REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF HOOPESTON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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 (Zoom), M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, and Scharlach. Mayor Carter and Clerk Hardcastle were also present. Eric Eves was present on Zoom.

III. ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE – Alderwoman Lawson moved to approve Alderwoman K. Ferrell to participate in the meeting via Zoom. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voted yes.

IV. AMENDMENT OR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Alderman Porth moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Eyrich seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voted yes.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – Alderman Garrett moved to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2026, city council meeting. Alderman McElhaney seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, all voted yes.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – Alderman Garrett 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, M. Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson, McElhaney, Porth, Scharlach – Nays: None – Abstentions: None – Absent: None) and the bills were approved 8-0.

VII. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

VIII. PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL – None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Rex Murphy asked on Zoom when the Saturday meetings at the library would happen again and why the police chief was out of town during the festival. Mayor Carter answered that he is working with Tricia Freeland at the library to get those meetings scheduled again and that Chief Kelnhofer was out of town for a funeral.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. EYRICH

i. PERSONNEL UPDATE – Alderman Eyrich advised that Richard Capellano was on the mend and he will be back in the office soon on light duty.

b. K. FERRELL

i. ELECTRONICS COLLECTION CANCELLED – Alderwoman K. Ferrell reminded everyone that the electronics recycling scheduled for McFerren Park in October was cancelled but that the Vermilion County Health Department was having one at DACC on October 3.

ii. TIRE COLLECTION – There will be a tire collection on October 10, 2026, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the maintenance building. There is a limit of 4 tires and no semi or tractor tires.

iii. DEMOLITION – 323 N. Sixth Ave has been demolished. Alderwoman K. Ferrell noted that there was no city involvement other than sending out the notice.

iv. THANK YOU – Alderwoman K. Ferrell thanked the city workers and the Jaycees for all the work during the National Sweetcorn Festival.

c. M. FERRELL

i. Nothing to report.

d. GARRETT

i. COMMITTEE MEETING – Alderman Garrett announced that the cemetery committee would be meeting on September 22 at 6:00 pm.

ii. SOLAR ORDINANCE – Alderman Garrett also commented that the fire department conducted solar panel and battery storage training over the weekend and the city needs to look at the solar ordinance again about some safety issues.

e. LAWSON

i. STREET CLOSING – Alderwoman Lawson reported that Teasdale would like to close part of Second Avenue for a day in November so they can get a crane in to do some work.

ii. SKATEBOARDERS – Alderwoman Lawson also reported that there have been several complaints about skateboarders at the apartment complex at 3rd Ave. and Penn St. She has asked police to step up patrols there and asked skateboarders to please use the skatepark.

f. MCELHANEY

i. RESOLUTION 2027-9 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH IDOT – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve this resolution. Alderman Garrett seconded the motion. Alderman McElhaney reported that this is for the flashing beacons at 3 intersections. There would be a small cost to the city but the school district will be reimbursing the cost of one of the signals. 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.

ii. RESOLUTION 2027-10 – APPROVING TO PAY THE ENGINEERING FOR THE ITEP GRANT WITH MOTOR FUEL TAX FUNDS – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the 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.

iii. RESOLUTION 2027-11 – ACCEPTING THE ITEP GRANT FOR THE SIDEWALK ALONG IL RT 9 – Alderman McElhaney moved to approve the 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.

iv. THANK YOU – Alderman McElhaney thanked everyone who volunteered at the National Sweetcorn Festival.

g. PORTH

i. COMMITTEE MEETING – Alderman Porth advised that he would be putting together a finance committee meeting regarding the hotel/motel tax.

h. SCHARLACH

i. SOLAR ORDINANCE – Alderman Scharlach advised that the fire committee would be meeting soon to discuss the changes to the solar ordinance after the fire department training.

ii. RESOLUTION 2027-12 – SETTING FIRE FEES – Alderman Scharlach 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.

iii. BURNED HOUSE – Alderman Scharlach asked if the house that had burned last week can be filed with the state court to be demolished? Eric Eves asked Alderman Scharlach to give him a call to follow up on it.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

a. NOMINATING PETITIONS – Clerk Hardcastle reminded everyone that nominating petitions are available at city hall for the 2027 consolidated election. Each ward has an alderman position open.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. TENT CAMPING ORDINANCE – Alderman Garrett advised that he spoke with Eric Eves and Eric is writing up a tent camping ordinance. Eric advised that there are some new IDHR regulations so the proposed ordinance will need some revisions.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS – None

XV. MAYOR COMMENTS

a. THANK YOU – Mayor Carter thanked everyone who was involved with the National Sweetcorn Festival.

b. ITEP GRANT – Mayor Carter asked if anyone was willing to write a letter of recommendation on why we need the sidewalk along Rt 9, he needs them by the end of the month.

XVI. COMMENTS FROM THE ATTORNEY

a. ESSEX BUILDING – Eric reported that they are still confirming the details but there will be a possible deposition on October6.

b. 217 N. MARKET ST – The owner contacted Eric and they are willing to fix it up and get started on it within a week.

c. WYMAN PROPERTY – Eric has a signed order, and it will be filed tomorrow. Alderman Garrett asked about the communication with the property owner? Eric

replied that no agreement has been made yet.

d. 819 S FIFTH ST – Alderman Garrett asked if we have filed on this property yet? Eric replied that he will follow up with Alderwoman K. Ferrell on this.

e. ESSEX PROPERTY TAXES – Alderman M. Ferrell asked if Eric has looked into the tax situation on the Essex building? Eric advised that he is still working on it and it will probably be brought up in the deposition. Mayor Carter also replied that he has a question into the Vermilion County Treasurer's office about this as well.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further action to come before the council Alderman McElhaney moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman M. Ferrell seconded the motion. Motion was carried 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hardcastle
City Clerk