



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

February 17th, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Crete City Hall, 243 East 13th Street

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

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

Present: 4, Absent: 2.

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, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

February 17th, 2026

- 3.A.1. February 3rd, 2026 City Council Minutes**
- 3.A.2. February 3rd, Public Works Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.3. February 3rd, 2026 Finance Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.4. February 3rd, 2026 Personnel Committee 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 the BNSF Railway Company Supplemental Agreement No. BN-256 Project No.: RRX-76(51)

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this safety project is located on Arizona Ave. The project is for the installation of flashing light signals and gates. This will be a 100% federally funded project.

Approved the BNSF Railway Company Supplemental Agreement No. BN-256 Project No.: RRX-76(51) Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.B. Consider the Amendment No 2 To Task Order 240578

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this is a Task Order in the amount of \$11,830 from JEO for inspections and public engagement for the Street and Alley Improvements project. Approved the Amendment No 2 To Task Order 240578 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.C. Consider approving the claims from Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$2,639.56

Mayor Dave Bauer voted to have a quorum on this item. Bauer voted yes on this item.

Approved the claims from Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$2,639.56 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Dan Papik: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye, Dave Bauer: Aye

Aye: 3, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

4.D. Ordinance 2266 Amending 2-1514 Dead or hazardous tree removal

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this item was tabled in the Legislative/Development Committee until the next meeting.

Tabled Ordinance 2266 Amending 2-1514 Dead or hazardous tree removal Tabled with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Tom Crisman.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.E. Consider the Engineer's recommendation for the hangar project

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that JEO will be providing the notice to be published for the hangar project.

Approved the Engineer's recommendation for the hangar project to publish the notice JEO will

be providing. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.
Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.F. Consider authorizing the City of Crete to apply for the The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this is the second grant the City of Crete is applying for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Corridor Crossing Safety Study. Ourada explained that this would be 100% federal funds with no match from the City.

Approved to authorize the City of Crete to apply for the The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program

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

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.G. Consider Ordinance 2268 amending sewer and water deposits

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this would update the deposits so the policy matches what is done in practice.

Introduced Ordinance 2268 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, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2268 amending sewer and water deposits Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.H. Consider Zuercher Addendum#3 Extending The Expiration Date For The Interlocal Agreement

Chief of Police Gary Young explained that this Addendum#3 extends the Interlocal Agreement until the Master Agreement is ready in June.

Approved the Zuercher Addendum#3 Extending The Expiration Date For The Interlocal Agreement Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Tom Crisman.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.I. Consider the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy at W 12th & Arizona-extending roughly 275' East of Arizona.

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this is one of four permits Black Hills Energy is applying for.

Approved the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy at W 12th & Arizona-extending roughly 275' East of Arizona.

Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.J. Consider the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy at Alley between Juniper and Ivy from 7th Street to 10th Street.

Approved the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy at Alley between Juniper and Ivy from 7th Street to 10th Street. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.K. Consider the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy Between 13th & 14th St and Boswell & Hawthorne Ave.

Approved the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy Between 13th & 14th St and Boswell & Hawthorne Ave. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

4.L. Consider the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy at Alley between 13th/12th St and Juniper/Boswell Ave.

Approved the Application for a Permit to Occupy City of Crete Right-of-Way from Justin Truong with Black Hills Energy at Alley between 13th/12th St and Juniper/Boswell Ave. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 4, No: 0

5. Petitions - Communications - Resident Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

- Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:
 - Officer Noah Zach has been awarded the Nebraska American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The Crete Police Department has had two previous winners one of them being a national winner. Zach's name will be forwarded for regional consideration, if chosen then national consideration. Having three officers' awarded in a small department is great is and their actions speak for themselves. The Department is very proud of Officer Zach.
- Library Director Jessica Wilkinson stated the following:
 - The Crete Public Library was granted a gift from the Carnegie Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. Some of those funds will be used for more storage in library.
 - The Nebraska Library Commission awarded the Library a \$1,000 internship award. Will be going through the hiring process to hire an intern for the summer.

- \$1,000 Youth Grant was awarded and Youth Services Librarian Maridza Vasquez will be purchasing more items for the Library of Things.
 - \$500.00 grant was awarded for continuing education and Librarian Zoraida Ramos will be attending the American Library Association Conference in Chicago.
 - Touch A Truck Event will be on April 25th, 2026.
- Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody stated the following:
 - Met with Crete Public Schools fourth graders for a mystery reader event about Nebraska Pilot and national hero Jack Knight. Debuted a City of Crete paper plane.
 - Food Bank of Lincoln will be at Tuxedo Park on February 26th, 2026.
 - Youth Soccer registration is open until February 27th, 2026 and Micro Soccer is open until March 13th, 2026.
 - Still in need of youth soccer coaches and referees.
 - Doane University students looking for volunteer opportunities. Cody thanked the Doane University Football Coach for his help.
 - Building Inspector Trent Griffin provided the January Permit Log and stated there were about 20 permits taken out.
 - City Council member Tom Crisman asked City Administrator Tom Ourada if the tar pot is running and Ourada stated that yes, it is.
 - City Council member Dale Strehle stated that the Runzas that he provided were a thank you to everyone for their work and effort.
 - City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:
 - Thanked Strehle for the Runzas
 - The northside paving project has commenced. Trees removal is moving along fast.
 - Will be meeting with Dr. Sarah Brown.
 - City Staff has been working really hard on grants.
 - Partnering with Burlington Northern Santa Fe on applying for two grants, including the BUILD Grant just approved.
 - The tar pot is working. They would ordinarily be using it but there was a water main rupture that happened on 9th street and Boswell Ave. It took out half a block of paving on 9th street. The Street Department has been working there.
 - Mayor Dave Bauer thanked the employees that worked on that. Ourada added that the Tuesday before at the City Council meeting it was approved to move one of those employee positions to salary. He then spent all night working on that water main rupture. Ourada stated that he will be allowed consideration for those hours worked.

6.A. January 2026 Permit Logs

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

February 17th, 2026

Mayor

(SEAL)

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.

City Clerk

(S E A L)

February 17th, 2026