

Council Meeting

June 9, 2025

Council Chambers:

- ROLL CALL: The City Council of Lincoln Center convened in regular session at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Travis Schwerdtfager presiding. Councilmembers present: Angela K. Corpstein, Mark Luce, Hayden Howard, and Elijah Keever. Councilmember absent: Melodee Larsen. Officials present: Attorney Jeffrey A. Norris, Clerk Heather N. Hillegeist. Also present: Superintendent Jeff Ahring.
- VISITORS: Visitors in attendance for all or portions of the meeting: Carla Errebo, Jyll Phillips, Lisa Feldkamp, Breanna Brown, Clay Haring, Dena Donley, Kristin Dail, Dee Wenger, Russ Black, April Swartz, Lisa Simmons, Lorrone and Jason Leach.
- AGENDA AMENDMENTS: There were no amendments to the council meeting agenda.
- MINUTES: Upon motion by Corpstein, seconded by Luce, Minutes of the May 12, 2025, regular meeting were approved as written.
- PAYROLL VOUCHER: Payroll Voucher No. 25-05, for May wages and salaries in the amount of \$74,649.33 was presented. A motion by Keever, seconded by Corpstein, to approve said Payroll Voucher, carried.
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Accounts Payable lists were reviewed. Invoices prepaid in May totaled \$60,925.46. Unpaid invoices received to date totaled \$50,968.46. Upon motion by Keever, seconded by Corpstein, all said invoices, in the amount of \$111,893.92, were approved for payment.
- DELINQ. ACCNTS.: The Governing Body reviewed a list of eight (8) delinquent utility accounts in the amount of \$3,368.80.
- ANIMAL PERMIT HEARING: Mayor Schwerdtfager opened a hearing to hear comments regarding Lorrone and Jason Leach's application for an animal permit for ten (10) chickens on the property located at 213 E. Lost Street. All property owners within two hundred feet of the property lines were notified of the hearing as specified by the city code. Two (2) neighbors were opposed to the chicken permit. Mayor Schwerdtfager closed the hearing. The animal permit was denied.
- CITY FLAG: Lincoln Community Improvement Committee (LCIC) members; Carla Errebo, Lisa Feldkamp, Jyll Phillips, and Breanna Brown presented the three finalist city flag designs to the Governing Body. LCIC asked for support of the final selection that was voted on by the community.
- LIGHT PROJECT: LCIC discussed the "Lighting Project" that they and the Chamber are working on. There were several different questions presented. After discussion, they can apply for grants under the city, but LCIC would be responsible for holding the grant funds and paying the vendor. A discount or free electricity was not approved. Use of a City bucket truck with employee operating it was tabled until a future date.
- VFW STREET DANCE: Dee Wenger and Russ Black, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #7928, requested to barricade 4th Street from Lincoln Avenue to Court Street for a street dance on August 16, 2025. Clerk Hillegeist relayed they would need a Special Event Ordinance to sell alcohol that would need to be prepared and adopted through the city. Hillegeist also informed Wenger to apply to the Kansas Department of Revenue for a Temporary Permit to sell liquor and pay the fees. Attorney Norris was instructed to prepare the Ordinance for the July meeting.

2024 AUDIT REPORT:

April Swartz reviewed the City of Lincoln Center Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024, with the Governing Body. She thanked the City management and staff for its cooperation with the audit process. She then reviewed the “City of Lincoln Center’s Financial Statement with Independent Auditor’s Report” document, making note of any significant changes. Varney stated it was a clean audit. There followed a motion by Keever, seconded by Corpstein, to approve and accept the 2024 Audit Report and Financial Statements, as presented. Motion carried.

NUISANCES:

Public Officer Glen Mallam reported on the status of the list of nuisance properties. Following discussion, Clerk Hillegeist was instructed to resend the Resolutions to four (4) of the properties with a date the city would be abating the nuisance if not resolved. Attorney Norris was asked to prepare Resolutions for two (2) unfit structures and a health nuisance that letters have been sent to, that have made no improvements to date for the July meeting. Discussion was held regarding brome within the city limits and treating it as farm use. Council agreed that the city code applies to all residential lots.

LINCOLN AVE. VACATION:

Attorney Norris relayed he had been contacted by Clay Haring regarding the recent vacation of W. Lincoln Avenue to city limits. Following discussion, the city agreed to secure Haring access to his property prior to the current city farm leases expiring on February 28, 2026.

VACATE STREET ORD #759:

City Attorney Norris presented an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE VACATING THAT PORTION OF W. BOWLAND AVENUE WEST OF SOUTH 5TH STREET, WHICH SUCH VACATION IS BOUNDED BY LOTS 9, 10, AND 11, IN BLOCK 1 OF BOWER ADDITION, AND THAT PORTION OF W. BOWLAND AVENUE WEST OF SOUTH 5TH STREET, BOUNDED BY PARTS OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, AND 6, LESS A PORTION OF LOTS 4, 5, AND 6, IN BLOCK 2 OF BOWER ADDITION, ALL OF WHICH IS IN THE CITY OF LINCOLN CENTER, LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS.**” Said Ordinance has been prepared to vacate a portion of West Bowland Avenue to highway 14. Keever moved to pass said Ordinance, seconded by Corpstein. Upon call for vote, the following Councilmembers voted Aye: Corpstein, Howard, Keever and Luce. Nay: None. The Ordinance was declared passed, was approved, and signed by the Mayor, assigned #759 by the City Clerk, and ordered to be published once in the Official City Newspaper.

WATER WELL TEST/PUMPS:

Superintendent Ahring presented the Governing Body with a report of the well pump tests for the three (3) gabelmann wells performed by Sargent Drilling. They also provided an estimate for well rehabilitation. After discussion, Ahring was instructed to get additional quotes for potential pumps and motors for prices on the project.

CEMETERY SOFTWARE:

Clerk Hillegeist present four (4) proposals from different software companies for cemetery software. This software has a public portal with mapping to help with selling spaces, locating loved ones, assisting with marking graves for burials and headstones. Since the resignation of the cemetery sexton, the work has been performed by the city office/crew. Clerk Hillegeist and Kristin Dail gave scenarios of the current process and how the software could help with both the customers’ experience and the employees. After discussion, Luce moved to contract with WebCemeteries for cemetery software in the one-time amount of \$10,769.00, with recurring monthly management and license fees of \$299.00. Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried.

RESIGNATION:

Clerk Hillegeist reported that Judge O’Hare has given notice of her resignation effective July 1st.

STREET WORK:

Superintendent Ahring was asked to put together a list of potential streets for repair to be presented at the July meeting.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

/s/ Heather N. Hillegeist, MMC
City Clerk