

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

7:00 PM – CITY HALL

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Clerk Hardcastle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm following the pledge of allegiance.
- II. ROLL CALL – The following 6 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Clerk Hardcastle was also present. Eric Eves was on Zoom. Mayor Carter, Alderman Garrett, and Alderwoman Lawson were absent.
- III. MAYOR PRO-TEM – Clerk Hardcastle called for nominations of a mayor pro-tem for this meeting. Alderman Porth moved to appoint Alderman Eyrich as mayor pro-tem. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett, Lawson) and the appointment was approved 6-0.
- IV. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Clerk Hardcastle advised that there is a resolution to be approved with the payment of the bills. Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and all voted yes.
- V. 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 all voted yes.
- VI. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve payment of the city’s bills. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett, Lawson) and the bills were approved 6-0.
- VII. RESOLUTION 2027-2 – APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF 2 LAWN MOWERS – 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, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: Garrett, Lawson) and the resolution was approved 6-0.
- VIII. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL
 - a. Norbut Solar Farms gave a presentation to the council on their proposed 230 acre solar farm to be placed on land north of Thompson Ave. This solar farm will be outside the city limits but within the city’s zoning jurisdiction. This will be a 20-

megawatt community solar project with no battery storage that will plug directly into the Ameren power grid. The company is preparing their application and will be submitting it to the city within the next few weeks.

IX. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Amy Buttram with the Hoopston Animal Rescue Team (HART) addressed the council regarding some confusion on the procedure on how to deal with stray animals. She would like the city council to clarify what residents are to do about stray animals. Concerns were also raised with the services that Vermilion County Animal Control provides to the city.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

XII. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. Nothing to report.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT – Absent.

e. LAWSON – Absent.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. Nothing to report.

g. PORTH

- i. Nothing to report.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. ARROW AMBULANCE – Alderman Scharlach reported that Eric sent a letter to the Arrow Ambulance regarding the required reports that are to be sent to the city. The new director answered Eric that they are willing to send monthly reports instead of quarterly. It was agreed that monthly reports will be fine and can be sent to city hall.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

XIV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. WATER METER QUESTION – Alderman Scharlach asked if the city takes a building down, do we pull the water meters? Alderman Eyrich answered that yes, we remove the meters. If no one is going to do anything with the property, they also take the meter pit out.

XVI. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. FLAG PLACEMENT – Mayor Pro-Tem Eyrich announced that the American Legion will be placing flags at the veteran’s graves at the cemetery Wednesday at 8:00 am. Also, they will be placing flags along Rt. 1 and Rt. 9 on Thursday.
- b. BABY MARKERS – The baby markers at the cemetery are on order and should be arriving soon. Mayor Pro-Tem Eyrich advised that he and Holly Eyrich are still willing to help with the placement.

XVII. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. SOLAR HEARING – Eric advised that he will be present in person for the Planning and Zoning Commission hearing on May 21.
- b. KEYSTONE SOLAR CONTRACT – This contract only pertains to the context of any competitor for the specific project at the treatment plant, not any other solar project.
- c. 819 S. FIFTH ST – Lien paperwork has been received and will be filed with the court soon.
- d. ESSEX CASE – Alderwoman K. Ferrell asked if there was anything new on the Essex case? Eric answered that they are still waiting for compliance with discovery.

XVIII. 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 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:26

XIX. pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk