

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

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 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, Porth, and Scharlach. Alderman McElhaney was absent. 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 Scharlach seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, all voted yes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the minutes from the previous council meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, all voted yes.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderwoman Lawson moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Garrett asked if the phone bill for the pool went up? Alderwoman Lawson answered that this is due to work being done on the installation of the Conxus internet and that Trish is looking into the increased costs. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: McElhaney) 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 – None
- X. REPORT OF OFFICERS
 - a. EYRICH
 - i. Nothing to report.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. ELECTRONICS RECYCLING – Alderwoman K. Ferrell reminded residents of the electronics recycling event on May 9, 2026, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT

- i. Nothing to report.

e. LAWSON –

- i. 217 E MAIN FEE WAIVER – Alderwoman Lawson asked about waiving the hookup and permit fees for the potential building at 217 E Main St that was awarded to Mike Webb. Alderman Porth advised that the prior discussion was that the city would waive the water and sewer hookup fees along with the building permit fee but that no TIF money would be given to support the construction. This was due to TIF money being used to raze the former buildings. There will be a resolution presented at the next meeting.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. Absent.

g. PORTH

- i. BUDGET – Alderman Porth announced that we are running a little behind on getting the budget sheets together, but they will be out soon.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. Nothing to report.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. COMMUNITY AWARDS CEREMONY – Clerk Hardcastle announced that the Community Awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 1:00 pm, at the Lorraine Theater. There are several city employees getting an award. The new Miss Hoopeston will also be crowned at the ceremony.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. DOWNTOWN LOTS – Alderman Garrett asked about the status of the lots between 217 E Main and Bricks and Ivy Sports. Mayor Carter advised that he will get with Trish and get a full list of city lots that need to go back out for bid.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. THANK YOU – Mayor Carter thanked city employees for their work removing snow.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. VACATING RIGHT OF WAY – Eric Eves sent a memo to Mayor Carter outlining the process of vacating the railroad right of ways.
- b. COMMERCIAL SOLAR PLANT – Eric Eves sent a separate memo to Mayor Carter on the process on how a business can establish a commercial solar plant. Solar attorney Andrew Keyt has proposed some small changes to the ordinance that the city has already passed.
- c. ACTON CASE – There was a recent court hearing and the judge threw out the three items that the city was asking him to.
- d. DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS – 627 E Young, 323 N Sixth, 620 S Second Ave – The proposed court petitions are ready and have been sent to Mayor Carter. 643 E Wyman and 827 E Seminary have possible new addresses for owners and notices have been sent to those addresses. 217 N. Market is awaiting paperwork from the title company.
- e. HOOPESTON FOOD LOCKER – Contact has been made with the Vermilion County trustee and they are checking the issue now.

- 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 was carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk