

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON THE 16th DAY of JUNE 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Peru, Nemaha County, Nebraska were called to meet at City Hall at 614 5th Street, Peru, Nebraska 68421, on the 16th of JUNE 2026, at 6:00 P.M., for a Regular Meeting. This meeting was open to the public with advance notice of said regular meeting, the designated method of giving notice, including the agenda for said meeting, or the availability thereof was posted at: Peru City Hall, Western National Bank (Bank of Peru), and the Community Bulletin Board.

Council President Theresa Westfall called the meeting to order and informed the public of the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Agenda Item 1 – Roll Call

At 6:00pm a roll call was taken, and the following was recorded for attendance.

PRESENT – Councilmembers Brent Brown, Rachel Brown, Theresa Westfall, and Josh Whisler.

ABSENT – Mayor Katy Novak.

A quorum was declared pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 17-105.

Agenda Item 2 – Recognition of Visitors:

Council President Theresa Westfall informed the public that a copy of City Resolution #2017-02 Pertaining to Conduct Rules for City Council Meetings may be requested from the City Clerk. Said Resolution was read aloud by Council President T. Westfall.

Agenda Item 3 – Proclamations

A. PROCLAMATION 2026-03: Proclaiming July 4th, 2026, as Independence Day in the City of Peru.

There was no discussion, there was no action.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(i.) Approval of Minutes from the May 19th, 2026, Regular Council Meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

(i.) Ratification of Claims already paid pursuant to Resolution No. 2018-01.

(ii.) Claims still needing approval.

D. APPROVAL: Acceptance of \$306.00 in cash donations from Parks and Recreation Pancake Feed for General Purposes for the Parks and Recreation Commission. | *Agenda Item from Parks and Recreation.*

E. APPROVAL: Building Permit from Ken Hastings for the Installation of a Retaining Wall at 904 7th Street | *Agenda Item from City Clerk/Treasurer.*

F. APPROVAL: Certification of Election for the Special Election held on May 12, 2026. | *Agenda Item from City Clerk/Treasurer.*

G. APPROVAL: Application of Christopher Melvin to become a Member of the Peru Volunteer Fire Department. | *Agenda Item from Peru Volunteer Fire Department.*

H. APPROVAL: Application of Pat Wheeler to become a Member of the Peru Volunteer Fire Department. | *Agenda Item from Peru Volunteer Fire Department.*

I. APPROVAL: Application of Christopher Stout to become a Member of the Peru Volunteer Fire Department. | *Agenda Item from Peru Volunteer Fire Department.*

Councilmember T. Westfall removed item 3B. "APPROVAL OF CLAIMS" from the consent agenda.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda. J. Whisler seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

J. Whisler – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

Item 3B. – There was discussion regarding some of the claims including the claims from gWorks, Mud Boots for the Maintenance staff, and a fireproof safe. There was discussion regarding waiting to pay the gWorks invoices until closer to implementation. There was also discussion about maintenance staff being paid to assist the City of Auburn in the aftermath of the storms last month. There was also discussion about mileage for City Clerk/Treasurer Dennis Kirkpatrick. There was no further discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to approve the 3B. "APPROVAL OF CLAIMS" without the claim from gWorks for \$9,800. J. Whisler seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearing

J. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Declaration of Nuisance Property at 619 5th Street, Parcel #640036228. | *Agenda Item from Board of Health.*

There was discussion about the state of the property and repeated efforts to abate the nuisance. There was discussion about the property owner's offer and their request to extend the consideration of the nuisance declaration by 90 days. There was further discussion about the property owner's attempts to sell the property and potentially interested buyers. There was no further discussion. No action was taken.

K. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Declaration of Nuisance Property at 517 5th Street, Parcel #640042708. | *Agenda Item from Board of Health.*

There was no discussion. No action was taken.

L. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Declaration of Nuisance Property at 604 5th Street and 608 5th Street, Parcel #64003676 and Parcel #640036325. | *Agenda Item from Board of Health.*

There was no discussion. No action was taken

Agenda Item 6 – Reports From City and Community Organizations

M. CITY REPORTS:

(i.) Water Report: City Clerk/Treasurer Dennis Kirkpatrick stated that a copy of the water report can be found in the Clerk's office.

(ii.) Mayor's Report: There was no report.

(iii.) Clerk's Report: City Clerk/Treasurer Dennis Kirkpatrick gave the Clerk's Report
(1.) Financial Reports, May 2026.

He reported that there was progress towards finishing the audit. He also reported that the city now had a new .gov website at perune.gov.

(iv.) Grant Report: City Clerk/Treasurer Dennis Kirkpatrick reported that the city was waiting on the final payment from FEMA/NEMA for the water line loan.

(v.) Facilities Report: There was no report.

N. COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(i.) Parks and Recreation Commission: Commission Chair Nick Novak gave the Parks and Recreation Commission Report.

He reported that there was a shipping delay on the slide. He stated to keep an eye out for Peruvapalooza on Facebook. He also reported that the playground would be ordered soon.

(ii.) Planning and Zoning Commission: City Clerk/Treasurer Dennis Kirkpatrick reported that the commission met at the end of May. They elected a chair and they approved a special exemption permit for Ken Hasting's Building Permit.

(iii.) Finance Committee:

It was noted that the financial committee report is in the council packet.

(iv.) Water and Sewer Committee: Committee Chair Josh Whisler gave the Water and Sewer Committee Report.

He reported that the committee had discussed the proposed Water Rate increase ordinance. He reported that the committee needed more information before they could give a recommendation.

(v.) Streets and Alleys Committee. Committee Chair Josh Whisler gave the Streets and Alley Committee Report.

He reported that there was no Streets and Alleys Committee meeting that month. He also stated that the City did have a registered mosquito license and that they would be spraying. He also stated that he would like to research getting a photo cell for the downtown street lights.

(vi.) Safety Committee Report: It was reported that there was no meeting that month.

O. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: None for this meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business

P. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL: Consideration of Overriding the Mayor's Veto of ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05 WHICH COMBINED AND MERGED THE POSITIONS OF DEPUTY CLERK AND GRANT COORDINATOR POSITIONS; REESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS AS SEPARATE AND DISTINCT OFFICES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE," as adopted by the City Council on May 19, 2026, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute § 17-111. | *Agenda Item from Councilmember Westfall.*

There was no discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to override the Mayor's Veto of Ordinance No. 2026-03. J. Whisler seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – NAY, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 3, the NAYS are 1.

Two-thirds (2/3rds) of the City Council having voted in the affirmative, the motion carried.

Q. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL: Consideration of Overriding the Mayor's Veto of ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS; FIXING COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PERU; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF," as adopted by the City Council on May 19, 2026, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute § 17-111. | *Agenda Item from Councilmember Westfall.*

There was no discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to override the Mayor's Veto of Ordinance No. 2026-04. J. Whisler seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

J. Whisler – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – NAY.

On this vote, the AYES are 3, the NAYS are 1.

Two-thirds (2/3rds) of the City Council having voted in the affirmative, the motion carried.

Agenda Item 8 – New Business

R. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Temporary Work Easement for Levee Repair | *Agenda Item Request from Brett Adams of the Peru Levee District.*

There was discussion regarding the scope of the work and the requested easement. There was no further discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to approve the Temporary Work Easement for Levee Repair. B. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

S. DECLARATION 2026-01: A DECLARATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, DECLARING RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 619 5th STREET IN PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO BE UNSAFE AND A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND ORDERING NUISANCE ABATEMENT OF SAID PROPERTY. | *Agenda Item from Board of Health.*

There was discussion regarding the options presented to the council about the property. There was discussion about the history of property. There was no further discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to revisit Declaration 2026-01 in 90 days. R. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

T. DECLARATION 2026-02: A DECLARATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, DECLARING RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 517 5th STREET IN PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO BE UNSAFE AND A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND ORDERING NUISANCE ABATEMENT OF SAID PROPERTY. | *Agenda Item from Board of Health.*

There was no discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to approve Declaration 2026-02. R. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

U. DECLARATION 2026-03: A DECLARATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, DECLARING RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 604 5th STREET AND 608 5th STREET IN PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO BE UNSAFE AND A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND ORDERING NUISANCE ABATEMENT OF SAID PROPERTY. | *Agenda Item from Board of Health.*

There was no discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to approve Declaration 2026-03. B. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

J. Whisler – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, R. Brown – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried

V. DISCUSSION: Hiring a Municipal Consultant | *Agenda Item from Mayor Novak.*

There was no discussion, no action was taken.

W. ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06 (First Reading): AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA, TO UPDATE THE AMOUNT OF CERTAIN RATES, FEES, CHARGES, COLLECTIONS AND TAXES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF PERU FOR VARIOUS SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BUILDING AND USE, WATER & SEWER RATES, WATER TAPPING, SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, PET LICENSING, AND CITY KEY DISTRIBUTION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES INCLUDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05 AND THE SCHEDULED WATER RATE INCREASE SET TO TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2026; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF; AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OR POSTING OF THE ORDINANCE. | *Agenda Item from Councilmember Westfall*

There was discussion regarding the data available to determine whether water rates should increase. There was also discussion about the cost of a potentially new water rate study. There was no further discussion.

Council President Theresa Westfall stated that the introduction of the proposed Ordinance was in order. Councilmember J. Whisler moved that the minutes of these proceedings be kept in a separate and distinct volume known as the “Ordinance Record of the City of Peru”. T. Westfall seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

Councilmember B. Brown introduced the proposed Ordinance by Ordinance No. 2026-06.

Councilmember B. Brown moved for the suspension of the rules. T. Westfall seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

B. Brown – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS 0. Motion Carried.

Council President T. Westfall declared that the statutory rules in regard to the passage and approval of Ordinances be suspended so that Ordinance No. 2026-06 might be introduced, read by title, and then moved for final passage at the same meeting.

Councilmember B. Brown introduced the proposed Ordinance No. 2026-06 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA, TO UPDATE THE AMOUNT OF CERTAIN RATES, FEES, CHARGES, COLLECTIONS AND TAXES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF PERU FOR VARIOUS SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BUILDING AND USE, WATER & SEWER RATES, WATER

TAPPING, SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, PET LICENSING, AND CITY KEY DISTRIBUTION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES INCLUDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05 AND THE SCHEDULED WATER RATE INCREASE SET TO TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2026; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF; AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OR POSTING OF THE ORDINANCE.” and moved for final passage. T. Westfall seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

J. Whisler – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS 0. Motion Carried.

Council President T. Westfall declared that said Ordinance No. 2026-06 be approved on its first reading and its title agreed to.

X. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL: Repair of City 1-Ton Truck at Koch Auto Service | *Agenda Item from Maintenance Department.*

There was discussion about the additional mechanical issues found by the repair shop, the vehicle's safety for the road, and the shop's hesitation to release it. There was also discussion regarding the capacity of the city's maintenance staff to complete the necessary repairs internally, as well as the alternative option of having the truck towed back to the city to reduce labor expenses. There was no further discussion.

Councilmember B. Brown moved to approve the repair of the City 1-Ton Truck at Koch Auto Service. R. Brown seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, B. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

Y. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Authorization of \$500 Yearly Uniform Stipend for Maintenance Employees. | *Agenda Item from Safety Committee.*

There was discussion about looking into more information regarding the costs of the uniforms for the stipend. There was no further discussion. No action was taken.

Z. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL: Amendment to Sarah Harms Cleaning Contract to Include the Cleaning of the Trophy Cases and Contents Therein at City Hall for \$100 per session. | *Agenda Item from City Clerk/Treasurer and Sarah Harms.*

There was discussion regarding the need for cleaning the trophy cases. There was also discussion about utilizing volunteers to clean them. There was no further discussion. No action was taken.

AA. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL: New Agreement with Kinetic/Uniti for Phone and Internet Service | *Agenda Item from City Clerk/Treasurer.*

There was discussion regarding the new terms of the contract and the difference in price and service. There was no further discussion.

Councilmember T. Westfall moved to approve entering into a new agreement with Uniti for phone and internet service. J. Whisler seconded the motion.

On this roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

B. Brown – AYE, T. Westfall – AYE, R. Brown – AYE, J. Whisler – AYE.

On this vote, the AYES are 4, the NAYS are 0. Motion Carried.

AB. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Upgraded Networking and Computer Technology Purchase Proposal | *Agenda Item from City Clerk/Treasurer.*

There was discussion regarding technology proposals for upgraded networking and computer infrastructure. There was discussion comparing the costs, equipment specifications, and vendor options available to the city. There was also discussion regarding vendor communication, administrative security management, and next steps for acquiring additional proposal details. There was no further discussion. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 9 – Other Business

AC. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PSC Past Water Billing Issues | *Agenda Item from Previous Meeting.*

There was discussion about materials that were still needed and how long it would take to get them. There was no further discussion. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

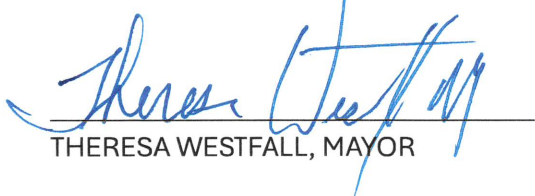
The meeting adjourned on the same day at 7:10pm CT.

APPROVED CLAIMS:

The following claims were presented to the City Council by the City Clerk/Treasurer and were subsequently reviewed, and approved for payment:

City of Peru		June 2026 Claims	
Claims Already Paid / On Autopay			
Vendor	Dept.	Description	Balance
Auburn BPW	Water	City Water Usage	\$9,248.23
Black Hills Energy	Gen, Fire/Res	Gas Service & Service Guard	\$153.84
Kinetic	Gen	Internet and Phone Services	\$718.70
NE Dept. of Water, Energy, and Env.	Water	SRF Loan for Water Line	\$19,472.71
OPPD	Gen	Electric Utility on other 7 accounts	\$727.51
OPPD	Gen	Electric Utility #0080(s), (St. Lights)	\$1,680.82
Payroll 05/30	Gen	Payroll including payroll tax deposit	\$9,451.40
Payroll 06/15	Gen	Payroll including payroll tax deposit	\$10,596.87
Sinclair	Gen	Fleet Fuel	\$813.93
Quick Med Claims	Rescue	Ground Trips/Revenue	\$631.94
xpress-BillPay	Wtr/Swr	Billing Services	\$186.62
Regular Claims			
Vendor	Dept.	Description	Balance
Access Systems Leasing	Gen	Copier Lease Agreement	\$196.31
AKRS Equipment	Gen, City & Rural Fire	Mower Parts and Chain Grinder	\$231.32
American Recycling & Sanitation	Sanitation, Gen	Regular Res. Services, City Hall, City Wide Cleanup	\$4,972.55
Auburn Board of Public Works	Water	Verizon Service	\$50.04
Boundtree Medical	Rescue	Medical Supplies	\$339.17
Cummins Sales & Service	Rescue, City & Rural Fir	Generator Full Service and Planned Maintenance	\$662.63
Forestry Supplies	City & Rural Fire	Clamps, Fire Extinguishers, Misc. Fire Equipment	\$842.49
First National Bank of Omaha	Gen	City Credit Card Purchase	\$3,866.65
Harms, Sarah	Gen	Cleaning Services	\$270.00
Heather Pemberton, CPA	Gen	Accounting Services	\$669.99
Hearts United for Animals	P&R	Half of Proceeds from "Souper Bowl" Fundraiser	\$88.50
Miller Farrell	Rescue, City & Rural Fir	Code 3 Group Life Insurance 7/26-7/27	\$1,447.20
Municipal Supply, Inc.	Water	Pipe Coupling	\$348.07
NAPA Autoparts	Gen	Grommets and Tire Stem	\$31.31
Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab	Water	April and May Water Samples	\$30.00
Nemaha County, Nebraska	Gen	Primary Election & Recall Cost	\$100.00
Nemaha Valley Observer	Gen	March, April Minutes and Special Election	\$287.36
One Call Concepts	Wtr, Swr	May 2026 Locates	\$15.15
Southeast Seamless Gutter & Home Improvements	Gen	Fire Hall, Trailhead, and City Hall Repairs	\$11,162.00
Southeast Nebraska Development District	Gen	Preparation of Hazard Mitigation Grant Application	\$4,875.00
Verizon Wireless	Gen	Maintenance Tablet	\$20.02
		Claims paid prior to approval	\$38,674.79
		Regular Claims	\$59,145.82
		Total	\$97,820.61

HEREBY ATTESTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED:


THERESA WESTFALL, MAYOR




DENNIS KIRKPATRICK, CITY CLERK