

City of Loup City – Regular Meeting
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
March 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Mayor and Council of Loup City convened in regular session on March 3, 2026. Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Notice of the Regular Meeting was given in advance thereof by: Posting at three locations- City Hall, Post Office and Court House. Notice was published in the Sherman County Times on February 25, 2026. Said notice of the meetings contained the statement that the agenda kept continually current was available to the public in the office of the City Clerk during normal business hours.

Mayor Hart announced that the meeting of the Mayor and Council is an open meeting. The City of Loup City abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is displayed in the Council Chambers as required by law. The City Council may vote to go into closed session on any agenda item as allowed by State Law.

All proceedings were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Mayor Hart called the meeting to order. Upon roll call by the City Clerk the following were present: Mark Krueger, Jennifer Smydra, and Maggie Sekutera, Andrew Iske. Absent: None. Also present were Mayor Hart, City Clerk Reimers, Deputy Clerk Kuszak, Sheriff Joel Bergman, Sherman County Economic Development Director Melissa Dush, City Attorney Jason White and six members of the Public were present.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence to remember all Armed Forces Service Personnel and all Volunteers who help keep us safe.

Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda. A Motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Smydra to approve Agenda Items 5a- Approve Minutes of February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting, 5b- Approve February 18, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes. 5c- Approve SDL- Cousin’s Hospitality- Ash Hallow Coffee Venue April 24, 2026, 5d- Approve SDL-Cousin’s Hospitality Alumni Reunion at Community Center. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Krueger, Mayor Hart. Nays: None. Absent: Sekutera, Iske. Abstain: None. Motion carried. No Motion or Action on Agenda 5e-February 2026 Treasurer Report. City Clerk Reimers had the bank statements available for review.

Police Update: Sheriff Bergman presented his report and answered all questions. Traffic stops are up. Council Member Krueger thanked the Sheriff for helping with the nuisance property list. Interlocal Agreement Contract will expire March 31, 2026. The County Commissioners will meet on March 24th to address the Interlocal Agreement Contract. Sheriff Bergman will send to the City office a report on the projected Region 26 charges will be. The Interlocal Agreement Contract will be placed on the April 7, 2026 Agenda.

SCED: Melissa Dush went over her report. Topics included Rural Workforce Housing Fund, Leadership Certified Community, Loup City 2030 Visioning, Tourism Promotion Projects, Workforce and Entrepreneurship. Dush will start the process of asking for street closures and SDL’s for the April Meeting regarding Polish Days. Light poles are tentatively scheduled to be painted by Memorial Weekend.

LB840: Promoting façade improvement program-Exterior Mock-Ups. One LB840 application will be presented later in the meeting. CARC will meet when accounts are ready for the July-December 2025 Review. All loans are current. Due to the transfer of Software issues, the LB840 Balance was not available.

LB840 Loan Application 2026-01 was introduced. Heather Janulewicz stepped down from being a member on Loan Committee due to conflict of interest with loans and interest in being appointed to the Loup City CRA instead. The Wash House (formerly King's Laundromat plus adjoining office space and equipment) at 122 and 126 South 7th Street. Borrowers are Heather & Darnell Janulewicz (split 50%/50%). The terms are as follows: Percent of the project the City is funding is 42%. Percentage of borrower investment is 11.4% (\$16,000 Cash) plus sweat equity and plans to personally finance updates. \$74,000 line of credit secured with Heritage Bank to lend from as needed (Separate Collateral, 1st on UCC of newly purchased equipment). Loan Amount is \$60,000 for 10 years with interest rate of 3.5%. The Loan Committee made a recommendation to the City Council to approve LB840 Loan 2026-01. A Motion was made by Smydra and seconded by Sekutera to approve LB840 Loan 2026-01. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Sekutera, Krueger, Iske. Nays: none. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Report: The Maintenance Crew put up two new dog kennels. Holcomb went around and looked for broken toters. Seven toters and twenty-one lids ended up warranted. Meters were read for the month of February. The intake manifold on the 2001 Ford pickup was replaced, and a new starter was installed on the 2013 Ford pickup. The Maintenance Crew removed snow in the entire town and airport on February 20, 2026. The snow removal equipment was worked on after the snowstorm. Maintenance jetting on the sanitary sewer system was done, swept all the residential and downtown streets, bladed all gravel roads, and vacuumed up leaves and corn stalks at the ball fields and tennis courts. Holcomb took the annual 24-hour influent composite sample. Holcomb also took the shop well quarterly water sample and three-year VOC water sample at well 731. The coliform water sample for the month of February was negative for coliform and e-coli.

Item 9b- Holcomb turned in a quote from Fin Folk to clean and inspect below grade water reservoir in the amount of \$4,985. This must be done every three years. A quote from Maguire was also turned in for cleaning out which has to be done every five years.

Item 9c- Holcomb would like to have Big A Construction seal cracks in streets with a cost up to \$7,500.

A Motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Iske to approve Items 9b and 9c- Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Sekutera, Iske, Smydra, Krueger. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

90 Day Past Due: None.

Item 11: Sidewalk Program Applications: Resolution 2026-9 (Replacing Res 2016-39) was introduced- A Resolution approving the program of guidelines, application, agreement of the Loup City Sidewalk Improvement Program for the City of Loup City, Sherman County, Nebraska. The changes were passed at the February 3, 2026 Meeting.

Item 11b- Alec Baillie submitted a sidewalk improvement program application for the address of 134 O Street. Zoning Administrator Krueger did look at the sidewalk and agrees that it does need replaced.

Item 11c- Alec Baillie submitted a sidewalk improvement program application for the address of 752 O Street. Zoning Administrator Krueger did look at the sidewalk and agrees that it does need replaced.

A Motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Iske to approve items 11a, 11b and 11c. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Iske, Krueger, Smydra, Sekutera. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Valley County Health: Valley County Health is asking for the use of the Community Center for their FROG (Fitness Reaching Older Gen's) activity. They will use the Center after the Pickleball Players are finished in the morning. This program will be open to the Public and free of charge. A Motion was made by Smydra and seconded by Sekutera to approve the use of the Community Center for the FROG Program. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Krueger, Iske, Smydra, Sekutera. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Nuisance Properties:

319 N 10th Street: Kyle Kowalski addressed the Council. Kowalski explained that he applied for the Rural Workforce Housing Grant with the Sherman County Economic Development and will meet with Melissa Dush tomorrow. Dush guessed that within 30 days they will know if the Grant was accepted. Kowalski will have 18 months to comply with the upgrade. Kowalski explained his Four Phase Project to the Council. Phase 1 will be finished by the end of summer. A Motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Iske to suspend the tear down of the property to the June 2026 Meeting. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Sekutera, Krueger, Iske, Smydra. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

167 P Street: Mayor Hart talked with Tanner Palu. Since one of the Bidders wants to increase their bid, the demolition will go out for bid again. A Motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Smydra to have this go back out for bid with the stipulation of a time frame for removal and when Council accept bid, that's how long the bidders have. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Iske, Smydra, Krueger. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Sekutera. Motion carried.

Next Phase of Nuisance Properties: Sheriff Bergman spoke about the list he made. Bergman drove around the community and got 140 properties with some kind of nuisance. There were no restrictions. Some property owners have started working on the property to become compliant. Smydra would like to send postcards to the residents that have resources that will help owners become compliant. Mayor Hart stated that the next phase of nuisance properties will go faster as the City has learned the process with the first phase. Attorney Jason White stated NE State Statute 1.30.23. Entrance Corridors to the City haven't changed for a decade.

Item 15a-Cemetery Board Recommendation: During the Cemetery Board Meeting held on Feb 24, 2026, Mark Higgins, Chairperson of the Cemetery Board, opened the sealed bids. Kaslon Lawn Care submitted a bid for \$25,000 and was on time. There was one bid that was submitted late and cannot be considered. The Cemetery Board recommendation to the City Council was to approve Kaslon Lawn Care's bid.

Item 15b- Agreement of Cemetery Caregiver Contract- The Agreement was ready for review.

Item 15c- Resolution 2026-7: A Resolution of the City of Loup City, Nebraska, to authorize the mayor to sign an agreement to maintain the Municipal Cemetery with Tony Kaslon.

A Motion was made at by Iske and seconded by Smydra to approve Item 15a, 15b, and 15c. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Iske, Krueger, Sekutera, Smydra. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

15d- Gary Czaplewski introduced himself whose address stated was 237 9th Street, Loup City. Gary explained his situation that his grandfather bought eight plots at the Cemetery. Four lots have been taken and four lots are still open. Gary cannot locate any documents that he does nor does not own the plots. After some discussion, it was recommended that Gary go to the Catholic Church and have them search their records for some kind of proof that these plots

were purchased and let the Council know what he has found out. No action was taken on this matter.

Item 16a. Community Center Custodian: Mayor Hart opened the one bid that was submitted on time. The bid was from Brandi Durham in the amount of \$1,560.00 monthly.

16b- The agreement for the Custodial Position was available for review.

16c- Resolution 2026-8: A Resolution of the City of Loup City, Nebraska, to authorize the mayor to sign an agreement for custodial services with Brandi Durham.

A Motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Iske to approve Items 16b and 16c. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Krueger, Iske, Sekutera. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Pool Wages: This Agenda Item will be placed on the Special Meeting Agenda. More information was needed.

Sale of City Property: The property being sold by sealed bids is located at 129 N 5th Street, Loup city. Three bids were received on time by the City Clerk. Mayor Hart opened the bids. The first bid was from Joel Bergman in the amount of \$3,835.00. The second bid was from MWB Properties in the amount of \$6,500.00. The third bid was from Tina Treffer in the amount of \$5,555.00. A Motion was made by Smydra and seconded by Sekutera to accept Joel Bergman's sealed bid. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Iske, Smydra, Sekutera. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Krueger. Motion carried.

Appointment CRA Board: Mayor Hart appointed Heather Janulewicz, Seth Skibinski, Cale Harrington, Sherri Badura and Kyle Anderson (Per Acceptance from Kyle) to the CRA Board. A Motion was made by Iske and seconded by Krueger to approve Mayor Hart's appointments to the CRA Board. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Sekutera, Krueger, Iske. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Office Printer Lease: More information was needed. This item was postponed to the April meeting.

ACE Grant Funds: The City of Loup City received \$4,685 from ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy). Donna Trompke previously asked to be put on the Agenda. Trompke asked if the Council will open these funds for Grants. The Council agreed to donate \$3,000 of this refund towards a Grant for local non-profit 501(c)3 Groups. A Motion was made by Iske and seconded by Krueger to donate \$3,000 and to put an ad in the paper advertising this with an April 1st deadline. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Sekutera, Iske, Krueger, Smydra. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Schaupp's Disposal Claim: A Motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Sekutera to approve Schaupp's claim as submitted for payment. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Krueger, Smydra, Sekutera. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Iske. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims: A Motion was made by Iske and seconded by Smydra to approve the payments of Claims presented. Upon roll call vote: Ayes: Krueger, Sekutera, Iske, Smydra. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Deputy Clerk- The transfer process to Power Manager is slowly coming along and believes it will be a better program to work with. Sekutera- Pool & Parks will have interviews on Sunday. Krueger- Will be attending the Zoning & Planning Conference this week. Clerk- Will start entering over 600 journal entries on the 10th that was received from the auditor. Nancy Bryan has agreed to come in and help with these entries. An e-mail was sent to the Auditor to start the next process of entries. We are having issues uploading documents to the webpage that is being designed. Applied Technology is assisting on these issues. Clerk will be attending the Zoning & Planning Conference this week. Deputy Clerk and Clerk will be leaving on Sunday to attend Clerk School the entire week of the 16th. All three Transit drivers will have to renew our CPR class in Kearney on March 24th. The Clerk will attend the class in the morning, and the Deputy Clerk and Transit Manager will attend in the afternoon. The Mayor was asked if the City Office can be closed during the transition time. Smydra will be at the Beautification Meeting. Iske-Specked out a new City Pumper. Mayor reminded Iske that letters of intent through CDBG are due this summer. Street Meeting will meet once the Clerk finds out if the 2023 Street Bond has to be used up this year or next year.

Mayor's Report: The City Office will be closed on the day of the journal entries on the 10th. Mayor Hart contacted Text.gov and received a quote of \$2,500 annually. Mayor Hart went over the features of the program. There would be a set up fee. The Mayor and Clerk is in the process of closing out the Community Development Block Grant. There will be a Public Hearing scheduled possibly in May to do this.

A Special Meeting is planned for March 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

AJ Reimers
City Clerk, Treasurer

APPROVED:

Laura Hart Mayor

Marc Krueger Council President