

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF HOOPESTON
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 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 Trish Stebbins were present.

III. ADMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA-Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, all voted yes. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING-Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026, city council meeting. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, all voted yes. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF 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-Nikki Wilson-Skate Park Expansion

Nikki has received a bid from Silver Brothers to expand the east side of the Skate Park. Bid came in at \$11,200.00. There are 2 Ameren lights that will need to be moved for approximately \$500.00. She said there may be a grant that she can apply for to over the cost since the Skate Jam is a non-profit. She is asking the City for their help with ground prep and gravel. They would like to get started as soon as possible. There will be more obstacles added. The council is wanting to make sure the company that installed the ramps there currently are moved by the same company in order to make sure we keep the warranty incase something happens to them. Michael Ferrell said he would reach out to Don Stebbins, Public Works Director to see when they can start the process. Silver Brothers have not given a date to start.

VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL-None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT-None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH-Nothing to report

b. K. FERRELL-Alderwoman K. Ferrell reviewed the upcoming electronics recycling to be held on April 18, 2026, 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. on the east side of McFerren Park.

c. M. FERRELL-Alderman M. Ferrell went over the Ordinance for Battery Energy Storage Systems and Safety. If the council approves then the draft will go to the City's Attorney for the approval. City Clerk Hardcastle will then need to post for 15 days and a public meeting will be held.

d. GARRETT-absent

e. LAWSON-Nothing to report

f. McELHANEY-RESOLUTION 2026-30-SALT PURCHASE RESOLUTION.- Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the resolution. Alderman M. Ferrell second 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-Alderman Porth went over the budget and has talked to all the departments. The budget is ready for review and will be voted on next council meeting.

h. SCHARLACH-Nothing to report.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL-Nothing to report

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Alderman Eyrich reported that Holly Eyrich met with Adam Wood and gave his information about the new ADA playground equipment. Adam will be setting up an organization meeting to go over the items. Mayor Carter said that Adam can reach out to him if he needs anything.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS-Nothing to report

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS-

Mayor Carter wanted to let the council know that someone is interested in a gaming license. No vote was needed at this time, he was giving the council the information and is welcoming any feedback. Council members said they would like more details when available.

ZONING VARIANCE ORDINANCE-2026-15- Mayor Carter said this was passed by the Zoning Committee and now it's being presented to the Council for approval. A roll call was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth and Scharlach-Nays:None-Abstentions:None-Absent:Garrett) and the Ordinance was passed 7-0.

XV. ATTORNEY COMMENTS-Attorney Eves gave an update on the retention Policy from Mayor Carter. It should be ready for review in about a week.

Alderwoman Lawson asked how the property on Euclid is coming along. There are several things that Attorney Eves will need to check on and asked if he could move forward with a title search to make sure no neighbors are connected and that these properties are actually the City's. Once he receives that information then we can look forward to putting them up for bid.

Alderwoman Lawson also asked about the railroad properties. Attorney Eves would like a list of who is wanting to obtain the railroad right away.

Alderwoman Lawon also asked about the house at 819 S. Fifth St so we can put out for bid. Attorney Eves will check into this.

Attorney Eves met with Attorney Beckett regarding the matter between City of Hoopeston vs Acton. They exchanged discovery and they should know something in the new week or so for reviewing.

Attorney Eves will be the Alderman M. Ferrell to finish the draft for the Battery Energy Storage Systems. The draft that was drawn up we should be able to use most of it.

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.