

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026

7:00 PM – CITY HALL

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Clerk Hardcastle called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm following the pledge of allegiance.
- II. ROLL CALL – The following 7 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Clerk Hardcastle was present and Eric Eves was present on Zoom.
- III. MAYOR PRO-TEM – Clerk Hardcastle opened up nominations for the appointment of a mayor pro-tem for the meeting. Alderman Scharlach moved to nominate Alderman Eyrich. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell) and the motion was approved 7-0.
- IV. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voting yes.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2026 city council meeting. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voting yes.
- VI. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the payment of the city's bills. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the bills were approved 7-0.
- VII. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- 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. Absent.

- c. M. FERRELL

- i. CIVIC CENTER REMODEL – Alderman M. Ferrell advised that he will bring a packet of information for the civic center remodel at the next meeting.

- d. GARRETT

- i. BABY MARKERS – Alderman Garrett reported that the baby markers were delivered that he will get with Public Works Director Stebbins on getting them installed.

- e. LAWSON

- i. PARKING ORDINANCE CHANGES – Alderwoman Lawson passed around a draft copy of the parking ordinances changes. These will be brought up for a vote at the next city council meeting. Clerk Hardcastle advised that there are no changes to the current ordinance, just adding some enforcement mechanisms.

- f. MCELHANEY

- i. Nothing to report.

- g. PORTH

- i. Nothing to report.

- h. SCHARLACH

- i. Nothing to report.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. THANK YOU NOTE – Clerk Hardcastle read a thank you note from Tom Sweeney for supporting the Hoopeston tour on July 29.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS – None

XV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. RESOLUTION 2027-7 – APPROVING CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. Alderman Garrett moved to approve the resolution. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. Alderman Porth indicated that several of his suggestions were not included in the changes, but that his changes had no effect on the changes being voted on today. Alderman Porth also indicated that his changes would probably warrant discussion amongst the council. Eric Eves recommended to pass the changes tonight and we can go back and make the changes Alderman Porth is proposing. Alderman Eyrich called the questions. A roll call vote was held (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell) and the resolution was approved 7-0.
- b. IL RT. 9 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALS – Alderman McElhaney advised that as part of the IL Rt. 9 sidewalk improvements, the Illinois Department of Transportation is pushing for pedestrian signals at Market St./Orange St. and at Second Ave./Orange St. If these signals are installed, the city would be responsible for maintenance after they are put in. The engineer on the project also included replacing the signals that the school district put in at Fifth St./Orange St. since they do not meet the current standards. The council agreed to table this until Alderman McElhaney could get additional information.

XVI. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. SIXTH ST PROPERTY – Eric Eves advised that the property owner is working on getting the property cleaned up.
- b. 726 E YOUNG – There has been no response from the owner filed with the court, however, they still have some time to file.
- c. 622 AND 627 E YOUNG – There is a court hearing on August 12 to deal with the question of the deceased property owners.
- d. ESSEX BUILDING – Eric Eves and Attorney Beckett have received written discovery from the other side and they are still reviewing it. There is a need for an executive session at the next city council meeting to discuss action going forward. Eric also advised that Mr. Acton may be contacting some city officials to propose a settlement. Eric cautioned officials to be careful and not to agree to anything or anything committal. Alderman M. Ferrell also advised that the 3rd year of taxes will

be coming up for sale in September. Eric advised that can be discussed at the next meeting.

- e. AJ GARRISON SUIT – Alderman Porth asking where we stand with the AJ Garrison case, he has not made any payments to the city. Eric advised that he would look into it.
 - f. 643 E WYMAN – Alderman Garrett asked for any update on 643 E Wyman. Eric advised that he has not been contacted by the owner and that he would follow up with Alderwoman K. Ferrell.
 - g. 819 S FIFTH ST – Alderman Garrett also asked if the lien had been filed on 819 S. Fifth St. Eric advised that the lien has been filed but the city has not foreclosed on it yet.
- XVII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council Alderman McElhaney moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. Motion was carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk