

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

7:00 PM – CITY HALL

- I. PUBLIC HEARING – Prior to the start of the council meeting, a public hearing was opened at 6:45 pm to hear any comments on the proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. There was no comment.
- II. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm following the pledge of allegiance.
- III. ROLL CALL – The following 7 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was present on Zoom.
- IV. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Scharlach moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion was carried.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the minutes of the previous council meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion was carried.
- VI. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderwoman Lawson 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.
- VII. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL –
 - a. AMERICAN LEGION WOMEN’S AUXILIARY POPPY DAY: Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin addressed the council regarding the Hoopeston American Legion Women’s Auxiliary annual poppy day street corner collection. The event will be held on May 30, 2026.
- 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. ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT – Alderwoman K. Ferrell reviewed the electronic recycling event that was held on April 18. The event went great and they filled the truck up. There will be another event in the fall along with a tire collection event.
- ii. RESOLUTION 2026-31 – STREET CORNER SOLICITATION APPROVAL – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the Hoopston American Legion Women’s Auxiliary’s permit for their Poppy Day street corner collection. Alderwoman Lawson 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.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. CIVIC CENTER REMODEL – Alderman M. Ferrell reported that this project is moving along. He will be scheduling a Parks Committee meeting to follow up on some of the designs for the civic center and to go over facility usage agreements.

d. GARRETT – Absent.

e. LAWSON

- i. Nothing to report.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. NEW DUMP TRUCK – The Public Works department has received the new dump truck, and it is already in use.
- ii. ALLEY GRADING – Alderman McElhaney reported that the Public Works employees have begun grading alleys.

g. PORTH

- i. ORDINANCE 2026-16 – FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET – Alderman Porth moved to approve this ordinance. 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 ordinance was approved 7-0.
- ii. BANKING INSTITUTIONS FOR CITY FUNDS – The Finance Committee met with 2 banks, and they are recommending staying with our current bank, Iroquois Federal.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. Nothing to report.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 MEETING CALENDAR – Clerk Hardcastle distributed the new meeting calendar. The only meeting that is on a different day is the first November meeting. This would normally fall on election day, so the meeting was moved to the Monday prior.
- b. JustFOIA IMPLEMENTATION – Clerk Hardcastle announced that the implementation of JustFOIA is moving along and we should be going live with the new platform in early to mid-May.
- c. STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST – Clerk Hardcastle also reminded everyone that the Statements of Economic Interest are due to the County Clerk’s office by May 1, 2026.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Alderman Scharlach asked about the burned-out dumpster located at 1031 W. Thompson Ave. The dumpster is full of trash and needs to be removed. A discussion was had and Alderman Scharlach will follow up with the fire chief on this.

XV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. RESOLUTION 2026-32 – AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 11 FOR AED USAGE – Alderwoman K. 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, Scharlach – Nays: None –

Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.

- b. RESOLUTION 2026-33 – ACCEPTING A BID FOR 2016 DUMP TRAILER – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the bid from Woodcrafters of Hoopston. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: McElhaney – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 6-0.
- c. RESOLUTION 2026-34 – ACCEPTING A BID FOR THE 2007 FORD F150 – Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the resolution. Alderman Porth 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.
- d. RESOLUTION 2026-35 – ACCEPTING A BID FOR THE 2018 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY – Alderwoman Lawson 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, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.
- e. RESOLUTION 2026-36 – ACCEPTING A BID FOR THE 2017 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the resolution. Alderman M. 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.
- f. RESOLUTION 2026-37 – ACCEPTING A BID FOR THE PROLAWN SPRAYER – Alderwoman Lawson 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, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett) and the resolution was approved 7-0.

XVI. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. BURNED-OUT BUILDINGS – Eric Eves advised that the first set of demolition proceedings for 217 N. Market, 323 N. Sixth, and 627 E. Young have all been filed with the circuit court.
- b. BESS AND POLICY UPDATES – Eric should have something to review on these at the next meeting.
- c. RIGHT OF WAY VACTING – Eric is still working on these and will be more to come on them. A discussion was had about vacating the railroad right of way and Euclid Avenue right of way. Eric advised that since a public hearing will have to be held

regarding this, the city should do both of them at the same time.

- d. ACTON CASE – The attorney is still waiting for documents in discovery, and a request has been made to Acton’s attorney.
 - e. Alderwoman K. Ferrell asked about an update on 819 S. Fifth. Mayor Carter advised that Eric is looking at putting a lien on the property.
- XVII. 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 7:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk