ownership has transferred.

Mayor Nikkila questioned if there was discussion on continuing the lease after 2028. Mr. Tye stated no discussion has been held; however, as the renewal date approaches, there will likely be a discussion if an extension is requested.

There was no one present in opposition to this hearing.

Moved by Straatmann seconded by Moore to close the hearing and adopt Resolution No. 2025-105 approving the proposed acquisition of an interest in real property through the donation of a tract of land being part of Government Lot 1 and accretions thereto, part of Government Lot 2 and accretions thereto, part of Government Lot 3 and accretions thereto, and part of Government Lot 4 and accretions thereto, of Section 9, Township 8 North, Range 15 West of the 6th P.M., Buffalo County, Nebraska. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Lear, Nikkila, Moore, Buschkoetter. Nay: None. Motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-105**

WHEREAS, Section 18-1755, R.R.S., authorizes a city acquiring an interest in real property by purchase or eminent domain to do so only after the City Council has authorized the acquisition by action taken in a public meeting after notice and public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held a public hearing upon the proposed acquisition for public purposes and voted in favor to proceed with the acquisition; and

WHEREAS, The Kearney Area Community Foundation, a Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation has granted to the City of Kearney, Nebraska a Warranty Deed for public purposes for a tract of land being part of Government Lot 1 and accretions thereto, part of Government Lot 2 and accretions thereto, part of Government Lot 3 and accretions thereto, and part of Government Lot 4 and accretions thereto, of Section 9, Township 8 North, Range 15 West of the 6th P.M., Buffalo County, Nebraska, and more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a drill hole in concrete at the Southwest Corner of Section 9; thence N 00°14'30" E on the West line of said Section 9, and all bearings

contained herein are relative thereto, a distance of 1412.77 feet to the Northwest corner of a tract of land Deeded to the City of Kearney in Document 2020-02073 in the Buffalo County Register of Deeds Office and the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continuing N 00°14'30" E on said West line of said Section 9 a distance of 568.10 feet; thence S 89°45'30" E a distance of 33.00 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence Southeasterly on a non-tangent curve to the Left having a central angle of 29°26'24", a radius of 500.00 feet, an arc length of 256.91 feet, and a chord bearing of S 74°59'40" E a distance of 254.09 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence S 89°42'52" E a distance of 3138.66 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence N 60°17'08" E a distance of 68.01 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence S 89°42'52" E a distance of 195.07 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence N 75°17'08" E a distance of 169.50 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence S 89°42'52" E a distance of 172.72 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence N 70°17'08" E a distance of 292.11 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence N 86°34'02" E a distance of 1026.94 feet to the East line of said Section 9; thence S 00°08'54" W on said East line of Section 9 a distance of 321.51 feet to the geographic centerline of the opposing present banks of the North Channel of the Platte River; thence N 46°20'50" W on said geographic centerline, and all courses following are on said geographic centerline until otherwise described, a distance of 129.32 feet; thence S 76°02'15" W a distance of 56.59 feet; thence S 50°03'04" W a distance of 201.14 feet; thence S 24°18'28" W a distance of 194.50 feet; thence S 57°09'23" W a distance of 274.95 feet; thence N 68°33'15" W a distance of 151.67 feet; thence S 77°28'54" W a distance of 56.13 feet; thence S 55°03'14" W a distance of 100.15 feet; thence S 70°16'04" W a distance of 201.19 feet; thence S 04°46'48" E a distance of 172.91 feet; thence S 61°29'28" W a distance of 195.09 feet; thence N 27°45'59" W a distance of 162.17 feet; thence N 48°24'27" W a distance of 86.48 feet; thence N 75°34'54" W a distance of 81.28 feet; thence S 48°24'02" W a distance of 159.99 feet; thence N 77°20'15" W a distance of 106.58 feet; thence S 79°15'51" W a distance of 166.55 feet; thence S 42°05'28" W a distance of 215.01 feet; thence S 74°13'26" W a distance of 178.49 feet; thence S 38°37'08" W a distance of 153.41 feet; thence S 76°44'54" W a distance of 71.46 feet; thence N 24°09'37" W a distance of 139.33 feet; thence N 86°18'01" W a distance of 190.31 feet; thence S 28°12'43" W a distance of 182.79 feet to the Southeast corner of said City of Kearney tract; thence N 00°11'29" E leaving said geographic centerline, and on the East line of said City of Kearney tract a distance of 686.40 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap at the Northeast corner of said City of Kearney tract; thence S 87°13'43" W on the North line of said City of Kearney tract a distance of 2071.81 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence N 85°51'19" W continuing on said North line a distance of 275.08 feet to a 5/8" rebar w/cap; thence S 86°17'53" W continuing on said North line a distance of 309.74 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 71.39 acres more or less, of which 0.66 acres more or less are presently being used for road purposes on the East and West sides.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and City Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska that the Warranty Deed granted by The Kearney Area Community Foundation, a Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation with the City of Kearney be and is hereby approved and accepted.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

**ONE- AND SIX-YEAR STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Mayor Nikkila opened the public hearing on the adoption of the One- & Six-Year Street Improvement Plan and consider Resolution No. 2025-106.

Luke Dutcher, City Engineer presented this matter to the Council. Mr. Dutcher reviewed the One Year Plan and stated the projects are a mix of City and Developer funded projects and noted there are two large projects planned for next year, including the Avenue A project east of Good Samaritan Hospital and the 45th Street and Avenue N safety improvement project. Mr. Dutcher stated Avenue A will be reconstructed as it currently exists and will be constructed in phases.

SUMMARY OF ONE YEAR PLAN			
2026			
Project Name	Location	Type	Est. Total Cost
A Ave Imp	Avenue A, from 31st Street to 35th Street, 1280'	City	\$ 1,500,000.00
N Ave Imp	45th Street & N Avenue Intersection Improvements	City	\$ 925,000.00
Butler Ave Place Imp	Butler Avenue Place, from 56th Street to 600' South of 56th Street	City	\$ 850,000.00
Mariatt Fourth Imp	18th Street, M Avenue Place and N Avenue Place	City	\$ 800,000.00
Saadi First Imp	Adams Avenue & 41st Street	Developer	\$ 2,600,000.00
Arborview Third & Fourth Imp	R Avenue and 64th Street	Developer	\$ 2,700,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 9,375,000.00</b>

Mayor Nikkila questioned whether parking is currently allowed along any part of Avenue A and whether the street would be widened. Mr. Dutcher stated parking is not currently allowed along Avenue A and that will continue; the width of the street will also remain the same as it currently is.

Mr. Dutcher stated the 45th Street and Avenue N safety improvement project consists of the addition of a southbound turn lane and traffic signal with a pedestrian crossing due to the results of a traffic study a few years ago. Kearney Public Schools (KPS) is aware of the project and has been included in discussions regarding it; KPS will be working on a project of its own and has included the City in its discussions as well. The pedestrian crossing currently located in this area will be relocated further north on Avenue N.

Council Member Randy Buschkoetter asked for clarification on whether there were going to be two pedestrian crossings once the stoplight is installed. Mr. Dutcher agreed and stated there would be a crossing installed as part of the traffic signal and the current one would be moved further north.

Council Member Alex Straatmann questioned whether the installation of flashing signage had been considered to caution people to stop once the traffic signals are installed. Mr. Dutcher stated there are no current plans for flashing signage; however, message boards will be used once the project is completed.

Mr. Dutcher reviewed the map demonstrating the location of the One and Six Year projects, describing the Arbor View, Butler Avenue and Saadi projects and the Six Year projects, including improving 30th Avenue from the rail spur out to Antelope Avenue and the storm sewer project that the City is trying to get across the railroad track. Mayor Nikkila

questioned which area the Central Kearney Trunk Line project will benefit the most. Mr. Dutcher described the areas Downtown, also noting the impact north of 2nd Avenue, north of the highway. Construction would go under the 2nd Avenue overpass by Coca-Cola; the new line will assist in taking some of the pressure off the main trunk line that runs down 2nd Avenue. This project started where the Buffalo County Driver’s License building is currently located, and has, over the years, worked its way north to 18th and Central. Currently, there is too much capacity in this area, and the City is therefore trying to get drainage across the tracks to connect to the other systems.

SUMMARY OF SIX YEAR PLAN				
2026-2032				
Project Name	Location	Type	Est. Total Cost	Special Sales Tax Funding Year
16th St Imp	16th Street, from 1st Avenue to 5th Avenue, 1500'	City	\$ 1,400,000.00	2027
11th St Imp	11th Street Bridge over NPPD Tailrace Canal	City	\$ 500,000.00	2027
Central Storm Sewer	Central Kearney Storm Sewer Trunk Line, 18th St, A Ave, North RR St	City	\$ 7,000,000.00	2028
30th St Imp	30th Street, from Avenue E to Avenue I, 1330'	City	\$ 1,380,000.00	2029
16th St Imp	16th Street, from 5th Avenue to 9th Avenue, 1500'	City	\$ 1,340,000.00	2029
39th St Imp	39th Street, from 17th Avenue to 22nd Avenue	City	\$ 2,200,000.00	2030
30th Ave Imp	30th Avenue Bridge Expansion	City	\$ 7,000,000.00	2031
39th Street Imp	39th Street, from Rail Spur to 500' East of Antelope Avenue	City	\$ 6,900,000.00	TBD
Talmadge St Imp	Talmadge Street, from Yanney Avenue to 30th Avenue	TBD	\$ 3,100,000.00	TBD
30th Ave Imp	30th Avenue, from 1500' south of 11th Ave to Talmadge St	TBD	\$ 2,925,000.00	TBD
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$33,745,000.00	

Mr. Dutcher explained the tentative year that each of the Six Year projects would be funded. Brenda Jensen, City Manager, stated that the amounts shown on the table are an estimate of what the City will have to put towards each of the projects in the year noted from Special Sales Tax funds. Mr. Dutcher stated the Central Kearney Trunk Line project is currently under design, but not slated for construction until 2028, in order to get a handle on the impact of construction, the permitting process by the railroad, as well as having a better knowledge of the costs associated with the project.

Council Member Kurt Schmidt questioned, even though the storm sewer project is on the six year plan, would the project begin in a two to three timeframe instead? Mr. Dutcher stated once the design is completed the City will have more of an idea on when the project will begin.

Mr. Dutcher noted the majority of the Six Year projects have been on the list for several years, but get pushed back due to bigger issues that come up throughout each year; however, Staff continues to track the conditions of each street throughout the year. Ms. Jensen noted that the 39th Street and Antelope Avenue intersection project was not on the City’s radar; however, due to development in the area and continued issues, it has been added. Mr. Dutcher noted the final two projects that are “TBD” are placeholders and aren’t currently funded, but are being tracked. Mr. Dutcher noted that all funding years are fluid and could potentially change as priorities change, noting that some might never be completed.

Jakob Vohnout Larchick of Kearney expressed concerns about the speed at which vehicles travel on Avenue A and questioned why the street would be built back to the same width if parking is not allowed on Avenue A. Mr. Vohnout Larchick suggested

building the street narrower to slow traffic down. Mr. Dutcher stated the minimum width of streets in Kearney is 36 feet and further noted the same width would allow for future parking on the street or a turn lane. Ms. Jensen noted that the width could also accommodate a future bike lane. Mr. Vohnout Larchick also noted the increased use of the storm sewers due to all of the concrete the City has, and further questioned the possibility of a small bump out or an actual crosswalk by the hospital due to all the traffic on Avenue A. Mayor Nikkila stated he understood Mr. Vohnout Larchick's statement on narrower streets having an impact on the speed of traffic. Mr. Vohnout Larchick went on to discuss the Avenue N and 45th Street Intersection Improvement project regarding the crosswalk and turn lane, which widens the Avenue, and stated his concerns about the length of time it will take pedestrians to cross the street, along with cars traveling faster due to the street being widened. Mr. Vohnout Larchick stated he wanted to point out and question if cars are being prioritized in the area, or if we are trying to keep it safe for pedestrians. Mr. Vohnout Larchick noted that while riding his bike in this area, he was fearful of his safety due to the speed of traffic, which caused additional concerns regarding school children walking across the street and the potential accident that could happen due to the fast moving cars. Mayor Nikkila thanked Mr. Vohnout Larchick and stated that the City appreciates creative ideas to improve safety for pedestrians.

There was no one present in opposition to this hearing.

Moved by Moore seconded by Schmidt to close the hearing and adopt Resolution No. 2025-106 approving the adoption of the One- & Six-Year Street Improvement Plan. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore. Nay: None. Motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-106**

WHEREAS, the City of Kearney, Nebraska is required by Section 39-2119 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes to adopt a One and Six Year Street Improvement Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, at a Public Hearing held at approximately 5:30 p.m. on September 9, 2025 in the Kearney City Council Chambers that the One Year City Street Plan for fiscal year ending September 30, 2026 and the Six Year City Street Plan ending September 30, 2032, are hereby adopted as listed on the Summary of One Year Plan and the Summary of Six Year Plan, marked as Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Schmidt seconded by Buschkoetter that Subsections 1 through 7 of Consent Agenda Item IV be approved. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore. Nay: None. Motion carried.

1. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 26, 2025.
2. Approve the following Claims:
 

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

Agri Coop \$4,601.92 smcs; Alfred Benesch \$58,930.39 co; All City Garage Door \$1,048.00 smcs; All Copy \$148.78 smcs; All Safe Industries \$201.29 smcs; Amax Contracting \$1,603.14 smcs; American Fence \$1,320.00 smcs; Andersen, B \$150.00 smcs; Arevalo, L \$560.99 smcs; Ask Supply \$2,067.53 smcs; Aurora Coop \$712.24 smcs; Aussie Hydraulics \$24.29 smcs; Bahe, B \$121.54 smcs; Baker & Taylor \$1,639.03 smcs; Barney Insurance \$10,128.64 smcs; Birdies & Brews \$981.96 smcs; Blackstrap \$14,323.52 smcs; BlueCross BlueShield \$204,259.28 smcs; Bosselman Energy \$3,820.80 smcs; Broadfoot's \$4,458.66 smcs; Buffalo Co. Reg. Deeds \$196.00 smcs; Builders \$79.50 smcs; Cash Wa \$3,685.72 smcs; Center Point Large Print \$83.76 smcs; Central Ag \$924.84 smcs; Central Comm. College \$600.00 smcs; Central NE Bobcat \$445.79 smcs; Chesterman \$1,668.50 smcs; City of KY \$761,389.24 smcs,ps; CityServiceValcon \$143,695.58 smcs; Cold Spring \$387.45 smcs; Complete Underground \$8,781.75 smcs; Construction Rental \$697.00 smcs; Credit Mgmt. \$157.60 ps; Crookshank, M \$150.00 smcs; Crouch Recreation \$17,390.00 co; Crystal Clean Carpet \$3,433.00 smcs; Cutting Edge Cleaning \$85.00 smcs; Dandee Concrete \$20,161.97 co; Dan's Plumbing \$162.50 smcs; Dell \$13,411.58 co; Eagle Distributing \$4,054.69 smcs; Eakes \$1,432.98 smcs; Echo - KHS \$290.00 smcs; Ed Broadfoot & Sons \$3,016.63 smcs; Family Practice \$866.00 ps; Fiddelke \$476.25 smcs; Fulfab \$3,101.25 smcs; Gale/Cengage \$822.97 smcs; Garrels, J \$122.50 smcs; Garrett Tires \$7,307.30 smcs; Give Nebraska \$30.00 ps; Great Plains Comm. \$115.63 smcs; HD Supply \$127.40 smcs; Hertel, S \$16.14 smcs; Hometown Leasing \$577.51 smcs; Hotsy \$546.88 smcs; Ingersoll Rand \$472.72 smcs; IRS \$221,684.04 ps; Kamrun, R \$46.18 smcs; KY Catholic Found. \$1,635.74 smcs; KY Crete & Block \$872.00 co; KY Literacy Council \$1,494.45 smcs; KY Towing \$125.00 smcs; KY Visitors Bureau \$235,292.54 smcs; Klingelhoef, C \$53.48 smcs; Koettters, J \$896.33 smcs; Kowalek, G \$94.50 smcs; Leadonline \$6,219.00 smcs; Lerner \$586.46 smcs; Lincoln Nat'l Insurance \$12,296.82 smcs; Lo, W \$42.45 smcs; Logan Contractors \$9,510.00 smcs; Luke, D \$413.50 smcs; Lunbery, S \$188.50 smcs; Magic Cleaning \$8,690.00 smcs; Magnet Forensics \$3,750.00 smcs; McCartney, Erin Chpt. 13 \$254.00 ps; McKenzie, T \$32.25 smcs; Mefferd, E \$75.00 smcs; Menards \$20.87 smcs; MES \$237.45 ps; Mid-America Golf \$5,850.00 smcs; Misko Sports \$21,480.00 co; Mission Square \$7,522.77 ps; NE Art Collection Found. \$3,362.45 smcs; NE Child Support \$1,531.72 ps; NE Dept. Revenue \$102,601.98 ps; NE Public Health \$192.00 smcs; Nebraskaland Distributors \$2,762.63 smcs; NLETC \$400.00 smcs; Northwestern Energy \$1,643.35 smcs; Patterson, T \$150.00 smcs; Peerless Machine \$6,670.26 smcs; Pep Co. \$286.68 smcs; Prairie View Outdoor \$5,305.00 co; Presto-X \$168.12 smcs; Price, R \$195.00 smcs; Pye Barker \$1,175.00 smcs; Rasmussen Mechanical \$627.08 smcs; Ray, M \$932.43 smcs; Raynor Garage Doors \$332.50 smcs; Reinke's \$354.58 smcs; Republic Nat'l \$284.00 smcs; Rheome Tree \$6,200.00 smcs; Riggs, J \$56.27 smcs; Ring, E \$900.00 smcs; Rutt's Heating

\$205,180.00 smcs,co; S&J Construction \$12,507.50 co; Savageau, P \$39.85 smcs; Schmitz, R \$74.21 smcs; School District #7 \$533.00 smcs; Shields, D \$185.00 smcs; Sinner, T \$19.25 smcs; Solus UK \$7,012.00 smcs; Sontiq \$586.05 ps; Southern Glazier's \$861.00 smcs; State of NE/DAS \$23.31 smcs; Stephen, J \$103.44 smcs; Stokey, J \$252.96 smcs; Stoneridge \$4,350.39 smcs; Stutsman \$1,647.00 smcs; Sun Life \$82,492.84 smcs; Timeclock Plus \$4,171.80 smcs; Track Tennis \$6,000.00 smcs; Tri Co. Glass \$1,633.75 smcs; Tri-Cities Roofing \$414.29 smcs; Twin City Hardware \$1,045.84 smcs; Tye & Rowling \$16,819.45 smcs; Ullman, M \$188.50 smcs; Union Bank & Trust \$117,778.69 ps; United Way \$30.00 ps; Unmanned Vehicle Tech \$3,360.00 smcs; USA Bluebook \$5,631.03 smcs; Verizon \$14,796.28 smcs; Village Cleaners \$224.28 smcs; Wagner's Irrigation \$400.00 smcs; Walters Electric \$600.00 smcs; World Theatre Foundation \$3,000.00 smcs; Yanda's Music \$999.23 smcs; Young, J \$382.60 smcs; Payroll Ending 08/23/2025 -- \$728,519.24; Manual Check to Bonnie Davidson -- \$65.56. 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.

3. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-107 repealing Resolution No. 2024-161 and adopt the 2025-2026 Comprehensive Fee Schedule setting forth the fees for items and services to be provided by the City during the 2025-2026 year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-107**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Kearney have established fees for items and services provided to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive **Fee Schedule** setting forth the fees for such items and services to be provided during the 2024-2025 fiscal year was adopted by Resolution No. 2024-118 on September 10, 2024 by the City Council and amended by Resolution No. 2024-161 on November 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive **Fee Schedule** attached hereto as Exhibit "A" sets out the proposed fees for such items and services to be provided during the 2025-2026 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that such Comprehensive **Fee Schedule** be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, that the Comprehensive **Fee Schedule** attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is hereby approved and adopted with an effective date of October 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 2024-161 be and is hereby repealed in its entirety as of October 1, 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

4. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-108 setting the 2025 City of Kearney property tax levy at a different amount than the preliminary property tax levy set for the City of Kearney by

the Buffalo County Clerk.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-108**

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 provides that the City Council of the City of Kearney passes a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the 2025 property tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Kearney, resolves that:

1. The 2025-2026 General Fund property tax request be set at \$6,469,853 and the 2025-2026 Bond Fund property tax request be set at \$619,543.
2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year’s total assessed value by 8.30%.
3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$.143822 per \$100 of assessed value.
4. The City of Kearney proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$.18232 per \$100 of assessed value.
5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the City of Kearney is more than the prior year by 33%.
6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025.

Motioned by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
to adopt Resolution No. 2025-108. Voting yes were \_\_\_\_\_.  
Voting no were \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated this 9th day of September 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

5. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-109 approving the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-109**

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE KEARNEY AREA SOLID WASTE AGENCY; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES FOR THE KEARNEY AREA SOLID WASTE AGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, that after complying with all procedures required by law, the budget for the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency presented and set forth in the budget statement (Annual Operating Budget and Program of Services for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026) is hereby approved as the Annual Appropriation

Bill. All sums of money contained in the budget statement are hereby appropriated for the necessary expenses and liabilities of the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency. A copy of the budget document shall be forwarded as provided by law to the Auditor of Public Accounts, State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, and to the County Clerk of Buffalo County, Nebraska, for use by the levying authority.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

6. Approve the recommendation submitted by the Lottery Trust Fund Committee on the allocation of non-departmental keno funds designed for outside agencies.

7. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-110 authorizing the Mayor to sign the certification of the Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance Form 2025 to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards as required by the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-110**

WHEREAS, State of Nebraska Statutes, Sections 39-2115, 39-2119, 39-2120, 39-2121, and 39-2520(2), requires an annual certification of program compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards; and

WHEREAS, State of Nebraska Statute, section 39-2120 also requires that the annual certification of program compliance by each municipality shall be signed by the Mayor and shall include a copy of a resolution of the governing body of the municipality authorizing the signing of the certification form.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the attached Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance form.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

**V. CONSENT AGENDA ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 8762 REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 8700 AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL SALARY ORDINANCE**

Council Member Buschkoetter introduced Ordinance No. 8762 repealing Ordinance No. 8700 and classify the officers and employees of the City; fix the ranges of compensation of such officers and employees; establish the hours and work period for overtime eligibility; provide for payments of clothing and/or uniform allowances; provide for payment of vehicle allowance; and provide for payment of health and dental benefits for active full-time employees; to provide for payment of health benefits for early retiree

employees pursuant to Resolution No. 2019-68A, and moved that the statutory rules requiring ordinances to be read by title on three different days be suspended and said ordinances be considered for passage on the same day upon reading by number only, and then placed on final passage and that the City Clerk be permitted to call out the number of the ordinance on its first reading and then upon its final passage. Council Member Nikkila seconded the motion to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 8762. President of the Council asked for discussion or if anyone in the audience was interested in the ordinance. No one responded. Clerk called the roll which resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore, Schmidt. Nay: None. Motion to suspend the rules having been concurred in by three-fourths of the City Council, said motion was declared passed and adopted. City Clerk read Ordinance No. 8762 by number. Roll call of those in favor of the passage of said ordinance on the first reading resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore, Schmidt. Nay: None. Motion carried. Ordinance was read by number.

Moved by Nikkila seconded by Straatmann that Ordinance No. 8762 be passed, approved and published as required by law. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Buschkoetter, Moore, Schmidt, Straatmann. Nay: None. Motion carried.

By reason of the roll call voted on the first reading and final passage of the ordinance, Ordinance No. 8762 is declared to be lawfully passed and adopted upon publication in pamphlet form and made available to the public at the Office of the City Clerk and the Kearney Public Library.

## **VI. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 8763 ADOPTING THE CITY OF KEARNEY BUDGET FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR**

Mayor Nikkila questioned if there were further comments or questions regarding the budget after the Public Hearing that was held last week. Hearing none, Mayor Nikkila thanked Finance Directors Kayla James and Brian Schultz and further acknowledged that this was a tough budget, noting his appreciation of Department Heads and Staff's efforts in working through the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Council Member Straatmann introduced Ordinance No. 8763 adopting the City of Kearney Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year and approving the budget statement as the Annual Appropriation Bill, and moved that the statutory rules requiring ordinances to be read by title on three different days be suspended and said ordinances be considered for passage on the same day upon reading by number only, and then placed on final passage and that the City Clerk be permitted to call out the number of the ordinance on its first reading and then upon its final passage. Council Member Moore seconded the motion to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 8763. President of the Council asked for discussion or if anyone in the audience was interested in the ordinance. No one responded. Clerk called the roll which resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Moore, Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter. Nay: None. Motion to suspend the rules having been concurred in by three-fourths of the City Council, said motion was declared passed and adopted. City Clerk read Ordinance No. 8763 by number. Roll call of those in favor of the passage of said ordinance on the first reading resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Moore,

Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter. Nay: None. Motion carried. Ordinance was read by number.

Moved by Moore seconded by Schmidt that Ordinance No. 8763 be passed, approved and published as required by law. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore. Nay: None. Motion carried.

By reason of the roll call voted on the first reading and final passage of the ordinance, Ordinance No. 8763 is declared to be lawfully passed and adopted upon publication in pamphlet form and made available to the public at the Office of the City Clerk and the Kearney Public Library.

## **VII. REPORTS**

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

Moved by Nikkila seconded by Straatmann that Council adjourn at 6:03 p.m. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore, Schmidt. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**ATTEST:**

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

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**PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK**