

*Kearney, Nebraska  
November 25, 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 November 25, 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. Michael Tye, City Attorney; Brian Schultz, Director of Finance; Sarah Sawin, Director of Utilities; Bradley DeMers, Assistant to the City Manager; Melissa Dougherty-O'Hara, City Planner; Eric Hellriegel, Director of Parks; Luke Dutcher, Assistant Director of Public Works; Jake Misener, Deputy City Clerk and Gabriel Kowalek, Chief of Police; several members of the Kearney Police Department, were also present. Members of the media present included: Mike Konz, Kearney Hub and Brian Neben, NRG Media.

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**

Members of the Kearney Police Department Honor Guard presented the colors. 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.

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION**

### **RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR PROMOTION OF POLICE LIEUTENANTS ANTHONY CORDOVA AND JC SMALL**

Chief Gabriel Kowalek introduced Police Lieutenants Anthony Cordova and JC Small and noted Lieutenant Small has been with the Kearney Police Department for 20 years and that Lieutenant Cordova had been with the Kearney Police Department 30 years. Chief

Kowalek stated that this promotion is a great accomplishment for both Officers and is well earned.

## **II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

## **III. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Straatmann seconded by Buschkoetter that Subsections 1 through 13 of Consent Agenda Item IV be approved. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter. Nay: None. Moore abstained. Motion carried.

1. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting held November 12, 2025.
2. Approve the following Claims:

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

Adscreen Group \$18,950.00 co; Alfred Benesch \$70,722.81 co; All City Garage Door \$250.00 smcs; All Pro Window Cleaning \$1,115.00 smcs; All Safe Industries \$433.00 smcs; Altec \$4,343.15 smcs; Ask Supply \$420.64 smcs; Aurora Coop \$6,429.00 smcs; Automatic Systems \$3,003.52 smcs; Baker & Taylor \$149.48 smcs; Barney Insurance \$100.00 smcs; Blackstrap \$3,404.77 smcs; BlueCross BlueShield \$125,623.34 smcs; Booton,L \$126.92 smcs; Bosselman \$12,427.80 smcs; Brueggeman,K \$43.62 smcs; Buffalo Co. Redi-Mix \$5,655.00 smcs,co; Buffalo Co. Register \$280.00 smcs; Burnett,J \$150.00 smcs; Cal/Amp \$808.50 smcs; Cash Wa \$1,562.36 smcs; CDW Government \$6,955.20 smcs; Central NE Bobcat \$14,805.38 co; Chesterman \$120.00 smcs; City of Ky \$24,613.51 smcs,ps; City of Ky-Life/LTD \$5.75 ps; CityServiceValcon \$47,136.41 smcs; Community Action Mid-NE \$305.50 smcs; Conroy,B \$150.00 smcs; Consolidated Concrete \$17,072.90 co; Constructors \$1,657,533.44 co; Co Line Striping \$57,196.29 smcs; Creative Services \$558.95 smcs; Credit Mgmt. \$157.60 ps; Crystal Clean Carpet \$141.00 smcs; D & K Products \$33,334.92 smcs; Daigle Law Group \$7,560.00 smcs; Dandee Concrete \$8,819.00 co; Dan's Plumbing \$142.50 smcs; Dawson Public Power \$30,606.80 smcs; Depository Trust \$642,387.50 co; DLT Solutions \$4,942.16 smcs; Donkey Towing \$250.00 smcs; Eakes \$194.66 smcs; Ed Broadfoot \$461.25 smcs; Entenmann-Rovin \$860.35 smcs; Ernst,P \$14.15 smcs; Expression Wear \$101.00 smcs; Faz,A \$94.50 smcs; First Nat'l Bank-Omaha \$82.70 smcs; Floyd's Truck \$3,955.52 smcs; Fortkamp,P \$63.37 smcs; Frontier \$2,424.10 smcs; Gale/Cengage \$799.69 smcs; Gametime \$17,291.56 co; Gangwish Turf \$723.00 smcs; Garrett Tires \$9,586.24 smcs; GD Concrete \$4,720.00 smcs; Go Physical Therapy \$110.00 ps; Goodwin Tucker \$871.66 smcs; Graczyk Lawn \$3,789.00 smcs; Green,J \$1,770.00 smcs; Gumdrop Books \$87.96 smcs; Hanson,J \$63.46 smcs; Heartland Motor Sports \$246.96 smcs; Hogins,J

\$6.03 smcs; Hometown Leasing \$160.00 smcs; Hub Int'l \$14,419.84 smcs; Infogroup/Data Axle \$2,600.00 smcs; IRS \$222,433.99 ps; J&A Traffic \$792.00 smcs; Jack Lederman \$272.08 smcs; Jonak,K \$128.39 smcs; Journal Communications \$10,905.00 smcs; Ky Animal Shelter \$16,145.76 smcs; Ky Crete & Block \$32.25 smcs; Ky Tennis Assn. \$13,618.50 smcs; Ky Towing \$130.00 smcs; Kelly Equipment \$560.00 smcs; Kidwell \$1,231.70 smcs; Konica Minolta \$582.86 smcs; Ky Sustainable Housing \$4,500.00 smcs; Land,K \$1,200.00 smcs; Leadsonline \$6,127.00 smcs; Levander's Body Shop \$7,286.66 smcs; Lincoln Journal Star \$250.00 smcs; Logan Contractors \$23,300.00 co; Lowery,K \$23.42 smcs; Luke,D \$94.50 smcs; Luna,O \$150.00 smcs; Macqueen Equipment \$8,051.25 smcs; Mara USA \$176,682.03 smcs; McCartney,E Chpt. 13 \$254.00 ps; McEntee,S \$150.00 smcs; Midlands Contracting \$5,775.00 smcs; Mid-NE Digging \$5,350.00 co; Mid-State Engineering \$255.00 smcs; Midwest Concrete \$2,950.00 co; Miller & Associates \$14,581.25 co; Mirror Image Concrete \$242.44 smcs; Mission Square \$55,185.04 ps; MES \$324.00 smcs; Municipal Supply \$132,680.00 smcs; Murphy Tractor \$3,607.04 smcs; Myers Construction \$48,883.03 co; Napa Auto \$2,240.33 smcs; NCMA \$820.00 smcs; NE Child Support \$1,304.95 ps; NE Generator \$720.00 smcs; NE Municipal Clerks' \$200.00 smcs; Nebraskaland Distributors \$143.15 smcs; Nielsen Contracting \$319,702.34 co; Northwestern Energy \$4,387.10 smcs; NPPD \$5,302.99 smcs; Olsson Associates \$10,930.75 co; Omnify \$560.00 smcs; One Call \$525.08 smcs; Pep Co. \$427.06 smcs; Philby,J \$150.00 smcs; Pioneer Industrial \$8,751.64 smcs; Presto-X \$730.07 smcs; PVS Chemicals \$11,908.59 smcs; Pye-Barker \$1,555.00 smcs; Rasmussen Mechanical \$3,773.77 smcs; Ready Mixed Concrete \$8,498.48 smcs; Resource Mgmt. \$3,130.00 smcs; Roomsburg,M \$48.10 smcs; Rosenthal,B \$180.60 smcs; Routeware \$49,680.00 smcs; S&B Heating \$1,064.15 smcs; Sapp Brothers \$42,334.16 smcs; Schriener,D \$150.00 smcs; Sherwin Williams \$114.28 smcs; Sinclair/KFXL \$200.00 smcs; Sinclair/KHGI \$625.00 smcs; Straka,S \$52.87 smcs; Stutsman \$2,745.00 smcs; Sup Family Investments \$5,311.73 smcs; Superior - Central Square \$177,364.62 smcs; Tri City Concrete \$23,100.00 co; Twin City Hardware \$241.29 smcs; Union Bank & Trust \$133,940.38 ps; Unique Management \$267.95 smcs; Vertosoft \$70,375.00 smcs; Video Kingdom \$1,814.00 smcs; Wee-Cycle \$20.00 smcs; Wheeler,J \$150.00 smcs; Whitmier,M \$127.99 smcs; Wilcac Life \$5.00 ps; WT Cox Subscriptions \$11,501.53 smcs; Yanda's Music \$50.00 smcs; Payroll Ending 11/15/2025 -- \$683,647.34. 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. Receive recommendations of Planning Commission and set December 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. as date and time for hearing on those applications where applicable.

4. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-150 approving the Agreement for Services between the City of Kearney and the Great Platte River Road Memorial Foundation a Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-150**

WHEREAS, The Archway continues to be a tourist attraction that draws visitors from all over the United States, where visitors hear the history of the Platte River Valley known as the Great Platte River Road; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kearney, in partnership with the Great Platte River Road Memorial Foundation, will continue to create efficiencies and improvements resulting in decreased operating expenses, improved aesthetics and significant operational efficiencies, similar to when Resolution No. 2016-179 was approved by the City Council on October 11, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, that the Agreement for Services between the City of Kearney and the Great Platte River Road Memorial Foundation, a Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation for the purpose of providing services under certain conditions be and is hereby approved and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement for Services on behalf of the City of Kearney. The Agreement, marked as Exhibit 'A', is hereby attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposal is valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

5. Consider the Agreement for Funding between the City of Kearney, Nebraska, a Municipal Corporation and Visit Kearney, a Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation and approve Resolution No. 2025-151.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-151**

BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, that the Agreement for Funding between the City of Kearney, Nebraska, a Municipal Corporation and Visit Kearney, a Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation for the purpose of providing funding for the management and operation of the Great Platte River Road Archway be and is hereby approved. The Agreement, marked as Exhibit 'A', is hereby attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement for Funding on behalf of the City of Kearney.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

6. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-152 approving the recommendation submitted by the Fire Chief to include the following as members of the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department: Andrew Clements and Chayna Lundgren.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-152**

WHEREAS, Aaron Jameson, Chief of the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department, has forwarded names of individuals desiring to serve as a volunteer in the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of Chief Jameson, the City Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska hereby finds and determines that said persons listed are fully capable and qualified to serve a membership in the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, in order to be qualified for benefits in accordance with Sections 48-115, et seq. of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, said volunteer firefighters acting outside the corporate limits of the City must be officially directed to do so in order to be eligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, that the persons recommended by the Chief of the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department for membership in the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department as set forth on the attached letter of recommendation, marked Exhibit "A," attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference, are hereby confirmed as members of the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department for the purposes of and in accordance with Section 48-115 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, and that said members are fully entitled to benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all of said volunteer firefighters named on Exhibit "A" are hereby specifically authorized and directed to serve outside the corporate limits of the municipality under the direction, orders and authority of the Chief of the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department in accordance with Section 4-204 of the Kearney City Code.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

- 7. Approve the request from the Utilities Department to sell three (3) pieces of equipment by the method deemed most advantageous to the City of Kearney, including sale by auction, sealed bid, or private or public sale.
- 8. Approve the recommendation submitted by the Keno Application Advisory Committee for the 2025-2026 Special Community Betterment Grant Awards.
- 9. Accept the bids received for the 2026 Part 1 Improvements – Avenue A – 31st Street to 35th Street and adopt Resolution No. 2025-153 awarding the bid to Nielsen Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$1,127,472.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-153**

WHEREAS, Olsson and the City of Kearney have reviewed the sealed bids which were opened on November 18, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. for the 2026 Part 1 Improvements – Avenue A – 31st Street to 35th Street; and

WHEREAS, the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost for the project was \$1,308,146.00; and

WHEREAS, Olsson and the City have recommended the bid offered by Nielsen Contracting, LLC of Kearney, Nebraska in the amount of \$1,127,472.00 be accepted as the lowest responsible bid for 2026 Part 1 Improvements – Avenue A – 31st Street to 35th Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and City Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska that the said Engineer's recommendation is hereby accepted, that

Nielsen Contracting, LLC of Kearney, Nebraska be and is the lowest responsible bidder for the 2026 Part 1 Improvements – Avenue A – 31st Street to 35th Street to be constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications on file with the City Clerk and that the bid of Nielsen Contracting, LLC of Kearney, Nebraska in the amount of \$1,127,472.00 be and is hereby accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Engineer’s Opinion of Probable Construction Cost in the amount of \$1,308,146.00 be and is hereby accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute contracts for such improvements in accordance with the bid, plans, specifications, and general stipulations pertaining thereto.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

**10.** Accept the bids received for the 2026 Part 2 Improvements – 45th Street & N Avenue Intersection and adopt Resolution No. 2025-154 awarding the bid to Nielsen Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$785,730.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-154**

WHEREAS, Olsson and the City of Kearney have reviewed the sealed bids which were opened on November 18, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. for the 2026 Part 2 Improvements – 45th Street & N Avenue Intersection; and

WHEREAS, the Engineer’s Opinion of Probable Construction Cost for the project was \$721,644.00; and

WHEREAS, Olsson and the City have recommended the bid offered by Nielsen Contracting, LLC of Kearney, Nebraska in the amount of \$785,730.00 be accepted as the lowest responsible bid for the 2026 Part 2 Improvements – 45th Street & N Avenue Intersection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and City Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska that the said Engineer’s recommendation is hereby accepted, that Nielsen Contracting, LLC of Kearney, Nebraska be and is the lowest responsible bidder for the 2026 Part 2 Improvements – 45th Street & N Avenue Intersection to be constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications on file with the City Clerk and that the bid of Nielsen Contracting, LLC of Kearney, Nebraska in the amount of \$785,730.00 be and is hereby accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Engineer’s Opinion of Probable Construction Cost in the amount of \$721,644.00 be and is hereby accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and Council of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute contracts for such improvements in accordance with the bid, plans, specifications, and general stipulations pertaining thereto.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

11. Accept the proposals received for the Dryden Park Softball Field Press Box and award the proposal submitted by Sightlines Athletic Facilities in the amount of \$161,800.00.

12. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-155 amending the City of Kearney, Nebraska Firefighters' Pension Plan due to the passage of LB 179 by the Nebraska Legislature earlier this year pertaining to changes to the Cities of the First-Class Firefighters Retirement Act (State Statutes 16-1020 through 16-1042).

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-155**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KEARNEY, NEBRASKA:

1. Adoption of Amendment and Restatement of the City of Kearney, Nebraska Firefighters' Pension Plan: NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City shall amend and it hereby does adopt, effective as of the date set forth below, the Third Amendment to the City of Kearney, Nebraska Firefighters' Pension Plan (the "Plan") in the form of the Third Amendment attached hereto and by this reference fully incorporated herein. The purpose of said Amendment is to adopt certain changes enacted under the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act pursuant to 2025 Nebraska Legislative Bill 179.
2. Authorizations: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and other appropriate elected officials and officers of the City of Kearney shall be, and they hereby are, authorized to do all things necessary to carry out and accomplish the foregoing Resolution, including the execution of any document or amendment which may be necessary or appropriate to amend and administer the Plan, including such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve and maintain qualification of the Plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as such sections apply to government plans.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

ATTEST:  
PEGGY EYNETICH  
CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NIKKILA  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
AND EX-OFFICIO MAYOR

13. Approve the updated Janitorial Services Contracts agreement between the City of Kearney, Buffalo County, Nebraska and Jose Dimas, DBA Magic Cleaning.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 8771**

Council Member Moore introduced Ordinance No. 8771 amending Section 3-3108 "Permit Required" and Section 3-3110 "Application" of Article 31 "Mobile Food Vendor" of Chapter 3 "Business Regulations" of the Code of the City of Kearney, 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 Schmidt seconded the motion to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 8771. 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, Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore. 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. 8771 by number. Roll call of those in favor of the passage of said ordinance on the first reading resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Schmidt, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore. Nay: None. Motion carried. Ordinance was read by number.

Moved by Schmidt seconded by Buschkoetter that Ordinance No. 8771 be passed, approved and published as required by law. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Straatmann, Buschkoetter, Moore, Schmidt. Nay: None. Motion carried.

By reason of the roll call voted on the first reading and final passage of the ordinance, Ordinance No. 8771 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**

### **VII. REPORTS**

Council Member Kurt Schmidt stated he heard a lot of good things about the SportsPlex from attendees of last weekend's events and noted it is a good asset for the community.

Council Member Randy Buschkoetter agreed with Council Member Schmidt and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Nikkila congratulated Assistant to the City Manager, Bradley DeMers on his new job opportunity.

Council Member Alex Straatmann discussed the Younes Hospitality Open wrestling tournament, which was hosted at the SportsPlex, and expressed his excitement for Kearney to host the first round of the NCAA Division II Volleyball Tournament. Council Member Straatmann thanked the Betterment Committee for the work they did with the grants that were approved this evening's meeting, wished Mr. DeMers well at his new job and noted that Chicago flights can now be booked.

Council Member Tami James Moore reviewed upcoming events in Kearney including the Christmas Walk, Give Where You Live and the lights going up at Yanney.

Mr. DeMers commented that Staff was honored that the Supernova's thought the SportsPlex was the best one they had been at and also expressed his appreciation for the congratulations received on his new job.

**VIII. ADJOURN**

Moved by Nikkila seconded by Straatmann that Council adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Roll call resulted as follows: Aye: Nikkila, Buschkoetter, Moore, Schmidt, Straatmann. 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**