

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, JUNE 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 6 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was present on Zoom. Alderpersons K. Ferrell and M. Ferrell were absent.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and all votes yes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Scharlach moved to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2026, city council meeting. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and all voted yes.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell) and the bills were approved 6-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. EUCLID LOTS – Gary Miller and Janet Morris addressed the council regarding the Euclid right-of-way vacation. They raised concerns that if the city cedes that property, then adjacent landowners will not be able to access their backyards. Mayor Carter advised that this issue would be tabled for now, but the old railroad rights-of-way would still proceed.
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None
- X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. No report.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. Absent.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Absent.

d. GARRETT

- i. ROLLER BIDS – Alderman Garrett announced that no bids were received for the roller at the cemetery when the surplus equipment was put out for bids earlier this year. The cemetery will be putting it back out for bids with a lower minimum bid.
- ii. BABY MARKERS – The cemetery is still waiting for the baby markers to come in.

e. LAWSON

- i. RULES OF THE ROAD – Alderwoman Lawson reminded residents that use e-bikes and scooters that they must follow the rules of the road. There have been several incidents where users of those vehicles were not following the rules of the road, and that the police department will start cracking down on these issues.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. RESOLUTION 2027-3 – ANNUAL MOTOR FUEL TAX RESOLUTION – Alderman McElahney moved to approve the resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell) and the resolution was approved 6-0.

g. PORTH

- i. Nothing to report.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. Nothing to report.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. JUSTFOIA – Clerk Hardcastle announced that the city went live with JustFOIA last week and so far, everything is going great.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. STORM DAMAGE THANK YOU – Mayor Carter thanked the EMA and city workers for their efforts during the last few severe weather events. Alderman Garrett reminded residents to stay home when a storm comes through to allow emergency responders to do their job.
- b. SOLAR PERMIT FOR RESIDENTIAL SYSTEMS – Mayor Carter asked the council if we needed to explore creating a permit to have a residential solar system due to the recent issues with installation companies not abiding by the city ordinance. After a discussion, the consensus of the council was that more education to the residents of Hoopeston is needed.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. ESSEX BUILDING – Eric Eves announced that the next court hearing on this issue will be on June 29.
- b. RECORDS POLICY – Trish Stebbins found a document that the city already has in place for certain records retention and Eric is reviewing it.
- c. WYMAN BURNED-OUT PROPERTY – Alderman Garrett asked if any action has taken place on this property since the owner wants to sign it over to the city. Eric asked Garrett to email him with the information he is requesting. Alderman Garrett followed up with a question on the status of the other burned-out properties. Eric answered that the process servers need to go out on these.
- d. DOWNTOWN LOTS – Alderman Scharlach asked if the city sells the downtown lots, can the city legally keep the properties until ground is broken and the building is put up? Eric answered that it depends on how the ordinance selling that property is structured.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council Alderman McElhaney moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Motion was carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk