

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Bayard, County Morrill, State of Nebraska, met in a regular session in the Council Chambers September 8, 2026. City of Bayard, 445 Main Street, Bayard, Nebraska, 69334. Notice of the meeting having been published in the Bayard Transcript on September 2, 2026. An agenda for the meeting was made available to the Mayor and each of the Council Members prior to the meeting. Present were Mayor Scot Ouderkirk and Council Members Chris Baird, Tanner Henkel, Jamie Hernandez, Diane Kraus, and. Garrett Schukei. Absent: Marty Marquez. There being a quorum of council members present, Mayor Ouderkirk called the meeting to order at 7:27 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Ouderkirk presided over the meeting and noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is located in City Council Chambers and available to the public. City Clerk/Treasurer Bowlin recorded the minutes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council member Baird made a motion to approve the agenda with an addition to add discussion about emergency water purchase as the next item. Seconded by council member Schukei. ROLL CALL: AYES: Baird, Henkel, Hernandez, Kraus, and Schukei. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

WATER

Council member Kraus made a motion to approve the purchase of three (3) pallets of water to be distributed to expecting or nursing mothers, children under the age of four (4) and seniors with health issues, with one (1) case per day. Seconded by council member Baird. ROLL CALL: AYES: Henkel, Hernandez, Kraus, Schukei, and Baird. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

2026-2027 BUDGET

Mayor Ouderkirk highlighted the changes from the 2025-2026 budget to the 2026-2027 budget. He stated the overall operating budget increased about two (2) percent, valuation from the county increased by eight (8) percent, property tax request increased by two (2) percent, while the tax rate decreased by six (6) percent. Council member Schukei made a motion to approve the fiscal year budget for 2026-2027. Seconded by council member Baird. ROLL CALL: AYES: Hernandez, Kraus, Schukei, Baird, and Henkel. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

Council member Schukei made a motion to approve the additional one percent (1%) allowable increase for restricted funds authority for fiscal year 2027. Seconded by council member Hernandez. ROLL CALL: AYES: Kraus, Schukei, Baird, Henkel, and Hernandez. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

Council member Baird made a motion to approve Resolution #1067 to set property taxes for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Seconded by council member Schukei. ROLL CALL: AYES: Schukei, Baird, Henkel, Hernandez, and Kraus. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

RESOLUTION #1054

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of the City of Bayard 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 request;

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

1. The 2026-2027 property tax request be set at:
General Fund: \$202,020.20
Bond Fund: \$-
2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 8.09 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 0.338567 per \$100 of assessed value.
4. The City of Bayard proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.345511 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 Bayard will increase (or decrease) last year's budget by 1.63 percent.
6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2026.

Council member Kraus introduced Ordinance #898 to appropriate funds for 2026-2027 fiscal budget and made a motion to waive the three readings. Seconded by council member Baird. ROLL CALL: AYES: Baird, Henkel, Hernandez, Kraus, and Schukei. NAYS: None. Motion declared waived by Mayor Ouderkirk.

Council member Kraus made a motion for final passage of Ordinance #898 to appropriate funds for 2026-2027 fiscal budget. Seconded by council member Baird. ROLL CALL: AYES: Henkel, Hernandez, Kraus, Schukei, and Baird. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

ORDINANCE 898

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM THE FUNDS AND REVENUES OF THE CITY OF BAYARD, NEBRASKA SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY TO DEFRAY ALL NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF BAYARD, NEBRASKA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, AND LEVYING TAXES FOR SUCH CITY AND FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR FOR CERTAIN OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE AND THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATE FOR EACH OBJECT AND PURPOSE AND PROVIDING FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE TO THE COUNTY CLERK OF MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, AND PRESCRIBING THE TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAYARD, NEBRASKA.

SECTION 1. That there be and there hereby is appropriated out of the funds and revenue of the City of Bayard, Nebraska, the following sums of money deemed necessary to defray all necessary expenses and liabilities of the City of Bayard, Nebraska, for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027; and there is hereby levied on each one dollar of actual value of the taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Bayard, Nebraska, for said fiscal year, as shown by the assessment roll for such fiscal year, the amounts set out; the objects or purposes for which such expenditures are to be made, the amount of appropriated, including the amounts due upon legal and valid outstanding bonds against said City and all special assessments and other tax authorized by law, are as follows:

City of Bayard	\$13,164,519.00
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SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated to the respective funds of said City such sums as shall be paid to the County Treasurer of Morrill County, Nebraska, during the ensuing year for taxes and previous fiscal years for such respective funds and there is also appropriated all occupational taxes collected for and during the fiscal year; also unexpended funds in the hands of the City Treasurer at the beginning of the present fiscal year hereby appropriated to be used to defray the expenses or obligations of the City chargeable against said City funds.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall be known as the Annual Appropriation Bill and shall be in full force and effect from and after the passage, approval and publication according to law.

Passed and adopted this 8th day of September 2026.

BAYARD 2035

Michelle Coolidge came before council to discuss what Bayard 2035 is and what types of things they are working on. There are many community members involved with multiple different projects they are talking about and will be looking to work with the city in the future.

BLOCK PARTY

Council member Hernandez made a motion to approve closure of 4th Street from Main to Avenue A on October 9th from 3 to 9 PM. Seconded by council member Schukei. ROLL CALL: AYES: Hernandez, Kraus, Schukei, Baird, and Henkel. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

DESTINATION WESTERN NEBRASKA TRAVEL GUIDE AD

Council member Kraus made a motion to approve a full-page ad in the Destination Western Nebraska Travel Guide for 2027. Seconded by council member Hernandez. ROLL CALL: AYES: Kraus, Schukei, Baird, Henkel, and Hernandez. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

CITY BILLS & CLAIMS

Council member Schukei moved to approve all city bills and claims in the amount of \$208,980.02. Seconded by council member Baird. ROLL CALL: AYES: Schukei, Baird Henkel, Hernandez, and Kraus. NAYS: None. 308 Plumbing Solutions \$454.00, A&A Porta-Potty \$900.00, Accelerated Receivables \$252.14, Action \$73.50, Aflac \$1,499.76, AST \$53.90, Amazon \$393.40, AT&T \$328.83, Bayard Automotive \$62.38, Benzel \$85.00, Black Hills Energy \$472.96, Border States \$177.41. Bound Tree \$1,179.98, Capital Business System \$841.00, CenturyLink \$106.89, Charter \$1,402.01, Chimney Rock PPD \$148.55, Connecting Point \$42.90, Contractors \$229.50, Croell \$1,583.50, Culligan \$222.00, DAS State Acctg \$44.00, Don's Services \$15,956.56, Douglas Kelly \$1,150.00, Drug Collections \$43.48, Dutton-Lainson \$722.37, Ecolab \$90.00, Enviro Service \$114.00, Equitable \$516.13, FNBO \$1,977.86, Fyr-Tek \$2,956.58, Gene Steffy \$44,028.00, General Consolidated \$437.43, GreatAmericca \$149.99, Hawkins \$2,805.54, Ideal Linen \$252.19, Ingram \$1,031.60, Intralinks \$1,345.25, Kuskie \$2,932.84, LARM \$104.63, Lincoln Nat' Life \$115.77, Macqueen \$580.52, Menards \$1,034.95, Morrill Co Attorney \$150.00, Morrill Co Sheriff \$2,500.00, MEAN \$52,825.51, NW Pipe \$770.17, POAN \$30.00, Quadient \$600.00, Sandberg \$136.54, Scb Co Building \$396.00, Sherwin Williams \$576.46, Simmons Olsen \$33.00, Simplot \$767.10, US Bank \$96.00, Heather Wharton \$62.57, Payroll \$61,137.37. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk

CHIMNEY ROCK VILLA

Council member Hernandez moved to approve the Chimney Rock Villa Bills & Claims as presented in the amount of \$347,189.44. Seconded by council member Kraus. ROLL CALL: AYES: Baird, Henkel, Hernandez, Kraus, and Schukei. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS

All department heads gave their reports.

- **UTILITY REPORT** – fixed water leaks, trim trees, new water meter at villa, pour concrete, pot hole repair.
- **POLICE REPORT** – 35 assist the public, 13 assist other agencies, 1 accident investigations, 8 citation violations, 35 warning violations, 7 complaints, 4 investigations.
- **LIBRARY REPORT** – There were 524 books checked out in the month of August, the computer was used 27 times, 97 books checked out through Overdrive; will be closed September 11th & 12th for Pioneer Days, fall adult book bingo started, Author Craig Johnson will be at Midwest theater 9/21.
- **OFFICE REPORT** – Monthly reports, payroll, Meetings, Budget work, planning commission meeting, PRT meeting.
- **PARKS** – sprayed crabgrass, repaired to main line leaks, fertilized all parks, replaced trim and painted pump house and gazebo at library park.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council member Kraus moved to approve the consent agenda which included minutes from August 25th meeting; Treasurer's reports, Fire Department minutes, and operational budget. Seconded by council member Hernandez. ROLL CALL: AYES: Henkel, Hernandez, Kraus, Marquez, Schukei, and Baird. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

POOL EQUIPMENT

Council member Kraus moved to approve selling the sand filter and boiler from the swimming pool to the City of Bridgeport in the amount of \$5,000.00. Seconded by council member Baird. ROLL CALL: AYES: Hernandez, Kraus, Schukei, Baird, and Henkel. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

SIGN

Council member Kraus moved to approve up to \$1,500.00 of Keno funds for sign to be put up out by Chimney Rock. Seconded by council member Baird. ROLL CALL: AYES: Kraus, Schukei, Baird, Henkel, and Hernandez. NAYS: None. Motion declared carried by Mayor Ouderkirk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Schukei moved to adjourn at 9:08 P.M. Seconded by council member Hernandez. ROLL CALL: AYES: Schukei, Kraus, Hernandez, Henkel, and Baird. NAYS: None. Meeting declared adjourned by Mayor Ouderkirk.

S Ouderkirk.
Mayor

S Bowlin
City Clerk/Treasurer