



Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday April 21, 2025, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Heather Hancock, Joyce Hake, Collin Jones, John Cordill, and John Bisnette. Others present: Sheri Naasz, Chandra Doane, Brady Pound, Harry Colburn and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

### **Minutes**

Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from April 7, 2025. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

### **Staff Reports**

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn received phone calls from people who received letters and they are willing to work on their properties and get them cleaned up.

In the water report, Colburn stated well 8 is up and running again. An inspection of the water plant coming up and preparing for that.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported that he passed his wastewater operator exam last month. Pound had a quick report on the spring city wide clean-up as it has gone well with multiple loads from R & R Refuse and Triple B Salvage during the past week. Pound also told council that the new skid steer should be delivered at the end of the week.

As per last meeting, Pound got a paper quote from Remus to remove old asphalt and add limestone to 3rd Avenue with the city doing the loading and haul off of old material. Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve the quote from Remus for asphalt removal and adding limestone to 3rd Ave with city crew loading and hauling old material off. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that she spoke with the pool manager and assistant manager and both think the pool rates should remain the same. She also stated she has received payment from a few of the free swim Saturday sponsors. Lifeguards have been hired and certification for those needing it will take place in the middle of May in Glen Elder.

Robinson also reported to the council that the on-site meeting with KDOT for the CCLIP FY 2028 application will be May 6 at 2:15 p.m. and invited any of them to come.

### **Permits**

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve contractor's license 25-36. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve building permits 25-06 & 25-07. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

John C., moved, Joyce seconded, to approve special use permits 25-43 to 25-48. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

### **New Business**

In new business, Sheri Naasz with Cushing Insurance Agency was present to review the EMC insurance renewal with the council. Discussion was held on whether to remove property insurance and keep general liability only on the building at 903 Morgan Ave (clinic) as well as other buildings and vehicles. John C. moved, John B. seconded, to approve the EMC insurance renewal and premium in the amount \$66,437 with the removal of the medical center and contents from property insurance, but keep general liability; and deletion of terrorism coverage. 5 ayes carried the motion.

Chandra Doane was present on behalf of Downs Parks & Recreation to give an update on items they are doing. She mentioned that youth soccer will start this coming weekend. They are working on starting a junior golf team as well as starting a 3-5 grade girls' volleyball team. Things are starting to ramp up at the ballfields. John Schreiner is working on moving the mound to allow K-18 softball girls to play a game in Downs. Doane mentioned that Liam Christians will be groundskeeper during games. Some work at the concession stand will take place with the addition of outlets inside and they ordered another drink cooler for concessions. Downs is hosting a skills camp this coming weekend for girls' softball.

Doane mentioned that Landoll has started the process to donate dugout covers for both dugouts and the score keeper area. Parks and Recreation will be working on gathering donations for tarp coverings.

Parks and Rec is also looking into finding an area to start a dog park in town but no definite plans are in place.

Clerk Robinson reported there were a couple Downs Chamber of Commerce businesses like the Hair Shop and LydaGrace that were interested in applying for the Kansas Dept. of Commerce SIGNS grant and they would need permission from the city. Heather moved, Collin seconded, to allow Downs Chamber businesses to apply for Kansas Dept. of Commerce SIGNS grant. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

The council reviewed the Water Emergency Supply Plan with updated information from Harry Colburn. The mayor mentioned a change in ambulance service that needed to be corrected. John B. moved, Joyce seconded, to approve the updated water emergency plan with correction. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Council reviewed Resolution 25-02 which is to allow the mayor to sign a deed correction in order for the sale of a property to go through. Joyce moved, John B. seconded, to approve Resolution 25-02. Motion carried 4 ayes; Heather abstained.

### **Old Business**

Council briefly discussed the old Clinic Building and requested that the Clerk get back in contact with Beloit Medical Center about their plans to remove the rest of their items out of the building.

## Council & Mayor Reports

There is a county wide economic development position being looked into and a community strategic meeting happening this Wednesday evening in Osborne.

A reminder that the Storytelling Festival is this weekend with a meet the performers on Thursday evening.

## Vouchers & Payroll

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

With no further business, Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

(seal)

