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## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00 PM  
Crete City Hall, 243 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street

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### MINUTES

Notice of the meeting was given by posting, the appointed method for giving notice as shown by the attached notice, at the following locations:

City Hall, 243 East 13th Street  
Post Office, 1242 Linden Avenue  
City Bank and Trust, 1135 Main Avenue

Advance notice of the meeting was also given to committee members. Pursuant to Section 84-1412(8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the City has posted a current copy of the Open meetings Act, Laws of the State of Nebraska, in the back of the council chambers. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

#### 1. Open Meeting

#### 2. Roll Call

Tom Crisman: Present  
Anthony Fitzgerald: Present  
Kyle Frans: Present  
Ashley Newmyer: Present  
Dan Papik: Present  
Dale Strehle: Present

Present: 6.

#### 3. Consent Agenda

Approved the Consent Agenda Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
Aye: 6, No: 0

#### 3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

- 3.A.1. August 5th, 2025 City Council Minutes**
- 3.A.2. August 5th, 2025 Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes**
- 3.A.3. August 5th, 2025 Finance Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.4. August 5th, 2025 Public Safety Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.5. August 5th, 2025 Legislative & Economic Development Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.6. August 14th, 2025 City Council Special Meeting Minutes**
- 3.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report**
- 3.C. Approve the Payment of Claims Against the City**

**4. Items of Business**

**4.A. Consider forwarding Roger Braden's claim to the League Association of Risk Management (LARM)**

Tabled forwarding Roger Braden's claim to the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) Tabled with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
 Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.B. Consider authorizing the Crete Public Library to apply for the Nebraska Library Commission Little Free Library grant.**

Library Director Jessica Wilkinson stated this is for the Nebraska Library Commission Little Free Library grant. The Nebraska Library Commission is currently offering mini-grants up to \$500. They would like to put the Little Free Library on the side of the building. The total cost would be about \$579.85 and the grant would cover \$500.

Approved to authorize the Crete Public Library to apply for the Nebraska Library Commission Little Free Library grant. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
 Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.C. Consider the claims from Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$2,158.18**

Approved the claims from Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$2,158.18 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Dan Papik: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
 Aye: 5, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

**4.D. Consider Ordinance 2254 amending food trucks**

Tabled Ordinance 2254 amending food trucks Tabled with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Dale Strehle.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
 Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.E. Consider Ordinance 2255 Codifying municipal sewer and water rates**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained this is the rate study that was accepted and this is the ordinance to codify the municipal sewer and water rates.

Introduced Ordinance 2255 and moved that the statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.  
Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
Aye: 6, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2255 Codifying municipal sewer and water rates Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.  
Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.F. Consider date and time for budget work session**

The budget work session will be on Wednesday, August 27th, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

**4.G. Consider Resolution 2025-14 authorizing the City to increase non-bargaining employee retirement contributions to 8% on October 1st, 2025 and to increase salaries by 1% to account for said contribution match increase.**

Adopted Resolution 2025-14 authorizing the City to increase non-bargaining employee retirement contributions to 8% on October 1st, 2025 and to increase salaries by 1% to account for said contribution match increase. Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Kyle Frans.  
Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.H. Resolution 2025-15 Appointing Cline Williams Attorneys as City Attorney**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that Cline Williams Attorneys would represent the City of Crete in all legal matters while City Attorney Anna Burge is on leave.  
Adopted Resolution 2025-15 Appointing Cline Williams Attorneys as City Attorney Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.  
Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.I. Consider the Saline Medical Specialties LB840 Program Application**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that Saline Medical Specialties submitted this application and it also went to the Legislative/Development Committee and the LB840 Advisory Committee. Ourada explained that Innovative Community Health Institute LLC has two clinics, Saline Medical Specialties in Crete and Lancaster Family Medicine in Lincoln. Ourada explained that the committee could look at this application request for \$100,000 and since the LB840 program helps with up to 50% 1/3 of the income is in the Lincoln clinic and not in Crete they could look at \$75,000 and 50% of that is \$37,500.  
Approved the Saline Medical Specialties LB840 Program Application in the amount up to \$37,500 Carried with a motion by Ashley Newmyer and a second by Tom Crisman.  
Dale Strehle: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye  
Aye: 5, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

**4.J. Consider the Application from Segra for a permit to occupy the City of Crete's Right of Way**

City Administrator, Tom Ourada, explained that this would involve multiple properties. Tom did state he didn't see any issues and recommended it be approved.

Approved the Application from Segra for a permit to occupy the City of Crete's Right of Way Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.K. Consider the Administrative Subdivision Application from Bar Above Ranch**

City Administrator, Tom Ourada, explained that this would be a straight administrative subdivision and has been through the Planning Commission for the zoning part.

Approved the Administrative Subdivision Application from Bar Above Ranch Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Anthony Fitzgerald: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

**4.L. Consider the Kidwell Microsoft Office 365 Migration**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the City will be moving to a cloud-based solution.

Approved the Kidwell Microsoft Office 365 Migration Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.M. Consider authorizing the City of Crete to apply for the Water Security Grant Program.**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained this is for a water security grant and they would like to apply for steel-framed security doors and windows for the well 3 well house.

Approved to authorize the City of Crete to apply for the Water Security Grant Program. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.N. Consider authorizing the City of Crete to apply for the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained this grant is through the Department of Transportation for the project planning on Iris Ave. This would be for \$250,000 at no share cost to the City of Crete.

Approved to authorize the City of Crete to apply for the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye  
Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.O. Consider authorizing the City of Crete to apply for the State Aid Grant Program.**

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that this grant is through the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) Division of Aeronautics. The City of Crete is going to be applying for funding for a new airport beacon and up to 90% of the expenses are reimbursable.

Approved to authorize the City of Crete to apply for the State Aid Grant Program.

Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

**4.P. Consider the Crete Municipal Airport hangar rent rate increase.**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained this went to the Public Works Committee and since two of the members have hangars at the airport, they were not able to vote. The committee members tabled the item and recommended it go to the full City Council for a vote.

Approved the Crete Municipal Airport hangar 8% rent rate increase. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Ashley Newmyer.

Anthony Fitzgerald: Abstain (With Conflict), Dan Papik: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 4, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 2

**5. Petitions - Communications - Citizen Concerns**

**6. Officers' Reports**

Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:

- They received a potential hostage gun situation and within three minutes of the call they had officers on site searching. They collaborated with Saline County and Doane University and in less than an hour they were able to have an all clear. There was indication that this was a swatting call and the person was not from the area.
- The Crete Police Department hosted a training on active shooters at Doane University with Crete Public Schools.
- The Car Seat Grant was awarded and they are going to be hosting community events to help families that are in need of car seats and making sure they are installed properly.

Library Director Jessica Wilkinson passed out the library monthly report and stated the following:

- There were over 3,000 visitors for the past programs
- Upcoming programs include the Dungeons & Dragons on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Soda Pop Curtis' 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Pawty, Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., the Adult Puzzle Race on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the 1206 at 5:30 p.m., and Authors Book Signing/Meet & Greet, Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Collaborating with Dr. Sara Brown to provide anti scam information.

Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody stated the following:

- The new mower from Exmark is in service.
- Adult Coed Softball is taking place and Flag Football will be starting soon.
- The Celebrate Crete Event will be taking place on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at City Park.

Building Inspector Trenton Griffin stated the following:

- Nuisance property update; 4 signs, 16 dilapidated structures and buildings, 2 fences, and 1 outdoor storage.
- 2 new single-family homes are being built

Councilmember Anthony Fitzgerald asked if only Building Inspector Trenton Griffin is working on the nuisance cases. City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that Griffin works on some of the cases that are related to buildings. The Code Enforcement Officer works on nuisances related to the yard/property but for right now the Police Department is helping with that until a new Code Enforcement Officer is hired.

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:

- Working on the budget the electric, water and sewer have been doing well. The rate increase will help.
- The airport is at a negative and will continue to be at a negative. The City budgeted \$50,000 for management and spent \$65,000. Some City funds have been diverted into it and will probably do some more. The airport is part of the City and replaced the septic system.
- The general fund is in the black so it is doing okay.
- Sales tax is \$18 difference between what we budget and what we got.
- Street Department is doing well. Fire and Rescue are slightly behind but summer is a busy time and they will catch up. The Police Department budget is a little down. They are short some staff which will make that up. There will be openings for two officers. This doesn't account for the sergeant that retired. There is still a payout that the City is managing. The remaining general fund departments are pretty close.
- Hired a new Street Department employee who is also wastewater certified.
- Ourada will be at the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors meetings in Kearney on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- Received the valuation for this year. Our valuation went up over \$70 Million. The housing and a lot of things have contributed to that. The usable difference that we can use in calculation is about \$8 million. We have a factor beside what we get and we do 1.88% additional. The budget will be good. The growth was good we went from \$450 million of total valuation to over \$520 million.

Mayor Dave Bauer stated the following:

- The City of Crete hosted some Mayors and City Council members from Romania and gave thanks to City Administrator Tom Ourada, Chief of Police Gary Young, and Council members Ashley Newmyer, Dale Strehle, and Crete News editor Amy Hausman. Next year there might be another opportunity to do this again with a different country.
- Thanked the Street Department for all their work after the storm. City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that there was little power line damage in Crete. However, the Village of

Dorchester had sustained more damage. The City of Crete Electric Department worked for a couple of days there.

- o Bauer also thanked the Police Department for the work with the call to Doane University.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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Mayor

(SEAL)

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City Clerk

I, Nancy Tellez, City Clerk for the City of Crete, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council. I hereby certify that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the back of the Council Chambers. I certify 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 City Clerk. I certify that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting and 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. I certify that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of the City Council. I certify that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of the City Council were provided with advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed.

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City Clerk

(S E A L)