

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025

7:00 PM – CITY HALL

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Clerk Hardcastle 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, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Clerk Hardcastle was also present. Eric Eves was present on Zoom.
- III. MAYOR PRO-TEM APPOINTMENT – Clerk Hardcastle opened nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem for the meeting. Alderman Scharlach nominated Alderman Eyrich to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Present: Eyrich – Absent: Garrett) and Alderman Eyrich was appointed 6-0.
- IV. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Porth moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the minutes of the previous council meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion.
- VI. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. Alderman Scharlach noted that Arrow has not provided the reports outlined in the contract and they have a check included with the bills. He would like a letter sent with the check requesting the quarterly reports. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the bills were approved 7-0.
- VII. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL
  - a. NEXT PHASE GROUP – Eddie Jones from Next Phase Group requested a solicitors permit for door-to-door sales for Frontier Fiber Internet. Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the permit. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: K. Ferrell – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the permit was approved 6-1.

VIII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

i. Nothing to report.

b. K. FERRELL

i. Nothing to report.

c. M. FERRELL

i. COMMITTEE MEETING – The Parks Committee will be having another meeting in January to continue the civic center remodel discussion.

d. GARRETT – Absent

e. LAWSON –

i. Nothing to report.

f. MCELHANEY

i. COMMITTEE MEETING – Alderman McElhaney reported that the Street and Alley committee discussed the 2026 motor fuel tax projects.

g. PORTH

i. RESOLUTION 2026-21 – APPROVING INSURANCE BIDS – Alderman Porth presented the resolution outlining the bids received for insurance. This year's increase was 16% but savings on other lines decreased the overall increase to just 4%. Alderman Porth moved to approve the resolution. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.

h. SCHARLACH

i. Nothing to report.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS – None

XV. MAYOR COMMENTS – None

XVI. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. PROPERTY CONTRACTS – Eric Eves reported that the contracts for the sale of various properties are nearly complete. There is an issue with the addressing of 316 Front Street. The deed lists the address at 322. Eric is still looking into this.
- b. 217 E MAIN ST – This contract is nearly complete; Eric just needs to know the legal entity who will be taking deed of the property.
- c. KEYSTONE SOLAR CONTRACT – Eric has most of this contract complete.
- d. 210 E PENN ST. – K. Ferrell asked for an updated on this. Eric advised that he is working with the Vermilion County Tax Trustee on this property.
- e. SAVE THE LORRAINE PROPERTIES – Eric advised that he has sent the deed to Alex Houmes to sign.
- f. BURNED-OUT PROPERTIES – K. Ferrell asked for an update on these. Eric advised that he has no updates at this time.
- g. GARRISON JUDGEMENTS – Porth asked Eric about the judgements on the lawsuit with AJ Garrison. Eric is in the process of dealing with those and will have an update at the January meeting.

XVII. 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 was carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle  
City Clerk