Council Meeting July 13, 2026

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, Hayden Howard, Elijah Keever, Melodee K. Larsen, and Mark Luce. Officials present: Attorney Jeffrey A. Norris, and City Clerk Heather N. Hillegeist. Also present: Superintendent Jeff Ahring.

VISITORS: Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting: Stephanie Couch, Vernon Herrman, Sarah Steele, Kelly Gourley, James Hall, Hank Kummer and Tim Meier.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: There were no amendments to the council meeting agenda.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Corpstein, seconded by Larsen, Minutes of the June 8, 2026, meeting were approved as written.

PAYROLL VOUCHER: Payroll Voucher No. 26-06, for June wages and salaries in the amount of $100,372.11, 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 June totaled $50,298.64, and unpaid invoices received to date totaled $308,358.74. Upon motion by Corpstein, seconded by Howard, all said invoices in the amount of $358,657.38, were approved for payment.

DELINQ. ACCNTS.: The Governing Body reviewed a list of nine (9) delinquent utility accounts totaling $3,338.38.

CHAMBER FUNDRAISER: Lincoln Chamber member Stephanie Couch informed the council about a Golf Tournament Fundraiser they are hosting July 18, 2026, with opportunities to sponsor the event. Corpstein moved to sponsor a hole with a $150.00 donation to the Chamber's Golf Tournament. Motion seconded by Luce, carried.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Vernon Herrman, AGH Employer Solutions presented a quote from US Alliance for employee benefits including Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) and Short-Term Disability (STD) Insurance with options. The city currently provides the same insurance with Advance as the carrier. Herrman explained he could save the city $47.52/month for the exact same coverage with US Alliance. After discussion, Keever moved to accept the proposal for $25,000 coverage for Life and AD&D Insurance, with a 30-day waiting period for STD Insurance with a monthly premium of $175.08, motion seconded by Luce. Motion Carried.

IRB PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Schwerdtfager opened the public hearing to receive comments in regard to the issuance by the Issuer of its Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (Applequist Manufacturing Project), not to exceed principal amount of $10,000,000 in bonds and in regard to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of property constructed or purchased with such funds. The purpose of the bond issuance is to pay the cost of the acquisition, renovation, construction and equipping of a manufacturing facility located at 702 E. North Street. No public comments were received.

IRB RES. # 26-02: Resolution No. 26-02 was presented, entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN CENTER, KANSAS DETERMINING THE ADVISABILITY OF ISSUING TAXABLE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE ACQUISITION, RENOVATION, CONSTRUCTION

AND EQUIPPING OF A MANUFACTURING FACILITY AND AN ADDITION THERETO TO BE LOCATED IN THE CITY AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF RELATED DOCUMENTS." Keever moved to adopt Resolution 26-02. Motion seconded by Luce, carried.

PILOT: Sarah Steele, attorney at Gilmore & Bell, answered questions the Governing Body had regarding the Agreement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes that was presented. Steele explained that the agreement allows for ad valorem tax abatement for ten (10 calendar years following the year in which the Bonds are issued, other than special assessments levied on account of special benefits. Special assessments must be paid. The PILOT amount will be $24,143 annually once bonds are issued.

HOUSING ASSESSMENT: Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation (LCEDF) Director Kelly Gourley discussed the need to do a Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) to evaluate the housing needs of the city. Gourley explained that grant funds are available through Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, Inc. to cover the cost for North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) to serve as a consultant with the HAT. This project would be at no cost to the city. Following discussion, Keever moved to approve the grant agreement with the Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, Inc. for the HAT along with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NCRPC to serve as consultant and LCEDF to coordinate the project on the city's behalf. Motion seconded by Corpstein, carried.

WAPA SCP 2027: Superintendent Jeff Ahring prepared the new 5-year Small Customer Plan for the City of Lincoln Center. Western requires firm power customers to submit such plans. Upon motion by Keever, seconded by Larsen, Mayor Schwerdtfager was authorized to sign the approval page of the document.

CITY HALL SECURITY SYSTEM: The Governing Body reviewed a quote from INA Alert to replace all current components of the current security equipment and monitoring at City Hall. The council was not inclined to make any changes at this time.

WATER RATES: Clerk Hillegeist explained that while preparing the 2027 budget it is evident that the City needs to raise water rates to cover the $1,105,961 Kansas Public Water Supply loan that was acquired in 2022 for the water line replacement project. The loan repayment along with wages, and repairs to maintain the water system is costing more than the annual revenue. After discussion, Attorney Norris was asked to prepare an Ordinance for the August meeting with the water rate increase discussed for approval and adoption.

NUISANCES: The Governing Body reviewed the list of nuisance properties. Attorney Norris discussed the status of the property on Yauger Street.

2027 BUDGET: Clerk Hillegeist informed the Governing Body that it was not necessary for the City to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) for the 2027 budget. Hillegeist said the city would hold the budget hearing August 10, 2026, at 7 p.m.

POOL: Clerk Hillegeist relayed that the pool official closing date would be August 15th for the 2026 season. The pool hours would be revised from August 10th through August 14th to 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. due to staff schedules for the upcoming school year.

SUPERINTENDENT RPT: Superintendent Ahring discussed the excess of class clippings in the street. Ahring reported he had delivered multiple warning notices throughout the city to citizens violating the ordinance. Ahring explained different reasons why it can cause problems for the city. Council suggested contacting the newspaper for a possible article to help inform the public

of the ordinance and why it is in place. Ahring relayed damage to some electric poles north of town with an estimated $7,000 expense in replacing the poles and repairing the damage to the power lines.

ADJOURN: Councilmember Luce relayed a request from the American Legion for repairing the flagpole ropes and clasps at the city cemetery and the flagpole holders on Lincoln Avenue prior to Labor Day.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

/s/ Heather N. Hillegeist, MMC
City Clerk