

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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 6 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Wise, Clerk Hardcastle, and Attorney Miller were also present.
- III. AMENDMENT OF APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Clerk Hardcastle advised that the resolution number on the parks department truck bid was incorrect on the packet that was sent out. Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the agenda. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the minutes. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- V. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderwoman Lawson moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Absent: Garrett) and the bills were approved 6-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Josh Clifton addressed the council. He has been coming to these meetings for 4 months. He went through the minutes of the previous meetings and said that words were put into his mouth and his phrases shortened down. The suspect tried to sexually assault the victim, but the city does not want to say that. Mr. Clifton then went on to show photos of the victim and her injuries. He said that it was shameful that alderpersons did not look at the photos. Mr. Clifton went on to state that some of the alderpersons were brought up in a time when this kind of stuff was kept in the house and not made public. He went on to state that he thinks that bicycles and scooters are a problem and that he did not request the city council reduce the number of calls that the police respond to. The police department and the city

council need to meet with Vermilion County to determine the priority of calls received by them. Mr. Clifton also stated that he never said that the mayor was in charge of the police department, he was actually told that by a state senator's office. He went on to state that it took less time to write an ordinance about signs that it has about tents. He said that he will not be silenced, and it is not ok to restrict the right to free speech.

- b. April Fivecoat addressed the council. She said that it has been 4 months since she was attacked. She was upset that the day that it happened that nothing was put in the paper or the website but just 2 weeks ago someone solicited a woman and that was put in the paper. She said that she will not be silenced for what happened to her. She is not being dragged through this by anyone and she feels let down by the city council because they are not protecting anyone.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. RESOLUTION 2025-10: ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT – Alderman Eyrich introduced Narendra Patel, senior project manager from Fehr Graham, to review the resolution. Alderman M. Ferrell asked if this project is a result of an EPA requirement. Alderman Eyrich answered that it was. Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the resolution. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 6-0.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Alderman M. Ferrell thanked the street and alley workers for putting up the welcome banners.

d. GARRETT

- i. Absent.

e. LAWSON

- i. POLICE OFFICER HIRE – The police commission hired a new officer, Savannah Lackey, who will be reporting the Police Training Institute.

f. PORTH

- i. GROCERY TAX – The governor passed a repeal of the 1% state grocery tax. That legislation also allowed individual municipalities to enact their own 1% sales tax. Alderman Porth is working on the language to implement that tax once the state tax sunsets in 2025. Alderman Scharlach asked how much revenue that would generate? Alderman Porth and Mayor Wise both answered that we have not received updated information from the state in a while.
- ii. ESA AGREEMENT – Paperwork is being prepared to allow the mayor to sign all of the paperwork needed for the ESA agreement and EPA loan.

g. SCHARLACH

- i. Nothing to report.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – Clerk Hardcastle announced that packets for the April 2025 Consolidated Election are now available for pickup at City Hall. The first day to file the petitions is on November 12 and the last day is November 18.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. RESOLUTION 2025-11 – PARKS DEPARTMENT TRUCK PURCHASE – The Parks Department is in need of a replacement truck with a dump bed. The truck in the resolution is a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD with no bed for \$47,848 from Anthem Chevrolet. The dump bed and snow plow for it is \$14,816.34 from Rahn Equipment. Alderman Porth asked what fund this was being paid out of. Mayor Wise answered that it would be out of the park accrual fund. Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the resolution. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 6-0.
- b. FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE – Mayor Wise announced that the officer workers will be allowed to sign the food truck permits. The ordinance states that the permit administrator has to sign the permits. Attorney Miller stated that it is under the

mayor's purview that he can assign someone to sign the permits.

- c. DEMOLITION UPDATES: Alderman Scharlach asked if there were any updates on the demolitions. Mayor Wise answered that the last heir to the 819 S. Fifth St has signed off on the city demolishing it and it should be removed soon. 511 W. Main – the contractor, Silver Brothers, had some equipment break down and should be fixed soon. Doyle/Raver building is in the process of coming down now and the contractor has moved equipment over to the old Chronicle building. The contractor is hoping to have them down before the Sweetcorn Festival.
- d. PAINTING – The Street and Alley department has started painting the curbs and parking lines downtown.
- e. BIRTHDAY – Mayor Wise wished Attorney Miller a happy 75th birthday.
- f. MFT PROJECT UPDATES – Alderman Eyrich asked if there was a date when Midwest Asphalt would be in town to do the motor fuel tax projects. Mayor Wise answered that we do not have a date for them. He asked Alderman M. Ferrell to ask Superintendent Gocking to contact the city engineer.

XV. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

- a. INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTAINENCE CODE – Attorney Miller is working on getting a copy of this code and is working on a remedy for the property at Second Ave and Maple.
- b. HOTEL DEVELOPMENT – Attorney Miller and Mayor Wise met recently to get this project lined up. Alderman Porth and Mayor Wise will be meeting with then developer next week.
- c. OTHER LITIGATION – Attorney Miller indicated that the property on Second Ave will likely be taken to state court instead of city court. He is also working on some other litigation for the city.

- XVI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council, Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.