

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 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 7 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Alderman Garrett was absent. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026, city council meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderwoman Lawson moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderman McElhaney 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 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 reviewed the upcoming electronics recycling to be held on April 18, 2026, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on the east side of McFerren Park.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT

- i. Absent.

e. LAWSON

- i. Nothing to report.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. RESOLUTION 2026-26 MOTOR FUEL TAX – Alderman McElhaney reviewed the resolution. This is for the engineering fees for the safe routes to school program. Alderman McElhaney 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, and Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.

g. PORTH

- i. RESOLUTIONS 2026-27 – AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MCCi (JUSTFOIA) – Alderman Porth moved to approve the resolution. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.
- ii. 2027 BUDGET – Alderman Porth distributed a working copy of the FY 2027 budget and discussed it. This will be voted on at the second April meeting.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. CASH BASH – Alderman Scharlach reminded people to get their cash bash tickets.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST – Clerk Hardcastle reminded officials to get their Statement of Economic Interest turned in.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 819 S FIFTH ST – Alderwoman Lawson asked where we are with this property? Mayor Carter advised that he will follow up with Eric Eves.
- b. BESS ORDINANCE CHANGES – Alderman M. Ferrell spoke about the BESS ordinance changes. He also announced that the fire committee will be meeting on Thursday to talk about it.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. RESOLUTION 2026-28 – ESTABLISHING THE ADA PLAYGROUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Mayor Carter reviewed this resolution. Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the resolution. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.
- b. RESOLUTION 2026-29 – APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ADA PLAYGROUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the resolution appointing members to the committee. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.
- c. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING PROPERTY TO BUILT to LAST – Mayor Carter tabled action on this item until more questions are answered.
- d. DRAFT EMPTY LOT NOTICE – The city council reviewed the list of lots that will be put out for bids. Alderman Porth advised that the downtown lots need to have a development plan. Alderwoman K. Ferrell advised that she would like the Market Street lots to have a development plan as well. There were questions on the lots along Euclid since they are right of ways instead of actual lots. The consensus of the council was that they should be put out for bids. Minimum bid amounts were then discussed. It was agreed that minimum bids for residential lots should be \$500, minimum bids for the downtown lots is \$850, and the railroad right of ways should be for the cost of the transfer. Mayor Carter will follow up with Eric Eves on this.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY – None – No attorney present.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. Motion was carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle  
City Clerk