MINUTES OF THE AKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AT AKELEY CITY HALL 6:00PM, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2026

The Akeley City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026. Mayor Brian Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
Council members present: Brian Hitchcock, Dan Riggs, Dale Nelson, and Bobbie Wosika
Council members absent:
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Council and attending audience.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes from August 12th, 2026, Regular Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for August
- Total disbursements including all automatic payments equaling $184,935.87. Check numbers #23900 - #23952. Online disbursements #11313OL - #11322OL, #11336OL - #11341OL, #11355OL - #11362OL, #11372OL - #11378OL. Total receipts including all automatic deposits equaling $167,443.13.
- Administration Finance Report for August
- August Permits Issued – 2
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the corrected financial statement for community projects, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed unanimously.**

City Hall – Kristi Kath

- Motion to approve claim numbers 11301-11381.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve claim numbers 11301-11381, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**
- The correct capital asset policy was provided in the packet due to the wrong policy being in the packet at the last meeting. The policy needs to be approved.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the capital asset policy, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed unanimously.**
- Discussion on the final bill from MN Dot for the TH34 Project. It is in the amount of $1,606.43.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve paying the final bill to MN Dot in the amount of $1,606.43 to come from the street fund, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed unanimously.**
- Discussion on the Hubbard County tax forfeit reclassification for parcel 29.37.32050.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to allow put up parcel 29.37.32050 for auction, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**
- Discussion on setting up a budget meeting.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to set the budget meeting for September 16th, 2026, at 6:00pm, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed unanimously.**
- Kristi states that she was approached by Moore Engineering to see if the city would want to apply for another grant for the trees so that maybe the city could look at getting watering equipment so that Reid does not have to have that water tank in his truck and some arborists to come in and look at the trees. Moore Engineering is willing to help with the application. The grant would help take care of the dead trees that need to be replaced. It will not cost the city any money to apply. It would be a potential $150,000.00 grant.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve Moore Engineering to help with the grant application, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**

Police Department – Jimmy Hansen

- Discussion on a new Incident Response policy. It is to ensure that Information Technology properly identifies, contains, investigates, remedies, reports, and responds to computer security incidents.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to approve the Incident Response Policy, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed unanimously.**

Liquor Store - Lacey Hitchcock

- Lacey was absent.
- Bobbie states that the bar booty chest was won.
- Bobbie states that the ice machine needs to be replaced. It would cost more to have it fixed than to buy a new one. It will cost a couple thousand but with labor, Bobbie would like to approve of the Muni paying up to $4,000.00 for a new ice machine.
- Dan Riggs exits meeting at 6:21pm.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve Lacey to purchase a new ice machine in the amount of up to $4,000.00 coming from liquor store savings, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**

Parks – Dan Riggs

- Discussion on the trees that need to be removed in the campground. Brian states that they need to get some estimates.

Water/Sewer/Maintenance Report-Carol Ross/Reid Watson

- Discussion on ruts being caused by the irrigator. Tim Dury asks about the possibility of plowing the whole field. What is growing out there right now is a problem for what needs to be grown. The process of starting fresh would take a year and Tim is wondering if the city would extend his lease.
- Reid asks if the city could give Roger a raise. Kristi states that if it were to start before January 2027, that the park would need to absorb the cost as it would put Reid's budget over.

East Hubbard County Fire District –Dan Riggs/Bobbie Wosika

- Report on August minutes.
- Discussion on the Joint Powers Agreement. The league states that it is okay to be approved.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the East Hubbard County Fire District, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.**

Old Business

- Bobbie states that there will be a community projects meeting on September 28th, 2026.
- Kristin states that it will cost over $20,000.00 to move the depot building. She states that she has secured funding to fix the building where it sits. She is asking the council to leave the building where it sits and to give the 50-year lease to a non-profit. She states that she has numerous non-profits around the area that show interest. She also has secured commercial liability insurance. She states that she would be willing to be a place holder. The council would like her plan in writing and everything that she is talking about so that Kristi can send it to the league. Kristin states that she will send Kristi the email tonight or tomorrow with everything that she has spoken about. Bobbie would like to see where the funding also comes from.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to have Kristin send all the information to Kristi so it can be sent through the proper channels to be vetted, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed unanimously.**
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to table the depot demolition bids until next regular council meeting, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed unanimously.**

New Business

Public Forum

- Kristin states that two of her water bills had zero usage. There was a problem with the tablet that was used to read the meters.
- Frank Lamb discusses the seniors not getting paid for the use of the kitchen when the senior center gets used. He also discusses that the city needs to make it more known that the city provides liquor licenses.
- Randy Vredenburg states that the opening of the museum after the remodel went really well. There were 300 people that came through. He also states that the Akeley Paul Bunyan Days committee wants to cut Sunday from Paul Bunyan Days. Discussion was had that the Akeley Lions are opposed to cutting Sunday. The lions basically run Sunday. There are church services and the Lion's run the parade. They asked Brian for comment. Brian stated that his personal opinion is that three days is good, but that the decision is out of the city's control.

Motion by Bobbie Wosika to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Michaella Becker
Deputy Clerk