

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

7:00 PM – CITY HALL

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Wise called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm following the pledge of allegiance.
- II. ROLL CALL – The following 8 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Highfill, Lawson, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Wise, Clerk Hardcastle, and Attorney Miller were also present.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Scharlach moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.
- IV. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PRIOR COUNCIL MEETING & SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – Clerk Hardcastle advised that the minutes from the special meeting in the packet are the correct versions. The version emailed out the previous week contained an error. Alderman Porth moved to approve the minutes. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.
- V. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the payment of the city's bills. Alderwoman Highfill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Highfill, Lawson, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Absent: None) and payment of the bills was approved 8-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None
- X. REPORT OF OFFICERS
 - a. Eyrich
 - i. None
 - b. K. Ferrell

- i. MAIN STREET DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS - Alderwoman K. Ferrell advised that the structural engineering looked at the 3 adjacent properties to the ones being demolished. She is hoping to have the completed engineers' report by the end of the week.
 - 1. OLD CHRONICLE BUILDING - The property adjacent to the old Chronicle building, Gail Lane's building, has an issue with the wall. The old Chronicle building was built first and there is no wall connecting buildings completely, only somewhat tied in at the top. Unless the wall on Gail Lane's building is secured, it will fall over. The city is still waiting for the official report from the structural engineer to determine the best route to take. The west wall of the old Chronicle building is not salvageable and needs to be taken down.
 - 2. OLD LESTER'S DRUGS BUILDING (220 E MAIN) – The structural engineer did not find any huge issues with this building's walls. The bricks will need to be sealed and capped next to the Collection Affection building.
 - 3. BRICKS AND IVY SPORTS – The structural engineer reviewed this building due to the issue with the Doyle/Raver building. The bricks on the east wall of Bricks and Ivy will need tuck pointed but otherwise it is fine.
 - ii. Alderman Garrett asked if the Chronicle building was on hold. Alderwoman K. Ferrell answered that we would need something in place to secure the west wall of Gail Lane's building before demolishing the old Chronicle building. Mayor Wise stated that he is still 100% behind this project. Alderman Scharlach asked how many options we had with regards to securing that wall? Alderwoman K. Ferrell advised that once we get the structural engineer's report, we will have a better view of what our options are.
- c. M. Ferrell
 - i. None
- d. Garrett
 - i. Alderman Garrett will be calling a cemetery committee meeting soon.
- e. Highfill

- i. 2003 FORD EXPLORER BIDS – The Parks Department will be putting out for bids their 2003 Ford Explorer. Bid specifications will be available at city hall.

f. Lawson

- i. RESOLUTION 2024-5 – Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – Alderwoman Lawson and EMA Director Hardcastle reviewed this resolution to approve the plan that was put together by Vermilion County EMA. This plan is mainly used in case grant funding becomes available from FEMA. Alderwoman Lawson moved to approve the resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Highfill, Lawson, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Absent: None) and Resolution 2024-5 was passed 8-0.

g. Porth

- i. None

h. Scharlach

- i. None

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR

- a. INVENERGY CONTRACT – Due to a scheduling issue with the Planning and Zoning Commission, the public hearing scheduled for February 6 has been cancelled. A new public hearing will be scheduled soon and the contract with Invenergy will be voted on after that. Alderman Garrett asked if the public hearing would be open to everyone. Mayor Wise answered that it would be open to anyone.
- b. ACCESS CONTROL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – Mayor Wise distributed the RFP for a new access control system for city buildings.
- c. 511 W. MAIN ST – The city has taken ownership of this property and will be putting out bids for demolition. It is possible that the Street & Alley Department can demolish single story structures, but this structure is 2 stories.

XV. COMMENTS BY THE ATTORNEY

- a. NOTICES TO DEMOLISH – Notices have been sent to 819 S. Fifth St. and 209-211 E. Main St. They have 15 days from the mailing to take action on the orders. In the event of no action, he is drawing up petitions to take to court. Once 15 days have passed, they will be filed. The city's position on 209-211 E. Main St. is that it is a single building with multiple owners.
- b. HOTEL TAX ORDINANCE – Attorney Miller stated that he needs some direction from Mayor Wise before it is complete.
- c. DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – Working on an agreement with the hotel developer.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council, Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.