



CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting
August 17, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
715 Railroad Street
Downs, Kansas 67437

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday August 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Harry Colburn, John Bisnette, John Cordill, and Heather Hancock. Others present: Bruce Berkley and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

John Bisnette moved, Harry Colburn seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from August 3, 2026 and to approve special meeting minutes from August 12, 2026. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Staff Reports

Animal Control Creighton Hendrickson gave a report before the meeting. He has been removing raccoons, and caught a dog running loose and returned to owners last week.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn reported possible camping inside city limits.

In the water report, Colburn reported his water sample for nitrates has come back for too hot samples so next time he will drive the sample to the lab.

City Superintendent Interim – Harry Colburn reported to council that the shop doors won't stay on track so he obtained a bid of \$10,201.00 from Strobel Door and Repairs for the doors, openers, and installation. Other council members suggested getting quotes from TREB or SMC as well. The crew got batteries for the sirens last week.

Colburn mentioned he was asked about the Blue chevy pick-up as it doesn't get used. The council stated they would take sealed bids on it.

He mentioned a list of tasks the crew is working on this week: Burn the tree dump; drain the pool and empty out chemicals; mow and weed eat whenever possible.

Colburn asked the council about a Fall City Wide Clean up, possibly held in October. No decision was made.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson stated the Midway Contract should be for 450 gallons of winter propane; Heather moved, and John C. seconded, to approve the mayor signing the Midway Coop propane contract. Motion carried 5 ayes.

Clerk Robinson also reported that the Mayor and Clerk signed the KDOT - 71 KA-7600-01 City of Downs: PE Supplement No. 1 which adds the second phase of the project design to phase I. (Morgan Ave. replacement to the south).

The utility billing department issued thirty-five penalty letters for late water utility payments. Robinson presented the financials for August, revenues were \$42,277.74 with the pool earning \$15,115.47, and expenses were \$85,739.70.

Fire Department reported they received donations from Midway Coop & Land O'Lakes in the amount of \$4000.

The pool attendance sheet was put in the packet for council to review. Pool Manager also gave a list of things that need done or purchased before next season.

Permits

Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to approve contractor license #26-42. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Heather moved, Harry seconded, to approve building permit #26-26. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

New Business

At 5:51p.m. Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with mayor, council, city attorney, city clerk, and first job candidate. Per KSA 75-4319(b)(1). Motion carried with 5 ayes. The regular meeting will resume at 6:11 p.m.

At 6:20p.m. Harry moved, Joyce seconded, to go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with mayor, council, city attorney, city clerk, and second job candidate. Per KSA 75-4319(b)(1). Motion carried with 5 ayes. The regular meeting will resume at 6:40 p.m.

At 6:42 p.m. Heather moved, John B. seconded, to go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with mayor, council, city attorney, city clerk, and third job candidate. Per KSA 75-4319(b)(1). Motion carried with 5 ayes. The regular meeting will resume at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:15 p.m. Harry moved, John C. seconded, to go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with mayor and council Per KSA 75-4319(b)(1). Motion carried with 5 ayes. Regular meeting resumed at 7:37 p.m.

Joyce moved, and Heather seconded, to give approval to allow Harry Colburn to offer the City Superintendent job to Jeffery Alterman and offer Christopher Steinshouer a city maintenance position. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Old Business

Lagoon project: Bruce Berkley will check back in with the property owner concerning the intent to purchase.

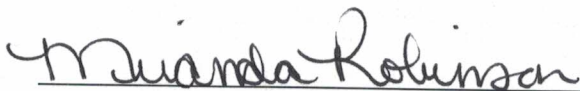
Vouchers & Payroll

John B. moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

With no further business, Heather moved, John B. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:


Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)