



CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting
August 18, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
715 Railroad Street
Downs, Kansas 67437

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday August 18, 2025, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Heather Hancock, Joyce Hake, Collin Jones, John Cordill, and John Bisnette. Others present: Kelly Meyer, Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, Harry Colburn and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from August 4, 2025, with a correction. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Staff Reports

Animal Control still has not been in contact with the Downs Vet Clinic about officially being the pound. Collin took in a lost dog last weekend, but the owner was found and dog returned.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley stated that Hahn Masonry will start work on Memorial Hall for tuck point repairs. Berkley also mentioned that due to a recent storm, the tree on Circle Drive has been mostly taken down. He and his wife Kelly would like to take care of the grass area, if council approved.

In the water report, Colburn stated he is still working with Pierce Electronics on the communication systems at the water plant. He got a rough quote of \$10,000-\$12,000 for replacing 5 radios.

City Superintendent Brady Pound asked the council if he could purchase and replace solar lights at the Memorial Park area, they gave him permission.

Pound stated there were photos of a state oil distributor truck for sale in the packet. The cost was \$26,350 however he was able to get it reduced due to tire conditions to \$25,500. The truck is a 1997 with around 40,000 miles and has a 1,000-gallon oil tank. He would like to purchase this to replace the current oil trailer system which is inefficient. Heather moved, Collin seconded, to purchase the state oil distributor truck for \$25,500 from KDOT paid through a special highway fund. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Pound mentioned that the new pool pump was delivered on Friday August 15th. There is some electrical work that needs to be completed before installing the new pump. He will contact KJ Electric to do the work this fall. The pool slide was also delivered and is currently being stored in the north building.

Council and Superintendent discussed maintenance items that need to be taken care of at the cemetery such as spray for bag worms, work on tree line, roads, and dirt work.

Collin moved, John B. seconded, to advertise for a full-time maintenance employee position in Downs News and Waconda Trader for two weeks. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reminded the council of the special meeting on Thursday, August 21 at 6 p.m. for the 2026 RNR and budget hearing. Her office sent out 43 late notices for water utility accounts with penalty fee assessed.

Corinth Cemetery board members approached the City Clerk about buying the remaining white fencing. Council held discussion on how much was left and what to charge. Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to donate a portion of the remaining white fencing to the Corinth Cemetery. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

There is still funding available for the Neighborhood Exterior Maintenance Program and Demolition Cost Share program for 2025.

Fire Department requested to add a member to the fire department. John B. moved, Heather seconded, to add Chase Weis to the Fire Department. Motion carried 5 ayes. The Fire Department wanted council to know they are in discussion about what to do with truck 753 as the water tank is continuing to leak after multiple times trying to fix it.

New Business


Community Connections member Kelly Meyer was present to ask council's permission to apply for grants for playground equipment at the Roadside Park. DCC had two companies come out and they will get models and quotes. Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to allow Downs Community Connection to apply for grant(s) for playground equipment at the Roadside Park and if necessary, use the city's information. Motion carried with 4 ayes, Collin abstained.

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to approve building permits 25-25 and 25-26. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Council held discussion on bonuses for summer mowing help and lifeguards. Heather moved, Collin seconded, to give all seasonal employees a \$0.50 per hour worked end of season bonus. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

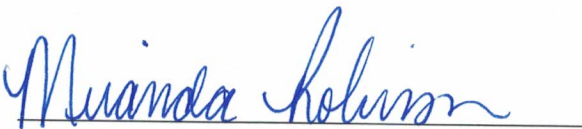
Vouchers & Payroll

Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes. With no further business, John C. moved, Joyce seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

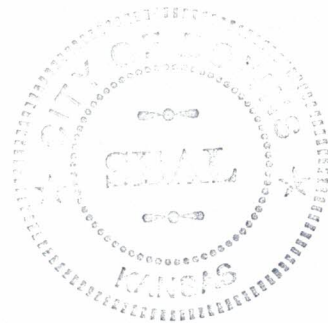


Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)