

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 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, K. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, and Porth. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was present on Zoom.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voting yes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderwoman Lawson moved to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2026 city council meeting. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voting yes.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE 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, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the bills were approved 6-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - a. Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to enter into executive session to discuss land acquisition and personnel. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the council entered executive session at 7:02 pm.
 - b. Alderman Garrett moved to exit executive session. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the

council exited executive session at 7:29 pm.

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. Nothing to report.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. RESOLUTION 2027-4 – AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 210 E PENN ST. – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve this resolution. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. Eric Eves provided some additional language to add to the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the resolution was approved 6-0.
- ii. ELECTRONICS AND TIRE COLLECTION – Alderwoman K. Ferrell is looking to do the electronics recycling event a little later in the fall than normal and she is still waiting to hear back from the health department regarding the tire recycling event.
- iii. 323 N 6TH AVE – The burned-out house is gone but there is still some rubble there. We are currently waiting for that to be cleaned up before continued enforcement.
- iv. CONGRATULATIONS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell congratulated Hoopeston native Ezra Elliott on his UFC debut.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Absent.

d. GARRETT –

- i. RESOLUTION 2027-5 – ACCEPTING A BID FOR THE MIDWESTERN ROLLER – Alderman Garrett moved to approve this resolution. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the resolution was approved 6-0.
- ii. TENTS & CAMPING – The city council received an email regarding tent camping. Alderman Garrett believed that there is language already existing in our ordinances to regulate tent camping. Alderwoman K. Ferrell will send

the language to Garrett.

e. LAWSON

- i. HART – Alderwoman Lawson addressed a rumor going around town that the city cannot use HART for animal control services. She advised that HART is not a city group and therefore the city cannot tell HART what they can or cannot do with their animals.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. RESOLUTION 2027-6 APPROVING MOTOR FUEL TAX BIDS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve this resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the resolution was approved 6-0.
- ii. CITY SLAB – Alderman McElhaney reminded everyone that the city slab is for Hoopeston residents only. There have been some firms from outside of town bringing tree debris for the city to dispose of. If this illegal dumping continues, the slab will be closed on the weekends.

g. PORTH

- i. ORDINANCE 2027-4 – APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – Alderman Porth moved to approve the ordinance. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the ordinance was approved 6-0.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. Absent.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INFORMATION – Clerk Hardcastle advised everyone that he has created a new page on the city website that has information about residential solar systems and the guidelines that they have to follow.
- b. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING – The Planning and Zoning Commission will be continuing their meeting on July 29, 2026, at 6:00 pm regarding Norbut Solar's application.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. Mayor Carter advised that he was going to table the discussion regarding the lot on west Main St. until he can get some additional information.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. NORBUT SOLAR – Eric Eves advised that he has reviewed the text of their agreement and there are 2 changes that he would like to see. Vermilion county is misspelled throughout the document. Also, at the beginning of the document it references the solar siting ordinance, and Eric would like it to include other city ordinances as well.
- b. 323 N. 6TH AVE – Eric reported that the owner is looking at no later than October for that to be cleaned up, however, the contractor doing the work is a farmer and harvest may delay some things. He is recommending that if efforts are made by October, then the city should drop the case.
- c. 217 N. MARKET ST – The owner has a little over 2 weeks to file a response before we can make a motion to default.
- d. 622 and 627 E YOUNG – These properties are titled to deceased persons. There will be a hearing on August 12 before a judge regarding these properties.
- e. ESSEX BUILDING – We are supposed to have discovery from the other parties by Monday of next week, once we have that, Justin Acton will need to be deposed.
- f. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK – Eric advised that he is drafting some changes to language in the employee handbook and will have it for the next meeting.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council Alderman Garrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. Motion was carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk