

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

7:00 PM – CITY HALL

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Carter 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, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was present on Zoom.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the minutes of the previous council meeting. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the bills were approved 8-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL
 - a. Molly Morris-Owens from Globe Life insurance presented to the council insurance options for city employees.
 - b. Jack Curry from Nexamp Solar gave a brief update on the solar project.
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None
- X. REPORT OF OFFICERS
 - a. EYRICH

- i. RESOLUTION 2026-16 KEYSTONE SOLAR AGREEMENT – Alderman Eyrich reviewed the proposal from Keystone Solar to place a solar array on ½ acre of land at the city’s wastewater treatment plant. There is no upfront cost to the city but the city has to buy power from Keystone for about 15% less than what it pays now. This would cover about 95% of the power that the wastewater treatment plant uses. Alderman M. Ferrell asked if there is a decommissioning plan? Eyrich answered that he was not sure. Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the resolution was approved 8-0.
- ii. CHLORINE LEVELS – The city is still struggling to maintain chlorine levels where they need to be. The levels are better but not quite where they need to be.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. RESOLUTION 2026-17 ACCEPTING BID FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 819 S FIFTH ST – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve this resolution. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. Alderman Scharlach asked why we were leaving the garage standing? Alderwoman K. Ferrell stated that the garage is structurally fine. Alderman Porth added that the person who is interested in the property wanted to keep the garage. Alderman Garrett added that what if a different buyer did not want the garage? Scharlach added that previously when we took buildings down, we took the garage down. K. Ferrell replied that we do not always take the garages down. Mayor Carter then stated that the court ordered the burned-out building removed, not the garage. Eric Eves then reviewed the court authorization and the process on gaining deed to the property. Garrett then asked if we were going to get our costs back for demolishing the property. Porth answered that we never get all of our money back from selling demolished buildings. Alderman Garrett then called the question. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: Garrett – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the resolution was approved 7-1.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING – Alderman M. Ferrell advised that the parks committee met and discussed the occupancy limits of the civic center and the renovations to the civic center. Alderman Scharlach asked if the new restrooms would be ADA compliant? Alderman M. Ferrell advised that yes

they would have to be

d. GARRETT

- i. Nothing to report.

e. LAWSON

- i. BULK GARBAGE – Alderwoman Lawson announced that during the months of January, February, and March will only have bulk garbage the first Saturdays of those months. If the temperature is below 0, we will skip those days.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. BRICKS AT THE CITY SLAB – Alderman McElhaney announced that Cody Sanders from Old Indiana Brick Company will take the bricks at the city slab free of charge.

g. PORTH

- i. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – Alderman Porth announced that the tax levy and hotel tax will be voted on at the next meeting.
- ii. INSURANCE RENEWAL – Alderman Porth is working on the 2026 insurance renewal. Forms were distributed to department heads regarding their buildings and the insurance limits on those.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. INSURANCE – Alderman Scharlach is working with Fire Chief Stevens on getting the information for Alderman Porth with regards to the insurance on the fire station.
- ii. AMBULANCE REPORTS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell asked Alderman Scharlach if he has been getting the reports from Arrow Ambulance that they are supposed to be sending. Alderman Scharlach advised that he is working on getting those reports.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOUT OUT – Alderwoman Lawson gave a shout out to the police department for all their hard work.
- b. DOWNTOWN LOTS – Alderman Garrett asked for a discussion on the downtown lots. A discussion was held regarding the status of the lots. Alderman McElhaney asked for a committee of the whole meeting prior to the next council meeting and that the 2 bidders be present to answer questions.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. APPRAISALS – Alderman Scharlach asked if appraisals can be done for the remaining lots that the city has. Eric Eves reviewed the bidding process.

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. RESOLUTION 2026-18 – NEXAMP SOLAR EXTENSION – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the resolution was approved 8-0.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. SAVE THE LORRAINE PROPERTIES – Eric Eves gave an update on getting these properties split and the deed to the city.
- b. BURNED-OUT BUILDINGS – 6 buildings will be sent 15-day notices by the end of the week.
- c. EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session will be needed at the next meeting to discuss litigation.
- d. RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY – Eric is preparing documentation on deeding over the railroad right of way to adjacent property owners. This should be ready for the next meeting.

- 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 was carried 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk