The Mayor and City Council of the City Of Pierce met in regular session on Monday, April 06, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. at the Pierce Fire Hall. Present: Mayor Tom Meyer, City Council Members Lee Acklie, Kyle Stuchlik, Will Fogle, and Jared Baumann. Also Present: City Clerk Cathy Furstenau, City Administrator Chad Anderson, City Attorney Ted Lohrberg, Randee Falter, Police Chief Brett Oestreich, Library Director Jenn Thomsen, and a few residents of the Pierce Community.

Advance notice of the meeting was published in the Pierce County Leader. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council. The Mayor and the City Council Members have signed an Acknowledgment Of Receipt Of Notice Of Meeting dated April 06, 2026. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice in the Pierce County Leader and in the notice to the Mayor and City Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The audience was notified that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted inside the west entrance of the Pierce Fire Hall on the north wall.

Motion by Stuchlik and seconded by Acklie to approve the minutes of the March 02, 2026 City Council Meeting. Voting Aye: Baumann, Stuchlik, Fogle, and Acklie. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Baumann and seconded by Fogle to approve the City Of Pierce March 31, 2026 Financial Report listing Cash And Investments in the amount of $6,428,536.27 and Bonded Indebtedness in the amount of $1,560,000.00. Voting Aye: Stuchlik, Baumann, Fogle, and Acklie. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Baumann and seconded by Stuchlik to approve the City Of Pierce Pierce Telephone Company claim in the amount of $766.55 and the Pierce Utilities Pierce Telephone Company claim in the amount of $503.56. Voting Aye: Baumann, Acklie, and Stuchlik. Nay: None. Abstain: Fogle. Motion carried.

Motion by Fogle and seconded by Stuchlik to approve the remainder of the City Of Pierce claims in the amount of $162,499.78 and the remainder of the Pierce Utilities claims in the amount of $185,643.82. Voting Aye: Acklie, Fogle, Baumann, and Stuchlik. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Baumann and seconded by Acklie to approve the Vacant Property Registration Exemption Request at 404 E Nebraska Street for six months. Voting Aye: Acklie, Stuchlik, Fogle, and Baumann. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Two Bids were received for the Lagoon Valve Replacement Project:

Meadow Ridge Properties	$73,700.00
Rutjens Construction Inc	$84,213.00

Motion by Acklie and seconded by Stuchlik to approve the bid from Meadow Ridge Properties in the amount of $73,700.00 for the Lagoon Valve Replacement Project. Voting Aye: Fogle, Baumann, Stuchlik, and Acklie. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Library Director Jennifer Thomsen presented to the Mayor and City Council a report on the day-to-day operations of the library. She also discussed some upcoming events that include Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train on April 14th, Remember the Ladies-Stitching Together a Revolution with Humanities Nebraska on May 7th. Story times will be on Tuesdays starting June 2nd for seven weeks and Movie Days will be on Wednesdays during that same time. Director Thomsen also reminded the Mayor and Council along with those in attendance, that activities or any updates happening at the Library are posted on the Marquee located on the front of the building, in the Pierce County Leader and also posted on Facebook.

Motion by Fogle and seconded by Baumann to approve the Resolution to request that the Nebraska Department of Transportation allow a portion of Nebraska Highway 98 to be used as a parade route for the Pierce High Alumni Parade on June 27, 2026 beginning at 3:00 P.M. and lasting approximately 30 minutes. The City Of Pierce desires that a portion of the route is to go upon Nebraska Highway 98, also known as Main Street, within the City of Pierce from the corner of Brown Street approximately two blocks east to First Street and later from Wood Street approximately two blocks to the corner of Mill Street. Voting Aye: Stuchlik, Baumann, Acklie, and Fogle. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Baumann and seconded by Stuchlik to approve the Resolution to request that the Nebraska Department of Transportation allow a portion of Nebraska Highway 98 to be used for a street dance for Pierce High Alumni on the evening of June 27, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending at approximately 3:00 a.m. on June 28th. The City of Pierce desires a portion of Nebraska Highway 98, also known as Main Street, within the City of Pierce to be closed from through traffic for one block from Brown Street to Second Street. Voting Aye: Fogle, Baumann, Acklie, and Stuchlik. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Acklie and seconded by Stuchlik to approve the Downtown Revitalization One Year Extension Request. Voting Aye: Baumann, Fogle, Stuchlik, and Acklie. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Fogle and seconded by Stuchlik to approve Kansas City Life Insurance Coverage for Mike Haberman and Kelan Richardson (FIRE). Voting Aye: Baumann, Fogle, Stuchlik, and Acklie. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Police Chief Oestreich presented to the Mayor and Council members a request for the addition of one full-time police officer. The Chief reported the need to maintain adequate coverage for shifts, training, and leave. The Chief noted that an additional officer would improve public safety through increased patrol presence, allow for more proactive policing, and help reduce overtime demands on current staff. It was also stated that additional staffing could enhance community policing efforts. Council members discussed the financial impact of hiring an additional officer, including salary, benefits, equipment, and long-term budget obligations. Concerns were raised regarding the sustainability of funding. Some members questioned whether current staffing levels are sufficient based on existing crime rates and community size. Further discussion included the challenges of recruiting qualified candidates and the time required for training. Council also considered the balance between public safety needs and fiscal responsibility. Additional information will be gathered in the coming months and will be presented to the Mayor and Council members.

Motion by Acklie and seconded by Baumann to adjourn. Motion carried.

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City Clerk Mayor