

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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, Garrett, Lawson, and Porth. Mayor Wise, Clerk Hardcastle, and Attorney Miller were also present.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the minutes. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- V. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: Garrett – Absent: Scharlach) and the bills were approved 5-0-1.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Yolanda Pemberton addressed the council regarding the status of animal control. Alderwoman Lawson and Mayor Wise both answered that they are still working on getting Vermilion County Animal Control to come to town and that they will have to start taking the issue to the higher ups at the county.
 - b. Steve and Sharon Baker addressed the council regarding their son and his interaction with the police department. Alderwoman Lawson advised the Bakers on how to file a formal complaint and Mayor Wise said he would get the paperwork to them.
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. THANK YOU – Alderman Eyrich commended Don Stebbins and the Parks Department crews for doing a fantastic job during the Sweetcorn Festival. The park remained very clean.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. THANK YOU – Alderwoman K. Ferrell also thanked the Parks Department for keeping the park clean and commended Don Stebbins for getting a tree removed that had split into 3 parts.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT

- i. THANK YOU – Alderman Garrett also thanked the Parks Department for keeping the park looking good over the weekend. He did ask why the main bathrooms were locked. Clerk Hardcastle answered that it was due to damage done to the bathrooms each year.

e. LAWSON

- i. THANK YOU – Alderwoman Lawson also thanked the Parks Department for a job well done. She also thanked the auxiliary police who put in a combined 322 hours in the park over the weekend.
- ii. SQUAD CAR PURCHASE – Alderwoman Lawson distributed information on the purchase of 2 new squad cars for the police department. These would cost \$45,419 each and an additional \$10,514.50 for the equipment for both cars. The money is in the accrual fund for the vehicles, and these would replace 2 vehicles that are limping along.

f. PORTH

- i. RESOLUTION 2025-12 LINE OF CREDIT AGREEMENT – As part of the wastewater treatment plant project, the city has to pay upfront and then get reimbursed by the IEPA. All the city will have to pay is the interest on the borrowed funds. This resolution allows the mayor to sign the appropriate documents for the line of credit. Alderman Garrett asked Alderman Porth if

he had seen the email that he sent to him about a grant. Alderman Porth said he had. Alderman Porth made a motion to accept this resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, Porth – Nays: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the resolution was approved 6-0.

- g. SCHARLACH
 - i. Absent.
- XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None
- XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None
- XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS
 - a. RESOLUTION 2025-13 COMPUTER PURCHASE – This resolution would authorize the purchase of new computers for the compliance officer, municipal court clerk, police dispatch, and the police chief. These purchases would come out of their respective department budgets. Alderman Garrett moved to approve the resolution. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, Porth – Nays: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the resolution was approved 6-0.
 - b. SOLAR HEARING – Mayor Wise announced that there will be a Planning and Zoning Commission hearing on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm to discuss a possible solar farm just east of Hoopeston. This will be outside the city limits but still within the city’s zoning jurisdiction. Alderman M. Ferrell asked since the solar ordinance is being revised, which guidelines would they follow? Mayor Wise answered that they would have to follow the guidelines already passed.
 - c. PARKVIEW COURT – 45 of the 50 units are now vacant. Vermilion Housing Authority is putting together an intergovernmental agreement to allow city employees to disconnect the water utilities.
 - d. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – They will be meeting on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Mayor Wise will send out a revised list of committee members but said that we do need a few more members.
 - e. 511 W MAIN ST – This building has been demolished. Mayor Wise thanked Silver Brothers for getting it down before the festival.

- f. DOWNTOWN DEMOLITION – The Doyle/Raver building has been demolished. They will begin working this week on the Chronicle building. Alderman Garrett asked if Gail Lane’s building had been fixed. Mayor Wise answered that it has been.
- g. THANK YOU – Mayor Wise thanked all the city employees that worked on the Sweetcorn Festival.
- h. 2 FACTOR AUTHORIZATION ON CITY COMPUTERS – Mike has put 2 factor authentication on city computers.

XV. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

- a. 408 S SECOND AVE – Currently looking into this address to see what the city can do.
- b. FIFTH ST BUILDING – Alderwoman K. Ferrell has been in contact with the heir that needs to sign the document so the city can remove the debris. He agreed to come up and sign the document.
- c. E-BIKES – Alderman Garrett asked about the e-bike ordinance’s requirement for insurance. He stated that insurance companies do not know how to write a policy for that. Attorney Miller stated that if we are requiring something that does not exist, we will need to revise the ordinance. Alderwoman K. Ferrell advised that Progressive Insurance has a policy that covers e-bikes.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

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