

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 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: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was on Zoom.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion was carried.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Scharlach moved to approve the minutes from the previous council meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion was carried.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. Alderman M. Ferrell asked about the amount that was paid for the mowers. Clerk Hardcastle advised that the payment list that was sent out on Monday was not included in the meeting packet, so it was not amongst the bills to be approved. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Eyrich) and the bills were approved 7-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – Eddie Jones from Next Phase group was on the agenda but he did not show up for the meeting.
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None
- X. REPORT OF OFFICERS
 - a. EYRICH
 - i. Absent.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. RESOLUTION APPROVING DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION – Alderwoman K. Ferrell tabled this resolution since Eddie Jones was not at the meeting.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. BESS SOLAR ORDINANCE DISCUSSION – Alderman M. Ferrell asked if a special meeting would need to be held after the Planning and Zoning Commission meets to pass the BESS ordinance. Eric Eves advised that we could pass the ordinance at the June 2nd meeting.

d. GARRETT –

- i. Nothing to report.

e. LAWSON –

- i. RULES OF THE ROAD REMINDER – Alderwoman Lawson reminded residents that with the warmer weather, residents who drive golf carts or motorized bicycles on the city streets need to be cognizant of the rules of the road.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. Nothing to report.

g. PORTH

- i. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – Alderman Porth advised that he is working on the appropriation ordinance.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. DUMPSTER ON THOMPSON – Alderman Scharlach spoke with the fire chief, and they determined that there is no ordinance currently on the books to get it cleaned up. Alderwoman Lawson advised that she left messages for several waste management companies regarding who owns the dumpster and she is waiting for a call back.
- ii. CASH BASH – Alderman Scharlach thanked everyone who attended the fire department's annual cash bash.
- iii. ARROW AMBULANCE REPORTS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell asked if there were any updates on getting the reports from Arrow Ambulance that they are

supposed to file with the city. Alderman Garrett thought that Eric was supposed to send a letter to Arrow Ambulance. Alderman Scharlach advised that he would follow up with Eric on this issue.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. RESOLUTION 2027-1 – RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE POLICE PENSION BOARD – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the re-appointment of Robin Lawson and Bob Porth to the police pension board. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Eyrich) and the resolution was approved 7-0.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. BESS ORDINANCE – The Planning and Zoning Commission will have a public hearing on this ordinance on May 21, 2026.
- b. BURNED-OUT BUILDINGS – Still waiting on a court date for these cases.
- c. VACATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAYS – Eric advised that the city needs to make a determination that the vacation of these right of ways would serve the public interest, then we would need to have a public hearing on the topic. Once the hearing happens, the council can vote on the vacation. Alderman M. Ferrell asked about the structure that is on one of the right of ways. Eric advised that the building should not be there, whoever has the title to the property at the end of the process can determine if the building should stay there or not. Mayor Carter asked if we can use the same process for the old railroad properties and Eric advised that we could.
- d. 819 S FIFTH ST – Alderman Garrett asked if there is a lien on the 819 S. Fifth St property yet. Eric advised that there is not and a judge would have to rule on that since it is an ongoing court case.
- e. ACTON CASE – Alderwoman K. Ferrell asked if there is any update on the Acton case. Eric advised that they are still working on discovery.
- f. 217 E MAIN ST CONTRACT – Alderman Garrett asked if the contract for 217 E. Main St had been signed yet or not. Mayor Carter answered that it has not been.

Alderman Garrett asked if it not being signed would push out the December 31, 2026 deadline to start construction. Mayor Carter advised that it would not.

- 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 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk