

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, MARCH 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 7 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, and Porth. Alderman Scharlach was absent. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves from Attorney Miller’s office 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 was carried.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2025 city council meeting. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. Motion was 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 – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the bills were approved 7-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Alderman Garrett made a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the council entered executive session at 7:03 pm with a 7-0 vote.

Alderwoman K. Ferrell made a motion to exit executive session. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the council exited executive session at 7:40 pm on a 7-0 vote.

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. CHLORINE BOOSTER – The chlorine booster pump is now plumbed in and wired up but waiting on the contractor to connect it to the chlorine tank. After it is connected, the water treatment plant project will be mostly complete.
- ii. KEYSTONE SOLAR UPDATE – Eric Eves is currently reviewing the contract for Keystone Solar.
- iii. STAFFING – The water department is currently only working with 2 people. 1 person is out on vacation, and the other is out sick.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. ELECTRONICS COLLECTION – Alderwoman K. Ferrell is looking to do another electronic recycling event in the middle of May. More details will be released when the time gets closer.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING – Alderman M. Ferrell announced that the Parks Committee will be meeting soon to finalize the civic center remodel project and working on usage agreements for city property.

d. GARRETT –

- i. RESOLUTION 2026-19 – ACCEPTING A BID FOR 217 E MAIN ST – Alderman Garrett moved to accept the bid from Mike Webb for 217 E Main St contingent on him entering into a contract with a completion date. Eric Eves mentioned making sure to put in the resolution why the lower bid was accepted. Alderman Garrett noted that Mike Webb's bid came with a better business plan. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: Eyrich – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the resolution was approved 6-1
- ii. RESOLUTION 2026-20 – REJECTING ALL OTHER BIDS FOR 219, 221, 223, 225, and 229 E MAIN ST – Alderman Garrett moved to reject the remaining bids for 219-229 E Main St. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach)

and the resolution was approved 7-0.

- iii. GRAVE BLANKETS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell asked when grave blankets bids need to be put out. Alderman Garrett answered that he would check with Don Stebbins. Alderman Porth advised that the city did away with perpetual care, so bids do not need to go out anymore.

e. LAWSON –

- i. PART TIME OFFICER – Alderwoman Lawson announced that Luke Hickman has returned to the police department as a part time officer.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. SNOW ROUTES – Alderman McElhaney reminded residents that the snow routes will be put into effect any time we have a measurable snow and that parked vehicles along the snow routes will be towed at the owner's expense.
- ii. LEAF PICKUP – The Public Works department has started leaf pickup.

g. PORTH

- i. ORDINANCE 2026-12 – CREATING A HOTEL/MOTEL TAX – Alderman Porth reviewed the proposed ordinance and moved for its approval. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the ordinance was approved 7-0.
- ii. ORDINANCE 2026-11 – TAX LEVY – Alderman Porth reviewed the 2026 tax levy and moved for its approval. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the ordinance was approved 7-0.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. Absent.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. HOLIDAY IN HOOPESTON – Clerk Hardcastle announced that the Holiday in Hoopeston event would take place on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 5:00 pm

to 8:00 pm at the McFerren Park Civic Center.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. THANK YOU – Mayor Carter thanked city employees for their great job during the first snow of the season.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. SAVE THE LORRAINE PROPERTIES – Eric announced that the proposed deed has been sent to the Lorraine Foundation and is waiting for signatures.
- b. HOOPESTON FOOD LOCKER PROPERTY – Eric reached out the Vermilion County Trustee and is waiting for a response.
- c. SOLD LOTS – Mayor Carter asked Eric if anything has been done on the lots that the city has recently sold. Eric advised that he would check into it.
- d. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Alderman M. Ferrell moved that the council go into executive session to discuss litigation. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the council entered executive session at 8:07 pm on a 7-0 vote. Alderman Eyrich moved that the council exit executive session. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Scharlach) and the council exited executive session at 8:24 pm on a 7-0 vote.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council Alderman Garrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. Motion was carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk