

September 18, 2025

**ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL**

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Special Meeting, September 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 September 10, 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 18, 2025 special meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor McGhehey, Vice Mayor Mashburn and Council Members 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 first item on the agenda for Council was third and final reading of Ordinance No. 3003 which approves the City of Alliance annual appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025. The proposed budget contains anticipated and estimated revenues and expenses for the next fiscal year.

A motion was made by Councilman Turman, seconded by Vice Mayor Mashburn to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 3003. Which follows in its entirety:

**ORDINANCE NO. 3003**

**AN ORDINANCE TERMED "THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL" TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, BY IMPOSING A TAX ON ALL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY, ADOPTING A BUDGET, AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.**

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**WHEREAS**, The City Manager, in accordance with the requirements of Nebraska Revised Statute § 19-646, has submitted a proposed budget statement to the City Council, which statement is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference (the “Budget Statement”); and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council held a preliminary budget workshop on July 31, 2025 and is scheduled to hold another budget workshop on September 4, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, A public hearing was held on the Budget Statement in accordance with the requirements of Nebraska Revised Statute § 13-506 on September 2, 2025, as required by law, with a special hearing on proposed property tax increases on September 17, 2025, as required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, Before the final passage and approval of this Ordinance, the Budget Statement may be amended in accordance with comments received at the public hearing, the property valuations provided by Box Butte County and as necessary to adjust for any other information gathered by the City before October 1, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA:**

**SECTION 1.** The following budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, along with Exhibit A – Budget Statement, is hereby adopted.

**SECTION 2.** In order to provide revenue for municipal purposes, the following property tax revenues are established for the City of Alliance for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year:

	<b>City</b>	<b>MFO</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Airport</b>	<b>Airport Reserves</b>	<b>Total</b>
Approved Budget Amount	1,471,492	173,117	201,248	260,757	57,345	2,163,959
County Treasurer's Fee (1%)	14,715	1,731	2,012	2,608	573	21,639
Total Property Tax Request	<u>1,486,207</u>	<u>174,848</u>	<u>203,260</u>	<u>263,365</u>	<u>57,918</u>	<u>2,185,598</u>
Using the following levies	0.221931	0.02611	0.030352	0.039328	0.008649	0.326369
Approved Mill Levy for 2025	0.326369					

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Based on Assessed  
Valuation 669,670,915

Which includes an increase to property tax revenue of 10%.

**SECTION 3.** This budget assumes revenue due to an increase to fees (considered under separate resolution) of:

Refuse Fees	35%
Electric Fees	9%

**SECTION 4.** Anticipated Franchise Fees paid to the General Fund:

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

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

**SECTION 5.** In accordance with Reissue Revised Statutes Nebraska Chapter 16, Section 704, the following amounts shall be and hereby recognized as the budget of expenditures, disbursements, and transfers for the City of Alliance, Nebraska for the fiscal year 2025-26.

2025-2026 ADOPTED BUDGET Disbursements & Transfers	Operating Expenses	Capital Improvements	Other Capital Outlay	Debt Service	Transfers Out	TOTAL
<b>Governmental:</b>						
General						
Government	4,351,094.00	70,000.00	210,600.00		785,361.00	5,417,055.00
Public Safety -						
Police	2,918,039.00		491,000.00		299,480.00	3,708,519.00
Public Safety -						
Fire	428,829.00	140,000.00	250,000.00		50,997.00	869,826.00
Public Safety -						
Other	511,650.00		67,000.00		53,602.00	632,252.00
Public Works						
- Streets	1,389,644.00	3,390,000.00	1,070,350.00	243,958.00	75,622.00	6,169,574.00
Public Works						
- Other	318,308.00				19,313.00	337,621.00

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Culture and Recreation	3,096,880.00	526,000.00	530,000.00	153,333.00	442,563.00	4,748,776.00
Community Development	3,719,572.00	59,200.00			75,577.00	3,854,349.00
Miscellaneous	2,371,000.00				3,997,016.00	6,368,016.00
<b>Business-Type Activities:</b>						
Airport	6,440,813.00	4,267,865.00	76,222.00	264,792.00	147,864.00	11,197,556.00
Electric Utility	12,894,374.00	3,805,000.00	540,000.00		2,709,506.00	19,948,880.00
Solid Waste	1,385,458.00	479,555.00	581,940.00	301,472.00	505,257.00	3,253,682.00
Transportation	382,345.00	-	35,000.00		57,289.00	474,634.00
Wastewater	350,107.00	400,000.00	650,000.00		144,242.00	1,544,349.00
Water	1,110,548.00	1,535,000.00	2,175,000.00	288,164.00	489,766.00	5,598,478.00

**Total Disbursements & Transfers**    **41,668,661.00**    **14,672,620.00**    **6,677,112.00**    **1,251,719.00**    **9,853,455.00**    **74,123,567.00**

**SECTION 6.** 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

**SECTION 7.** The City anticipates the following use of Retained Earnings

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Estimated Balance</b>
General	-400,000	573,084
Electric	4,601,700	7,698,300
Sewer	245,000	455,000
Water	355,100	917,322
Golf	10,000	40,000
Museum Exhibit	15,000	779
Community Betterment	30,000	0
Economic Development	602,000	20,616
LB 840 Fund	350,020	399,980
Sales Tax Fund	325,000	215,000
Lodging Occupation Tax	79,116	520,884
Capital Projects Fund	629,000	291,000
Public Safety Tax	200,000	275,000
ARPA Funds	575,000	0
General Internal Service	600,000	25,000
Enterprise Internal Service	60,000	0

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Health Support Internal	544,000	556,000
Airport Capital Reserve	29,00	110,000

**SECTION 8.** The City anticipates assuming the following debt:

General Fund	\$1,500,000
Refuse Fund	1,200,000
Sewer Fund	650,000
Water Fund	3,300,000
Airport Fund	700,000
Streets Fund	4,400,000

**Total New Debt** **\$11,750,000**

For the purpose of short-term and long-term capital improvement projects and equipment procurement.

**SECTION 9.** Anticipated payments on current internal and external debt (Principal + Interest):

General Fund	\$245,333
Refuse Fund	301,471
Water Fund	288,164
Airport Fund	264,792
Streets Fund	243,958

**Total Current Debt Payments** **\$1,343,719**

**SECTION 10.** End of Fiscal Year Debt Balance (Current + New)

General Fund	\$3,646,667
Refuse Fund	2,649,180
Sewer Fund	650,000
Water Fund	3,869,061
Airport Fund	2,017,662
Streets Fund	6,821,892

**Total End of Year Debt** **\$19,654,462**

**SECTION 11.** The property tax levied under this Ordinance shall become due and payable, shall become delinquent and shall be subject to penalties, the execution of distress warrants and sale of property levied upon as provided by law.

**SECTION 12.** The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed forthwith upon the passage, approval and publication of this Ordinance to forward a certified copy thereof to the County Clerk of Box Butte County, Nebraska.

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**SECTION 13.** This Ordinance shall become effective October 1, 2025.

Dennis Meng, 1316 Toluca Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, questioned whether there are expenses that could be postponed, expressed concern about spending beyond reason, and suggested delaying the decommission of the Power Plant. He stated that the City of Alliance should not continue on its current path and urged finding budget offsets rather than placing the entire burden on the citizens, noting that the increases feel never-ending.

City Manager Sorensen responded to Mr. Meng's concerns of the Decommission of the Power Plant.

Mayor McGhehey addressed Mr. Meng's concerns.

Shelia Walker, 1031 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, questioned the half-million-dollar request for a second power source, as well as expenditures for the airport layout, playground equipment, and police cruisers.

Mayor McGhehey addressed Ms. Walker's concerns regarding the second power source, explaining that it would be a generator; the airport layout, noting that it is required by the FAA; the playground equipment, which will be funded using ARPA funds; and the purchase of three police cruisers, deferring to Police Chief Leavitt for further details.

Police Chief Leavitt addressed Ms. Walker's concerns regarding the Police Department cruiser purchase, explaining that the department's take-home policy helps reduce vehicle wear and tear and decreases emergency response times.

Tom Broeder, 723 Emerson Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, questioned the location of the generator for the second power source, specifically whether it would be on Third Street, and also raised questions regarding the airport lighting project.

City Manager Sorensen addressed Mr. Broeder's questions, explaining that the plan is to place generators at all substations and noting that the Airport Lighting Project is being funded 100% through a grant.

Andrew Shiers, 1118 Meadowlark Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, expressed concerns regarding the budget, emphasizing the need to prioritize needs over wants and suggesting a \$500,000 reduction in funding for the golf course.

Josh Trussell, 912 Colorado Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, asked the Council to review the budget again, stressing the importance of supporting local businesses and expressing concern that the City of Alliance's spending is out of control.

Tyler Jines, 1063 Duncan Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, stated that the landfill is a financial burden, criticized the purchase of unnecessary equipment, and suggested leasing equipment instead of buying new.

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Jessica Trussell, 912 Colorado Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, addressed the Council, stating that the Council holds great power, that elected officials can make a difference, bring the citizens together, and should table this ordinance.

Alex Jines, 1063 Duncan Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska, expressed understanding of grant reductions and urged the Council to make budget cuts to the Golf Course. Concerns were raised regarding wasteful spending, and it that there are no kickbacks from the City.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Yates, Turman, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 25-124 which will accept and approve the proposed 2025-2026 Property Tax Request, which contains anticipated and estimated revenues for the next fiscal year.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Mashburn, seconded by Councilman Turman to approve Resolution No. 25-124. Which follows in its entirety:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 25-124**

A RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST FOR FY 2025-2026.

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statue 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of the City of Alliance passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of the City of Alliance resolves that:

1. The 2025-2026 property tax request be set at:  
General Fund: \$ 2,185,598.59  
Bond Fund: \$ -
2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 4.82 percent.
3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 0.293762 per \$100 of assessed value.

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4. The City of Alliance proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.32639 per \$100 of assessed value.
5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the City of Alliance will increase (or decrease) last year's budget by 22.02 percent.
6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Turman, Mashburn, Yates and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 25-125 which will approve the Fraternal Order of Police ("FOP") with the City of Alliance for FY26-FY28 as those negotiations were recently completed.

A motion was made by Mayor McGhehey, seconded by Councilman Turman to approve Resolution No. 25-125. Which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-125

*WHEREAS*, The Alliance Police Officer's Association Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 51 has been recognized as the current exclusive bargaining unit for the sworn officers and public safety dispatchers; and

*WHEREAS*, Negotiating teams for the City of Alliance and the Lodge have met on several occasions and have negotiated a proposed contract; and

*WHEREAS*, The Alliance Police Officer Association Fraternal Order of Police have met and approved the contract proposal; and

*WHEREAS*, The pay grid has been modified based on comparability and is shown on of the contract; and

*WHEREAS*, Placement of current personnel has been agreed upon and established within the pay grid.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the contract proposal is hereby approved by the Alliance City Council,

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and the Mayor and City staff are authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City of Alliance.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the placement of personnel within the modified pay grid is adopted.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that negotiated contract is included herein by reference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract terms are effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2028.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mashburn, Yates, Turman, and McGhehey.

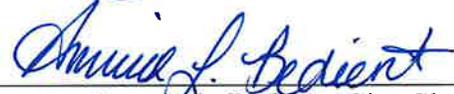
Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

The Alliance City Council adjourned the September 18, 2025 City Council Meeting at 8:04 p.m.

(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