

March 18, 2025

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
)
COUNTY OF BOX BUTTE) §
)
CITY OF ALLIANCE)

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, March 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Alliance Learning Center Community Meeting Room, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on March 12, 2025. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting was open to the public, and that an agenda of the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk in City Hall; provided the Council could modify the agenda at the meeting if it determined an emergency so required. A similar notice, together with a copy of the agenda had also been provided to each of the City Council Members. An agenda, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk during regular business hours from the publication of the notice to the time of the meeting.

Mayor McGhehey opened the March 18, 2025, regular meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor McGhehey, Vice Mayor Mashburn and Council Members Weisgerber, Liptack, and Turman. Also present were City Manager Sorensen, City Treasurer Baker, City Attorney Selzer and Recording Secretary Ammie Bedient.

- Mayor McGhehey read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The Consent Calendar was the first item on the agenda. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Mashburn, seconded by Councilman Liptack to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – March 18, 2025

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 4, 2025.
2. Approval: Payroll from March 7, 2025 in the total amount of \$386,841.76.
3. Approval: Claims against the following funds: General, General Debt Service, Trust and Agency, Street, Electric, Refuse Collection and Disposal, Sanitary Sewer, Water, Golf Course, Downtown Improvement Districts, R.S.V.P., Keno, and Capital Improvement; \$696,418.25.
4. Approval: Resolution No. 25-34 which will approve the interim inter-department loan to the Airport be extended through September 30, 2025 at a revised rate of 4.30%.

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5. Approval: Resolution No. 25-35 which will authorize the purchase of a 24-foot snow plow assembly from MacQueen Equipment in the amount of \$76,222.00 from Capital Outlay-Machine, Equipment # 22-41-43-59-950 in the amount of \$70,000 and a budget transfer from Runway Rejuvenation # 22-41-43-56-911 in the amount of \$6,222.

NOTE: City Manager Sorensen and City Treasurer Baker have reviewed these expenditures and to the best of their knowledge confirm that they are within budgeted appropriations to this point in the fiscal year.

Any item listed on the Consent Calendar may, by the request of any single Council Member, be considered as a separate item in the Regular Agenda.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Turman, Weisgerber, Liptack, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The first item on the agenda for Council were the Conflicts Claims of Mayor McGhehey, Councilman Turman and Councilman Weisgerber for travel and meal reimbursement while attending the Mid-Winter League Conference in Lincoln, NE, February 24th – 25th.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Mashburn, seconded by Councilman Liptack to approve the reimbursement of \$528.65 to Mayor McGhehey.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mashburn, Liptack, Weisgerber and Turman.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstaining: McGhehey.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Mashburn, seconded by Councilman Liptack to approve the reimbursement of \$517.00 to Councilman Turman.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Weisgerber, Liptack, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

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Abstaining: Turman.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Mashburn, seconded by Councilman Liptack to approve the reimbursement of \$491.78 to Councilman Weisgerber.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Liptack, Turman, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstaining: Weisgerber.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 25-36 which will accept and authorize the City of Alliance and the Box Butte County to enter into a service agreement for the assumption of responsibilities and operations of dispatch services for the Box Butte County Sheriff's Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Liptack, seconded by Councilman Turman to approve Resolution No. 25-36. Which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-36

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance Police Department and dispatch services operate at 512 Niobrara Avenue in conjunction with the Box Butte County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, The Box Butte County Sheriff's Department has requested the City of Alliance assume the responsibilities and operation of dispatch services for the Box Butte County Sherriff; and

WHEREAS, City staff is recommending the City accept the responsibilities and a Dispatch Service Agreement has been prepared outlining the parameters for both parties; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes it is in the best interest of the community for the Alliance Police Department to assume the responsibilities and operations of dispatch services for the Box Butte County Sheriff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the Service Agreement with Box Butte County for the assumption of responsibilities and operation of dispatch services.

Councilman Liptack had questions for Police Chief Leavitt regarding this agreement.

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Police Chief Leavitt came before the Council answering Councilman Liptack's questions regarding the agreement.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Liptack, Weisgerber, Turman, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 25-37 which will authorize the City to provide financial support up to \$234,941 and the submittal of the City of Alliance Public Transit Grant Renewal to the Nebraska Department of Transportation for an additional two years. The following information was provided:

[RESOLUTION – PUBLIC TRANSIT SUPPORT AND GRANT APPLICATION

The City of Alliance has been providing intra-city public transportation since 2015 when it took over service from another provider. The City then applied for a grant in its own name in 2016, which it received, and has received every year since. APT provided 24,210 rides in 2024.

It is time to submit our grant application for the next two-year cycle (2025-2027). Anticipated local match support for the current Public Transit program for 2025-2027 (\$234,941) shows an overall 14% increase from 2023-2025 (\$205,525). The amount of \$234,941 consists of contributions from Box Butte General Hospital in the amount of \$15,000 for FY25-26; the remainder coming from the City of Alliance, with hopes that BBGH will be able to contribute again in FY26-27. Local match is combined with State funds in the amount of \$222,066 and Federal funds in the amount of \$791,544 (both over a two year period).

The public comment period was from March 5, 2025 to March 15, 2025, with no written responses received.

The new grant application will be for a two-year funding cycle and is due by March 21, 2025. If awarded, the new cycle would begin July 1, 2025. The resolution includes commitment by the City of Alliance up to \$219,941 for the next two years of operations.

Historical Data with projection of costs for the upcoming cycle:

| Category | 2019-2021 | 2021-2023 | 2023-2025 | 2025-2027 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Anticipated Cost | 715,900 | 802,400 | 1,039,900 | 1,248,550 |
| Local Share | 138,655 | 157,580 | 205,525 | 234,941 |
| State Share | 138,655 | 157,580 | 205,525 | 222,066 |
| Federal Share | 438,590 | 487,240 | 628,850 | 791,544 |

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It is anticipated that an additional driver will be required in 2027 and again in 2029 to accommodate increasing ridership.

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC TRANSIT FUNDING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN TRANSIT GRANT APPLICATION FORMS.]

A motion was made by Councilman Turman, seconded by Vice Mayor Mashburn to approve Resolution No. 25-37. Which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-37

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance desires to prepare a Proposal (application) for a two year period with the Nebraska Department of Roads for the City of Alliance Public Transit Program; and

WHEREAS, The Proposal will be in the name of the City of Alliance and under the City of Alliance tax identification; and

WHEREAS, The Transit Program requires local financial support and the City has obtained and continues to seek additional financial commitments from other entities for the program; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance will commit to providing up to \$234,941 in financial support of the transit program for two years; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that continuing the public transportation services is in the best interest of the citizens of Alliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City of Alliance prepare a Proposal for the City of Alliance Public Transit Program for a two-year period for submittal to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Alliance provide within the Proposal (application) a Financial Support Letter for \$234,941 for two years for the operation of the City of Alliance Public Transit Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to accept the grant on behalf of the City of Alliance and sign the related documentation and certifications should the City be awarded the program.

Councilman Weisgerber asked when current grant expires.

City Manager Sorensen answered Councilman Weisgerber's question with the current grant expires at the end of May.

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Mayor McGhehey gave the citizens of the City of Alliance clarification of the grant and reassurance the program is not going away.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Turman, Mashburn, Liptack, Weisgerber and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Ordinance No. 2997 which will accept and amend the City of Alliance Municipal Code Section 2, titled *Donations*.

A motion was made by Councilman Weisgerber, seconded by Councilman Turman to approve the third reading of Ordinance No. 2997. Recording Secretary Bedient read the ordinance by titled which follows in its entirety:

Ordinance No. 2997

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS, DEFINING TYPES OF DONATIONS, SETTING RULES PERTAINING TO DONATIONS, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROMULGATE FURTHER RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE EXECUTION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE CITY CODE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1: Sections 2-221 through 2-225 of the Alliance Municipal Code shall provide as follows:

Sec. 2-221. Purpose.

Sections 2-221 through 2-225 are intended to establish a formal and consistent process for the acceptance of donations made to the City for a public purpose, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statutes, and shall also apply to all volunteer boards and commissions of the City.

Sec. 2-222. Definitions.

Donation is defined as any monetary or non-monetary gift, grant, devise, memorial, tribute or bequest to the city of Alliance.

Memorial is an item, object or monument established to preserve the memory of (a) deceased person(s) or an event that occurred in the past.

Tribute means an item, object or gift designed to acknowledge the contributions of still-living people or person(s) to society.

Sec. 2-223. Types of Donations.

- (a) A monetary donation includes cash, check, credit card payment, money order or other negotiable instrument. In the event of a stock donation, the donation will be liquidated and turned into cash or another liquid asset and treated as a monetary donation.
- (b) A non-monetary donation includes real or personal property, goods, or services.
- (c) Designated or restricted donations are those donations that the donor specifies for use by a particular city department, at a certain location, or for a specific purpose. Memorials and tributes shall be considered as restricted donations.
- (d) Undesignated or unrestricted donations are those donations that are given to the City for an unspecified or general use.

Sec. 2-224. Rules pertaining to Donations

- (a) *Consistency with city interests.* Donations may only be accepted when they have a purpose consistent with the City's goals and objectives and are in the best interest of the City and its residents. The City must always consider the public trust and comply with all applicable laws when accepting donations.
- (b) *Declined donations.* The City of Alliance reserves the right to decline any donation if, upon review, acceptance of the donation offer is determined in the sole discretion of the City to not be in the best interest of the City.
- (c) *Disposition of donations.* The City of Alliance reserves the right to remove any donated amenity for: safety reasons, deterioration caused by age, neglect or vandalism, and/or the city's inability to finance ongoing maintenance and/or repairs.
- (d) *Donation specifications.* The City of Alliance reserves the right to formulate and dictate the specifications for donations of personal property.
- (e) *Donation preference.* When donations are intended for the purchase of physical goods used in the course of conducting normal city business, it is preferred that the donation be made as a monetary donation to allow the city to take advantage of bulk purchasing and to ensure the consistency of goods.
- (f) *Acceptance of donations.*

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- i. Any person, group, or entity desiring to raise funds for donations to the City must receive the consent of the City Council prior to beginning fundraising efforts.
- ii. Restricted donations, other than donations made for the purpose of assisting citizens in paying their utility bills, must first be approved by the City Council via resolution.
- iii. All donations of real property, whether restricted or unrestricted, must first be approved by the city council via resolution.
- iv. All personal property restricted donations and all personal property unrestricted donations greater than Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) must first be approved by the City Council via resolution. The City Council will determine whether or not the donation is in good taste, appropriate to the purpose of the City, and in accord with the standards of the community prior to accepting the gift.
- v. In the event the gift, bequest or memorial intended for the City is of a nature that it is to be seen and enjoyed by the public such as a sculpture, statue, plaque, or other interpretive material, the City Council shall determine the appropriate location for said gift.
- vi. The City shall not accept donations which are not permanent gifts to the city.
- vii. The City shall not accept donations which require that the City agree to maintain the gift in perpetuity, unless such donation is accompanied by an endowment sufficient to cover its ongoing upkeep. All perpetual gifts and their associated endowments must receive prior approval from the City Council through a formal resolution. If, at any point, the endowment no longer provides adequate funding for maintenance, the City may discontinue upkeep once the funds are depleted and dispose of the donation in accordance with City policies.
- viii. Unrestricted donations of personal property valued at less than or equal to Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) may be accepted by the City Manager or their designee without council action and shall be reported quarterly to the City Council.
- ix. *Memorial Plaques.* Costs for all memorial or tribute plaques shall be borne by the donor. The City must approve all text for memorial or tribute plaques prior to installation.

Sec. 2-225. City Manager.

The City Manager is authorized to promulgate further rules, policies, and procedures needed for the execution of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. All ordinances, parts of ordinances, resolutions, and policies of the City of Alliance in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

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SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its approval, passage, and publication according to law.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Weisgerber, Liptack, Turman, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Mayor McGhehey stated, “the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 2997 has concurred by majority of all members elected to the Council, I declare it passed, adopted and order it published.”

- The last matter before Council was Board Appointment.

A motion was made by Councilman Liptack, seconded by Vice Mayor Mashburn to appoint Christina Yates to serve on the Community Redevelopment Authority with her term ending January 31, 2026.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Liptack, Turman, Weisgerber, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

The Alliance City Council adjourned the March 18, 2025 City Council Meeting at 7:16 p.m.

(SEAL)

John McGhehey, Mayor

Shelbi C. Pitt, City Clerk