

The Hartington City Council met in regular session on March 23, 2026, at City Hall, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Notice of the time and place of the meeting was given in advance by posting.

Present were Mayor Becker; Councilmembers Bartling, Christensen, and Kathol; City Clerk-Treasurer Schulte; and Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt. Councilman Sudbeck was absent.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council then considered approval of the minutes of the March 9, 2026, meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Christensen – yes; Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Brittany Koenig of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) delivered the annual retail update, highlighting significant financial contributions to the City. Koenig reported that NPPD paid \$282,655.93 in lease payments to Hartington’s general fund for 2025, along with \$26,279.95 in city sales tax revenue. Cedar County received \$101,804.61 in gross revenue tax, with a portion returning to local taxing entities. Energy efficiency incentives totaling \$35,788.78 were distributed to Hartington recipients in 2025. Koenig also discussed NPPD’s goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Currently, NPPD’s energy mix is 58.2% clean energy, with nuclear power accounting for 45% and coal 28.4%. She emphasized the organization’s focus on the “three R’s”: reliability, rate stability, and relationships. Nebraska ranks in the top quartile nationally for electric grid reliability, and NPPD serves approximately 94,000 customers across 84 of the state’s 93 counties, maintaining over 5,300 miles of transmission lines.

Mayor Becker introduced the proposed closure of Felber Park for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A motion to approve the closure was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Christensen – yes; Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 20260323, authorizing the removal of Brittni Benscoter from City bank accounts, was introduced by Councilman Christensen. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Christensen – yes; Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 20260323A, authorizing the removal of Donna Davey from City bank accounts, was introduced by Councilman Christensen. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Christensen – yes; Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

The February 2026 Cedar County Sheriff’s Report was reviewed. A total of 334.75 hours were patrolled, including 1.75 hours of school traffic enforcement. Calls for service included: 1 welfare check, 3 EMS assists, 3 suspicious activity calls, and 1 alarm. Traffic stops resulted in 2 verbal warnings, 2 written warnings, and 0 citations. No arrests were made.

Department Reports were as follows:

Park – Councilman Kathol: Park Road plans are underway to eliminate the sharp turn and realign the road to better accommodate delivery trucks accessing the clubhouse. Issues with the pickleball court surface were noted, and the contractor will be contacted.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: Lifeguards have been hired. Painting is pending suitable weather conditions.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Absent.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: No report.

General – Mayor Becker: KCAU visited Hartington and provided coverage of the downtown Historical District, the AK Lammers mural, and several other locations throughout the community.

Legal Counsel – Nikki Brandt: No report.

Clerk – Schulte: No report.

Public Comments: None.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: Total \$1,736.45.

Community Redevelopment Authority \$1,721.15; SpecSoft \$15.30.

Streets: Total \$18,095.20.

Auto Hospital \$30.00; Black Hills Energy \$422.97; Bomgaars \$205.00; Creamer Auction Co LLC \$8,200.00; Guardian \$13.60; Leise Concrete \$5,399.00; Nebraska Public Power District \$3,794.63; Usable Life \$29.00.

Water: Total \$8,031.20.

Cedar-Knox Public Power Dist. \$1,447.35; Municipal Supply, Inc. \$522.35; Nebraska Public Power District \$374.53; Plumbing & Electric \$2,344.02; USA Blue Book \$3,342.95.

Sewer: Total \$5,012.19.

Black Hills Energy \$138.82; Midwest Laboratories, Inc. \$704.65; Nebraska Public Power District \$3,556.22; Plumbing & Electric \$612.50.

Sanitation: Total \$6,160.25.

Bomgaars \$23.99; Guardian \$6.80; L.P. Gill, Inc. \$6,114.96; Usable Life \$14.50.

Fire: Total \$6,207.53.

Black Hills Energy \$215.11; Dearborn Life Insurance Company \$121.44; D. Fischer \$75.00; Hartington Shopper \$303.95; Nebraska Public Power District \$154.53; Rural Fire Board \$5,237.50; Woodbury County Fire Association \$100.00.

Ambulance: Total \$407.79.

Black Hills Energy \$215.11; D. Fischer \$75.00; Nebraska Public Power District \$117.68.

Recreation: Total \$73.68.

Nebraska Public Power District \$73.68.

Pool: Total \$477.50.

Black Hills Energy \$48.87; Hartington Shopper \$376.00; Nebraska Public Power District \$52.63.

Parks: Total \$396.08.

Bomgaars \$66.10; Nebraska Public Power District \$329.98.

Complex: Total \$7,890.25.

Concrete Product Co. \$171.00; Echo Electric Supply \$7,137.92; Nebraska Public Power District \$89.47; Plumbing & Electric \$491.86.

Library: Total \$2,730.06.

Black Hills Energy \$442.59; Collaborative Summer Library Program \$148.74; Demco \$60.18; Eakes Office Solutions \$159.79; K. Emanuel \$95.70; Guardian \$13.60; Ingram Library Services \$901.38; Midwest Tape \$152.67; Nebraska Public Power District \$216.56; T. Anderson \$330.45; Tri-State Turf & Irrigation, LLC \$150.00; Usable Life \$29.00.

City Hall: Total \$1,108.73.

Black Hills Energy \$64.89; C. Schulte \$318.50; D. Fischer \$100.00; Guardian \$6.80; Nebraska Public Power District \$391.37; Usable Life \$14.50; University of Nebraska at Omaha \$170.00. Total \$1,066.06.

Auditorium: Black Hills Energy \$1,001.60; Nebraska Public Power District \$107.13.

Economic Development: Total \$21.30.

Guardian \$6.80; Usable Life \$14.50.

Transfer Station: Total \$1,068.81.

Cedar-Knox Public Power Dist. \$313.79; Deere Credit, Inc. \$755.02.

Veterans Memorial: Total \$63.48.

Nebraska Public Power District \$63.48.

Skylon Event Center: Total \$28,793.52.

Black Hills Energy \$546.96; Mayer Sign, Inc. \$145.00; Miller Painting & Decorating \$10,530.00; Nebraska Public Power District \$362.81; Overhead Door Company \$577.00; Pflanz Electronics \$5,995.35; Stockwell Engineers, Inc. \$4,636.40.

February Payroll: \$34,134.82.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Christensen – yes; Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken: Bartling – yes; Christensen – yes; Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is April 13, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by: Casey Schulte, City Clerk-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Casey Schulte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.