

September 2, 2025

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Special Meeting, September 2, 2025 at 6:15 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 August 27, 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, also had 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 September 2, 2025 special meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 6:15 p.m. Present were Mayor McGhehey, Vice Mayor Mashburn and Council Members Weisgerber, Turman, and Yates. Also present were City Manager Sorensen, City Treasurer Baker, and City Clerk Bedient.

- Mayor McGhehey read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The only item on the agenda was the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025-26 Budget.

Mayor McGhehey provided the following information:

FY25 Budget Hearing Narrative for September 2, 2025

The submitted overall budget ordinance in front of Council today is \$71.13 million, up from \$64.69 million last fiscal year. The proposed budget is balanced in that planned revenue is greater than or equal to expenditures. The budget ordinance reflects planned expenditures, but does not include all transfers or loans as reflected in State reporting forms.

The budget includes assuming new debt of \$11,750,000 for capital improvement projects. The net total debt of the city at the end of the FY26 fiscal year would be \$19,654,462 if new debt is assumed.

The submitted budget includes capital projects of \$21.57 million. Primary city-wide projects include approximately:

- \$1,000,000 for decommissioning of the old electric power plant

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- \$500,000 toward the design of an alternate power source
- \$1,500,000 for Lakefield Addition street overlay
- \$1,750,000 for paving and drainage improvements from 2nd Street/Cody to RR Tracks
- \$2,040,000 toward a new well at 12th & Missouri Well
- \$235,000 for well upgrades at the golf course
- \$300,000 for Airport Layout Plan
- \$90,000 for Public Safety Center planning
- \$300,000 for Central Park playground replacement
- \$235,000 for purchase of a new ambulance (carryover from FY23-24)
- \$200,000 for replacement patrol vehicles

City employee salaries are budgeted with a 3% cost-of-living adjustment. Due to compression resulting from an increased minimum wage, a new wage scale has been prepared with the goal of being within $\pm 5\%$ of regional municipal salaries. Salary changes resulting from this transition will go into effect on the employee's anniversary date. Police and Dispatch increase are unknown at this time as FOP negotiations are underway but not completed. No new positions are created as part of this budget.

Property valuations increased to \$669,670,915, up from \$638,893,397. Property valuations are set by the County Assessor and not by the City of Alliance. The budget assumes that the City will move forward with seeking a 10% increase to property tax revenue over the previous, exceeding the 2.5% cap and which will require a public hearing – the date of which is yet to be determined. Therefore, the budgeted mill levy for the City is \$0.326018 per \$100 of valuation.

The budget also includes an estimated 35% increase to refuse revenues coming from fee increases and a 9% increase to electric revenues through a fee increase. The cost of purchasing electricity is going up 9%, so the City's increase is a simple pass-through.

This year's general fund budget includes enterprise fees collected in-lieu of a right-of-way usage charge. This source will provide approximately \$2.75 million toward the general fund operations.

Electric	\$2,038,302	14% of Revenues
Refuse	283,908	12% of Revenues
Sewer	71,760	12% of Revenues
Water	227,100	12% of Revenues
Qwest	1,500	
Phone	25,000	
Cell	25,000	
Phone		
Cable TV	50,000	
Natural	30,000	
Gas		

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Gross Franchise Fees **\$2,752,570**

Included in the Gross Expenditures are the following funding from “Contingency Reserves”. Expenditures from any Contingency Reserve will not be authorized without an affirmative vote of the City Council for each amount to be expended.

General	\$325,000
Electric	200,000
Refuse	5,000
Water	50,000
Airport Operations	50,000

Due to extensive lead times in procuring vehicles and equipment , some funds are designated for future purchase. Of note is \$835,000 for fire department equipment (Class A pumper) is still not expected until FY27 and not included in this budget, however \$650,000 is budgeted for a new sewer jet/vac truck and \$485,000 for an electric bucket truck, neither of which is anticipated to arrive during the fiscal year but which require purchasing authority. Some vendors are requiring down payments well in advance as a show of good faith and to offset costs during the lengthy build time.

Fees will come to council for approval in September.

Mayor McGhehey stated, “Now is the date, time, and place to conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed 2025-26 Budget. The proposed budget contains anticipated and estimated revenues and expenses for the next fiscal year.” The Public Hearing was opened at 6:23 p.m.

Mayor McGhehey invited anyone in the public to speak on behalf of or against the proposed 2025-26 Budget.

Citizen Tom Broeder, 723 Emerson Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska spoke before the Council asking for a clarification of proposed property taxes. Mayor McGhehey gave Mr. Broeder a clarification of the proposed property taxes.

With no further testimony offered, Mayor McGhehey closed the Public Hearing at 6:29 p.m.

The Alliance City Council adjourned the September 2, 2025 City Council Meeting at 6:28 p.m.

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(SEAL)



John McGhehey Mayor



Ammie L. Bedient, City Clerk

Complete minutes of the Alliance City Council may be viewed by the public during regular work hours at the City Clerk's Office, 324 Laramie Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska