Regular City Council Meeting

**8-4-25**

Mayor Kovar called the meeting to order at 7pm

Present: Breann Krebs, Mike Grote, Rebecca Ferderer, Tom Gorek, Rex Fitch

Excused: Chris Fitterer

Motion by Breann, seconded by Tom to approve the July 2025 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The county policing report was presented by Sheriff Warner. In July there were 51 calls for service which included a hit and run, assist with other agency, animal neglect, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, reckless driving, juvenile, fireworks and child neglect and abuse. Motion by Rex seconded by Mike to approve the county policing report. Motion carried.

Sheriff Warner discussed that a policy needs to be adopted for people to speak at meetings.

**Mayors Report**

Nothing to report

**Water & Sewer**

Nothing to report

**Street & Lights**

Nothing to report

**Buildings & Grounds**

Nothing to report

**Equipment**

Nothing to report

**Ordinance**

Nothing to report

**City & Government Affairs**

Rebecca discussed the grocery store sustainability grant and the New England Grocery Store has applied for this grant.

**Zoning Commission**

The Zoning Commission approved a building permit for a fence.

The Zoning Commission is working on changing the ordinances, specifically for residents that do not get a building permit before they do the work or the project. The Zoning Commission is discussing raising the fine for the first offense from $100 to $250 and the 2nd violation will be $500. There will need to be a first and 2nd reading and a public hearing before anything can be approved.

**Auditors Report**

Motion by Breann, seconded by Mike to approve the following bills for payment. Motion carried.

8/11/2025 16157 Justabouts Services LLC Patching -12th & 14th Street -2,135.00

8/11/2025 16158 Smart Computers & Consulting Computer Repair & Microphone-232.10

8/11/2025 16159 Southwest Water Authority Monthly Water -17,737.76

8/11/2025 16160 Runnings Nailer Kit -299.00

8/11/2025 16161 Syn Tech Systems Repair Cardtrol -73.00

8/11/2025 16162 Share Corp Degreaser -258.89

8/11/2025 16163 Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance -1,609.71

8/11/2025 16164 Kubik, Bogner, Ridl & Selinger Legal Services & Quit Claim Deed -250.00

8/11/2025 16167 D & E Supply Co. Cleaning Supplies - Memorial Hall -407.49

8/11/2025 16168 Helena Chemical Chemical for Spraying -329.66

8/11/2025 16169 One Call Concepts Call Tickets -6.00

8/11/2025 16170 North Dakota Water Users Association Dues -125.00

8/11/2025 16171 NE Lions Ad in Calendar -35.00

8/11/2025 16172 Virtuoso Leidholm Consulting LLC Website Maintenance -200.00

8/11/2025 16173 The Hub Convenience Stores Fuel -686.85

8/11/2025 16174 Consolidated City Hall Phone -516.30

8/11/2025 16175 Consolidated Ambulance Phone -51.35

8/11/2025 16176 MDU Utilities -3,301.02

8/15/2025 16177 Daniel Hoerath Mowing -200.00

We received a resolution from the City Attorney regarding selling land by public bid. Motion by Rex, seconded by Breann to approve the resolution to sell land by public bid. Motion carried.

The City Council discussed the house we received back from the county. We had originally put it up for bids and rejected the bid we did receive. At a later date, it was agreed to sell the property, however the process has not been completed. In discussing this issue with our City Attorney, it is recommended that the City of New England put the house back up for bids and award it to the highest bidder. That would be the cleanest way to resolve this issue of selling the house. The City Council will discuss this further at the next city council meeting.

**Old Business**

Rebecca will talk with the West River Vet Clinic in person to discuss having a rabies clinic in New England.

Discussed a spay and neuter program in New England. There is a possibility of a vet from Montana coming to New England to spay and neuter feral animals in town. There are some groups that would like to come to a city council meeting to give an educational presentation on how to run a successful program. Money would need to be raised and volunteers would be needed as well. The council asked for a more structured plan and more details at a future meeting.

**New Business**

Discussed a new bill pay system that would be more user friendly and would have better options for residents on paying and receiving bills. Bills could even be received by email. This would be administered through our current utility billing company Black Mountain Software. Motion by Breann, seconded by Rex to move forward with the new bill pay system. Motion carried.

Discussed the preliminary budget. The City of New England received documentation on the total amount that can be budgeted in our general fund and for the library. After this year the city can only raise those amounts by 3%. This is due to the property tax relief for residents. There were not a lot of changes to the budget from last year. The city does not have many avenues to increase revenue so the city will have to look at cutting expenses to maintain and stay within budget. Motion by Breann, seconded by Mike to approve the preliminary budget. Motion carried.

Motion by Breann, seconded by Rebecca to move our regularly scheduled meeting to Tuesday, September 9th at 7pm due to the Labor Day holiday. Motion carried.

Motion by Breann, seconded by Rebecca to set the budget hearing date on Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

**Council Comments**

None

Motion by Breann, seconded by Mike to adjourn. Motion carried.

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Mayor City Auditor