

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 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 5 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was on Zoom.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voting yes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman M. Ferrell moved to approve the minute of the August 4, 2026, council meeting. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voted yes.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman Porth 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, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney) and the bills were approved 5-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - a. Alderman M. Ferrell moved to go into executive session to discuss litigation. Alderman Scharlach seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney) and the council entered executive session at 7:03 pm.
 - b. Alderman Garrett moved to exit executive session. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell, Lawson,

McElhaney) and the council exited executive session at 7:29 pm.

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. Nothing to report.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. Absent.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT

- i. Nothing to report.

e. LAWSON

- i. ORDINANCE 2027-8 PARKING ORDINANCE CHANGES – In Alderwoman Lawson’s absence, Alderman Porth moved to approve this ordinance. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Porth, and Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney) and the ordinance was approved 5-0.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. Absent.

g. PORTH

- i. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK CHANGES – Alderman Porth distributed changes to the employee handbook that he would like to see. He advised that this was just for review for tonight’s meeting.
- ii. AUDITS – Alderman Porth reported that the city and TIF fund audits have been completed.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. ORDINANCE CHANGES – Alderman Scharlach reported that Chief Troy Stevens and Clerk Hardcastle have been working on some ordinance changes for the fire department and they will be presented at the next meeting.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. THANK YOU – Clerk Hardcastle read a thank you card from the Vermilion County Museum for the city's assistance in the bus tour.
- b. ELECTION PACKETS – Clerk Hardcastle also announced that petition packets for the 2027 Consolidated Election will be available for pickup beginning August 25, 2026. There is 1 seat in each aldermanic ward that is up for re-election.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – NORBUT SOLAR – Alderman Porth moved to approve the conditional use permit. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. Alderman Garrett advised he would like to table this issue until everyone was back and that he had questions about hazardous material mitigation. Representatives from Norbut Solar were in attendance and answered Alderman Garrett's questions. A discussion was had regarding the decommissioning of the solar field and the composition of the solar panels. Alderman Garrett advised that he has spent the last few days talking to the residents in the area and they told him that no one had contacted them about this. Alderman Eyrich replied that there were 2 nights of a public hearing regarding this conditional use permit. A roll call vote was held (Ayes: Eyrich, M. Ferrell, Porth – Nays: Garrett, Scharlach – Abstentions: None – Absent: K. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney) and the motion did not pass.
- b. ADA PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE – Mayor Carter advised that the ADA Playground Committee received a quote for fencing in the playground area. Holly Eyrich, playground committee member, advised that even if the project does not go through, fencing provides security to the existing playground. Alderman Porth stated that the fencing would need to be built into the next budget.
- c. HOOPESTON HORNETS BUILDING – The Hoopeston Hornets organization approached Mayor Carter about their building needs repairs. The building belongs to the city but the individual organizations are responsible for repairs and maintenance of the buildings. Alderman M. Ferrell advised that he had emailed the organization about the damage and he never got a response.

- d. THANK YOU – Mayor Carter thanked the city workers and EMA staff for their work during the recent storms and getting the city ready for the Sweetcorn Festival.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. 643 E WYMAN – Eric advised that he is in the process of getting this filed.
- b. GARRISON – AJ Garrison is needing to be served regarding a petition of assets.
- c. 620 S SECOND – This property has been on a tax sale to AT Investments and they have been served notice.
- d. 627 E YOUNG – There was a hearing on this property in relation to the owners being deceased and the judge was receptive to the city's proposal on signing an order for service by publication.
- e. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – There was a question from counsel for Norbut Solar on whether the conditional user permit passed or not since it did not receive a majority and what they next steps are. Eric will research the issues and report back in time for the next council meeting.

- XVI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council Alderman Garrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion was carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk