

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CHAPPELL NEBRASKA**

A regular meeting of the Chappell City Council was held May 4, 2026 at the Chappell City Hall at 5:00 P.M. The following members were present; Riley, Ortgies, Hahn, Johnson. Staff members present were City Attorney Kendra Strommen, Deputy City Attorney Jonathon Stellar, City Administrator/Clerk Ashlea Bauer, CDD Shaunna Mashek and Utilities Superintendent Todd Rust. Others present included Scott DeCoste, Michele Rust, Matt Edwards with MEAN, Kristy Nerud, Brant Brown, Jeff and Brenda Parsons, Gary Freeman, Christy Warner, Melanie Stroup, Jesse Medina, Joan Hansen, Leslie Snell, Cori Koehler, Jim Behrends, Shayne Freeman and Marge Freeman.

Notice of the meeting was posted as required by law. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present. Mayor Riley informed the public of the location of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act on the back wall of the council room.

A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Ortgies to excuse Council member Carlson. "Yes" Ortgies, Hahn, Johnson. "Absent" Carlson. "No" None. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:**

No public comments.

**Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Johnson to approve the consent agenda, minutes of the regular meeting April 20, 2026 and dept heard reports. "Yes" Ortgies, Hahn, Johnson. "Absent" Carlson. "No" None. Motion carried.

Arnold Pool Company - Swimming Pool Exp - \$515.40 \* Bomgaars - Chappell Lake Exp - \$106.56 - Community Improvement - \$1174.80 - Repair - \$279.99 - Supplies - \$133.84 \* Border League - Baseball Expense - \$250.00 \* Cash-Wa Distributing - Candy/Pop - \$148.73 - Liquor Expense - \$88.70 - Perishables - \$12.00 - Supplies - \$79.76 \* Century Link - Telephone/Communications - \$175.18 \* Chappell Municipal Utilities - Utilities - \$4435.84 \* City of Sidney - Trash Hauling/Recycling - \$241.20 \* Creighton University - Continuing Education - \$1200.00 \* Dearborn Life Insurance Company - Life Insurance - \$13.76 \* Deuel County Treasurer - Law Enforcement - \$8166.66 \* DWEE-Swimming Pools - Swimming Pool Exp - \$80.00 \* Eakes Office Products Center - Supplies - \$451.82 \* Enviro Safety - Lab Testing - \$30.00 \* Floyd's Truck Center - Repair - \$2349.09 \* Global Industrial - Community Improvement - \$449.95 \* Halie Brott - Maintenance - \$600.00 \* Highline Electric Association - Utilities - \$709.24 \* HireRight, LLC - Drug Testing - \$623.35 \* Ingram Library Services - Books/Video - \$261.70 \* Justin Polk - Baseball Expense - \$800.00 \* Katelin Riley - RBDG Loan Funds - \$50,000.00 \* Matheson Tri-Gas Inc - Oxygen - \$147.92 \* Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska - WAPA & MEAN - \$46415.03 \* Niels Bouse - Deposit Refund - \$49.10 \* Precision Signs and Graphics LLC - Splash Pad Sign - \$1025.88 \* Ritchey's Redi-Mix Concrete - Splash Pad Concrete - \$963.00 \* Rod Hanson - Candy/Pop - \$223.34 - Supplies - \$56.74 \* Sam Hahn - Training - \$148.00 \* Sedgwick County Sales - Trash Hauling/Recycling - \$2832.90 \* Shaunna Mashek - Community Improvement - \$96.00 \* US Bank - Books/Video - \$191.29 - Community Improvement - \$36.97 - Supplies - \$26.98 - Telephone/Communications - \$5.36 \* WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. - Tools - \$593.40 \* Total Payroll - \$45,169.69 \*

**Unfinished Business:**

No unfinished business.

**New Business:**

Electrical Superintendent Todd Rust, along with Mayor Dan Riley gave an update on the outage and what was done to bring the downtown circuit and the elevator circuit back onto power. The City electric had an outage that was caused by the unexpected failure of a critical electrical breaker, which initially impacted a large portion of the community. City crews were able to restore service to most residents within approximately 30 minutes; however, the downtown area, grain elevators, and some nearby residences remained without power due to the extent of the damage. City utility crews worked continuously over the past several days in coordination with Nebraska Public Power District, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and the City of Sidney, along with additional partners, to develop and implement a solution. Because replacement parts for the failed breaker were not immediately available, crews constructed an alternative system to reroute power. This effort required the installation of new poles, wiring, and switching equipment. Crews worked late into the night—many until midnight or later—to complete the necessary construction and restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Power to the grain elevator circuit was successfully restored Tuesday night. Crews then continued working to address additional issues encountered within the downtown circuit, which delayed full restoration until Wednesday. City officials recognize the disruption this outage caused, particularly for downtown businesses and residents, and appreciate the community's patience and understanding. This event was the result of an unforeseen equipment failure and was not caused by any individual action. The City also anticipates that additional repairs and system upgrades will be necessary in the coming weeks and months to strengthen infrastructure and reduce the likelihood of similar outages in the future. The

City of Chappell extends its sincere thanks to all crews and partner agencies who worked tirelessly to restore power under challenging conditions.

Mayor Riley opened up the floor for public comments on the electrical outage. Kristy Nerud, owner of Chappell Super Foods, provided comments on the outage. She is asking the city to take financial responsibility for the losses the businesses suffered due to the city outage. Her business suffered major losses due to the outage. City Attorney Strommen asked that those affected submit bills and documentation of the losses and damage they incurred and the city will submit to their insurance. That is the first step to see what the city insurance policy would cover, if any. Jesse Medina, owner of Burgies Bowling, asked about the lack of communication during the outage and the plans to get the system upgraded. Mayor Riley stated that city will work towards some sort of reverse calling plan to make sure there are more avenues for communication. CDD Mashek has found a few companies that have these programs and she has a meeting schedule for early next week to get the information from them along with pricing. She will have information on that to present to council at their next meeting. Brant Brown, owner of Premier Auto stated he lost business during the outage and had no way to do business during the time it was out. He said thank you to the crews that got them back up as quick as they could and thanks to all that helped during the duration. Mayor Riley stated nothing was taken lightly and they did everything they possibly could to get the power restored as soon as they could. They will move forward to get the system replaced. Council member Hahn asked Todd Rust if he had any estimate of what the replacement costs would be and Todd said they have no actual numbers but it could possibly be anywhere in the ballpark of two million dollars or more. They won't know anything actual until the process gets going forward and work begins with engineers.

Christy Warner with Kimball County Transit Services (KCTS) presented their current budget along with the numbers of the funding they will be receiving from the State. They have taken a significant reduction in their funding and they are asking the city to consider an increase in the amount they contribute each year to KCTS to aide in the transit services in Chappell. Christy will need to know very soon if the council will be able to contribute more to the services. The council will discuss again at their next council meeting.

Discussion was held on the process of upgrading/replacing switch gear and generators and any other items as needed. This has become a high priority project. Matt Edwards with MEAN stated they can assist the city with the process along with others. A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Johnson to move forward as soon as possible and contact engineering companies to come and do a site evaluation and work on getting the process started. "Yes" Ortgies, Hahn, Johnson. "Absent" Carlson. "No" None. Motion carried.

City Attorney Strommen requested to enter into executive session for potential litigation. A motion was made by Council member Johnson, second of Council member Hahn to enter into executive session for potential litigation at 6:32 P.M. "Yes" Ortgies, Hahn, Johnson. "Absent" Carlson. "No" None. Motion carried.

Council chamber doors were re-opened.

A motion was made by Council member Johnson, second of Council member Hahn to come out of executive session at 6:46 P.M. "Yes" Ortgies, Hahn, Johnson. "Absent" Carlson. "No" None. Motion carried.

**Communications:**

CDD Mashek updated council on the tree reimbursement grant. The five new trees were planted in the city parks and the pictures and the information were submitted to NRD for reimbursement. She has also planted perennials in the concrete planter box at the center park and it should be minimal maintenance going forward. The Wyman Memorial dedication will be held in the Plaza on June 7<sup>th</sup>, she will find out more information on the time to share so any council that is able to, attend. The lake board is handling the fishing derby this year and going forward. Council member Hahn stated that Game and Parks will be treating the lake with chemicals towards the end of May or early June to kill what shouldn't be there. It is safe for the fish and people. Council member Ortgies asked if she had any updates on the motel; Shaunna will reach out to the owner for any updates.

A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. "Yes" Ortgies, Hahn, Johnson. "Absent" Carlson. "No" None. Motion carried.

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Dan Riley, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Ashlea Bauer  
City Administrator/Clerk

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CHAPPELL NEBRASKA**

A regular meeting of the Chappell City Council was held May 18, 2026 at the Chappell City Hall at 5:00 P.M. The following members were present; Riley, Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. Staff members present were City Attorney Kendra Strommen, Deputy City Attorney Jonathon Stellar, City Administrator/Clerk Ashlea Bauer, CDD Shaunna Mashek, City Treasurer Geralyn Konruff, Utilities Superintendent Todd Rust, Electric Lineman Aaron Stegeman and Street Overseer Jerrod Elms. Others present included Marge Freeman, Kristy Nerud, and Brenda Parsons.

Notice of the meeting was posted as required by law. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present. Mayor Riley informed the public of the location of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act on the back wall of the council room.

**Public Comments:**

Marge Freeman showed the council a nuisance letter that she had picked up over the weekend from the third party handling the nuisance code enforcement. She voiced her frustrations with what she realized this has turned into and the waste of money, it's doing nothing but irritating everyone.

**Consent Agenda:**

A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Carlson to approve the consent agenda, minutes of the regular meeting May 4, 2026 and treasurer's report. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

21st Century Equipment LLC - Repair - \$26.38 \* Bomgaars - Community Improvement - \$251.92- Supplies - \$38.89 \* Boondock Designs LLC - Baseball Expense - \$400.00 \* Cash-Wa Distributing - Candy/Pop - \$247.83 - Liquor Expense - \$30.87 - Perishables - \$189.43 - Supplies - \$87.37 \* Chappell Lumber - Community Improvement - \$407.36 - Repair - \$224.40 - Supplies - \$101.92 \* Chappell Register - Ads, Forms & Printing - \$232.72 \* Chappell Super Foods - Supplies - \$32.68 \* Contractors Materials - Supplies - \$180.00 \* Culligan - Supplies - \$99.65 \* DWEE-Swimming Pools - Swimming Pool Exp - \$40.00 \* Eakes Office Products Center - Community Improvement - \$128.29 - Supplies - \$831.31 \* Eichners Sales & Service - Mow, Trim & Spray - \$13.50 - Supplies - \$13.50 \* Enviro Service Inc - Lab Testing - \$30.00 \* Follett School Solutions, Inc - Subscriptions & Dues - \$861.72 \* Frenchman Valley Co-op - Chemicals & Fertilizer - \$3812.37 - Fuel - \$40.00 \* Hansen's Petroleum - Community Improvement - \$87.75 - Fuel - \$1088.19 \* Hometown Leasing - Leases - \$222.77 \* Ideal Linen Supply - Supplies - \$1165.65 \* Ingram Library Services - Books/Video - \$38.06 \* KCTS - Community Improvement - \$1500.00 \* Kiefer Aquatics - Swimming Pool Exp - \$222.73 \* L L Johnson Distributing CO - Repair - \$55.35 \* Mattoon, Martens & Strommen LLC - Legal Fees - \$2034.00 \* Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska - WAPA & MEAN - \$2250.00 \* Nippon Sanso Matheson Inc - Oxygen - \$147.92 \* One Billing Solutions, LLC - Collections Expense - \$513.39 \* Petty Cash - Postage - \$44.45 - Supplies - \$46.05 \* Premier Auto Parts & Service, LLC - Fuel - \$245.47 - Supplies - \$332.43 \* PT Hose and Bearing - Repair - \$612.80 \* R & R Products Inc - Repair - \$1368.38 \* Sandhill Slims LLC - Candy/Pop - \$81.60 \* Team Lab - Chemicals & Fertilizer - \$3232.00 \* Todd's Custom Welding - Repair - \$30.00 \* Verizon Wireless - Telephone/Communications - \$278.40 \* Waste Connections, Inc - Large Dumpsters - \$2406.38 \* WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP. - Supplies - \$150.77 - Tools - \$1226.57 \* Western Resources Group Inc. - Trash Hauling/Recycling - \$602.00 \* WEX BANK - Fuel - \$2686.52 \* Wheat Belt Public Power District - Utilities - \$55.00 \* Total Payroll - \$48,515.75 \*

**Unfinished Business:**

More discussion was held on changing the parking from angle to parallel on Babcock Avenue from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street north to the alley. Attorney Strommen sent a letter to the property owner that would be directly affected by the changes. A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Johnson to have the attorney prepare an ordinance for the parking changes for the next council meeting. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried. A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Ortgies to approve budgeting \$5,000.00 in the upcoming budget year for the Kimball County Transit Service.

**New Business:**

A motion was made by Council member Ortgies, second of Council member Hahn to allow Toots' Bar & Grill to block off Vincent Avenue from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to the alley between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets for the Poker Run on May 24, 2026. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

An applicant had filled out the necessary paperwork needed for the application for a loan request of the LB840 Funds. The Citizens Advisory Committee gave their recommendation to proceed forward with the loan. A motion was made by Council member Johnson, second of Council member Carlson to approve the loan request from the LB840 Funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 payable to Chappell Super Foods, with the terms it will be paid back in full in 6 months. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

CDD Mashek presented information to the council from Everbridge, a public safety communications platform. Everbridge provides communications tools to alert the community by a reverse 911 notification system. The city will have the ability to quickly send notifications through multiple communication methods including phone calls, text messages, emails, social media, mobile alerts, and web-based notifications. The system also includes interactive mapping, real-time reporting, and customizable alerts to ensure residents receive timely and accurate information. Everbridge provided a quote in the amount of \$3,500.00 a year for 3 years. A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Ortgies to approve the quote as presented. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried. A press release will be drafted with the information.

A motion was made by Council member Ortgies, second of Council member Hahn to approve the building permit for a fence at 601 6<sup>th</sup> St. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Johnson to approve a building permit for a fence at 201 Washington Ave. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Johnson to approve the additional lifeguard help as presented. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

Utilities Superintendent Rust would like to advertise for an apprentice lineman position. His current part-time help will be done on Wednesday. A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Carlson to advertise for the position. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried. Ads will be placed in the newspapers in Chappell and nearby.

City Attorney Strommen requested to enter into executive session for potential litigation. A motion was made by Council member Johnson, second of Council member Carlson to enter into executive session for potential litigation at 5:47 P.M. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

Council chamber doors were re-opened.

Council member Hahn excused himself.

A motion was made by Council member Johnson, second of Council member Ortgies to come out of executive session at 6:14 P.M. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Johnson. "Absent" Hahn. "No" None. Motion carried.

#### **Communications:**

CDD Mashek is waiting for more concrete bids for the multi-use court project. Council suggested advertising in a few of the surrounding newspapers.

NDOT will hold their regular meeting on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 am in Gering and invited any council that could attend, they can also join by phone. Elms will try and attend in person.

Elms stated that Vicki Stegeman was nominated and recognized by the VFW as the First Responder of the Year. He will be attending the recognition on behalf of the VFW in Norfolk in June.

A motion was made by Council member Johnson, second of Council member Carlson to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Johnson. "Absent" Hahn. "No" None. Motion carried.

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Dan Riley, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Ashlea Bauer  
City Administrator/Clerk

### **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES CHAPPELL NEBRASKA**

A special meeting of the Chappell City Council was held May 20, 2026 at the Chappell Fire Hall at 5:00 P.M. The following members were present; Riley, Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. Staff members present were City Attorney Kendra Strommen, Deputy City Attorney Jonathon Stellar, City Administrator/Clerk Ashlea Bauer, and City Treasurer

Geralyn Konruff. Others present included Sam Hahn, Ben Carlson, Gary Freeman, Ryan Timm, Mike Cabela, Arlene Penner, Marge Freeman, Steve and Kelle Brott, Josh Reichman, Vicki Stegeman and Cyndy Wilber.

Notice of the meeting was posted as required by law. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present. Mayor Riley informed the public of the location of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act on the council table.

The purpose of the special meeting was to have a discussion on the Chappell Ambulance and a possibility of acquiring the Lion's Den. Josh Reichman provided background of how the meeting came about. Space is becoming an issue in the firehall, looking at options for the future and what could be done with ambulances. There is not an option of expanding the current firehall, looking for additional space to expand to, to give more space to both entities. Everyone is committed to making sure the ambulance squad is viable and has a home and the fire department is not going to have them move from the firehall with nowhere to go. Reichman will look into the options for renovating the Lion's Den and see if renovations are possible to fit the ambulances in there. Ryan Timm mentioned a fire suppression system for the building. He is waiting for a phone call for more information on the requirements and costs for that. City council was in agreeance that the next steps would be for the Rural Fire Board to take the next steps to acquire the Lion's Den and then work through the next steps.

A motion was made by Council member Hahn, second of Council member Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. "Yes" Ortgies, Carlson, Hahn, Johnson. "No" None. Motion carried.

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Dan Riley, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Ashlea Bauer  
City Administrator/Clerk