

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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 8 alderpersons were present: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was present on Zoom.
- III. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voted yes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Eyrich moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2026, city council meeting. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voted yes.
- V. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the payment of the city’s bills. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the bills were approved 8-0.
- VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - a. Alderwoman Lawson moved to enter into executive session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the city. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the council went into executive session at 7:02 pm.
 - b. Alderman McElhaney moved to exit executive session. Alderwoman Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell,

Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the council exited executive session at 7:23 pm.

X. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

- i. PERSONNEL UPDATE – Alderman Eyrich updated the council on Richard Capellano’s status. He is doing very well after a liver transplant but will be out of work for some time.
- ii. RESOLUTION 2027-8 – WAIVING THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE FOR KEYSTONE SOLAR – Alderman Eyrich moved to approve this resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the resolution was approved 8-0.

b. K. FERRELL

- i. RECYCLING EVENTS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell advised that the electronic recycling event for October has been cancelled. She is also waiting on an update from the Vermilion County Health Department regarding the tire recycling event.
- ii. VERMILION ADVANTAGE – Alderwoman K. Ferrell also reported that Vermilion Advantage is no longer handling the back real estate taxes for the county and the city will have to issue a new check to the county instead of Vermilion Advantage for the old food locker property.

c. M. FERRELL

- i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT

- i. TENT AND CAMPING – Alderman Garrett has compiled some information regarding tents and camping and will be sending it out to everyone. Mayor Carter asked about barndominiums and how they are zoned. Alderwoman K. Ferrell answered that it is a residence and they need to follow the zoning regulations for residences. The council agreed to forward this on to the Planning and Zoning commission to come up with guidelines specific for barndominiums. Eric Eves advised that an ordinance governing tent camping does not necessarily need to go to Planning and Zoning since it is a

nuisance not a zoning issue.

e. LAWSON –

- i. SAFETY REMINDER – Alderwoman Lawson reminded everyone to be safe on their e-bikes, e-scooters, and golf carts with the upcoming Sweetcorn Festival and the influx of pedestrians.
- ii. ORDINANCE 2027-5 PARKING FINES – Alderwoman Lawson moved to approve this ordinance. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the ordinance was approved 8-0.

f. MCELHANEY

- i. Nothing to report.

g. PORTH

- i. Nothing to report.

h. SCHARLACH

- i. SWEETCORN FESTIVAL – Alderman Scharlach advised that the Sweetcorn Festival is coming up and everyone in the city does a great job in preparing for it.
- ii. FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE – This ordinance was tabled; Eric Eves will be working on a re-write.
- iii. ORDINANCE 2027-6 – FEES FOR FIRE SERVICES – Alderman Scharlach moved to approve the ordinance. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the ordinance was approved 8-0.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- a. ELECTION PETITION PICKUP – Clerk Hardcastle reminded everyone that packets are now available at City Hall for the 2027 Consolidated Election. Each ward has an open alderperson seat.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIV. MAYOR COMMENTS

- a. RESOLUTION 2027-9 – APPROVING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR NORBUT SOLAR – Alderman Porth moved to approve the resolution. Alderwoman K. Ferrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth – Nays: Garrett, Scharlach – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the bills were approved 6-2.
- b. ORDINANCE 2027-7 – ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS – Alderwoman K. Ferrell moved to approve the ordinance. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken (Ayes: Eyrich, K. Ferrell, M. Ferrell, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: Garrett – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the bills were approved 7-1.
- c. HOTEL TAX DISCUSSION – The mayor received a question regarding the hotel/motel tax from a local AirBnB owner. It was agreed to cover this topic as a committee of the whole an hour prior to the next council meeting.
- d. SWEETCORN FESTIVAL – Mayor Carter advised that the city workers have been doing great work getting the city ready and that Visit Downtown Hoopeston and Treasured Roots did a great job on the downtown flowerpots. Alderman Garrett advised that the city has no control over the festival or where they get their corn.
- e. DOWNTOWN CURB – Mayor Carter received a complaint about the high curb in front of a downtown business and asked for a temporary ramp to be installed. Alderman McElhaney noted that we just do not have room for that and there are ramps at each end of the block.

XV. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

- a. AJ GARRISON – The process server is unable to get him served and the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department will have to do it after another hearing.
- b. ESSEX BUILDING – Attorney Beckett and Eric have been communication with Acton's attorney and are working on a deposition date. Alderwoman K. Ferrell asked about the tax situation with the building and Eric will be speaking with Steve about it.
- c. 643 WYMAN – Alderwoman K. Ferrell has been sent a proposed petition for demolition. Alderman Garrett though that the homeowner agreed to sign it over to

the city in lieu of going to court. Eric will look into that.

- 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 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk