



## CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting  
January 20, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.  
715 Railroad Street  
Downs, Kansas 67437

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Downs City Council met in regular session on Tuesday January 20, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Harry Colburn, Collin Jones, and John Bisnette. Council not present: Heather Hancock. Others present: Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

### Minutes

John moved, Harry seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from January 5, 2026. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

### Staff Reports

Animal Control officer Collin Jones reported he received a call from the Sheriff Office concerning dogs running loose and he checked but couldn't find any. He has traps set in the 900 block of Peterman to catch feral cats but has not caught any yet. He received a report of a household with 5 dogs that he will notify of the code and they need to be tagged.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn reported he checked on a property in the 900 block of Peterman Street for nuisance junk in yard and junk vehicles. He sent out a letter to the property owner stating it needs to be cleaned up. Colburn stated he would like council to increase the nuisance mowing rate to \$300 per hour from the current charge of \$100 per hour. Harry moved, Joyce seconded, to increase the mowing rate to \$300 per hour per nuisance mowing effectively immediately. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported the next meeting will be hearing on the 1001 Blunt Street property for dangerous structure and nuisance abatement.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported he received a quote from Schendel for spraying bare ground and lagoons for \$1,550. Joyce moved, John seconded, to approve the Schendel quote for \$1,550 for spraying. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Pound also mentioned he will talk to Parks and Rec on getting rid of the volleyball area, and they could possibly use the sand to mix in with the t-ball field. Pound brought up the rock for the cemetery roads, as at one of the last meetings it was discussed to use funds from CD's, but those are endowment funds that cannot be used. Collin moved, John seconded, to allow the City Clerk to apply for a grant for rock for the cemetery roads through Dane Hansen Foundation and OCCF. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to allow Brady Pound to attend the KRWA Conference in Wichita March 24-26, 2026 and also take his water certification test. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that the office had W-2's and 1099's prepared and out via in person or mail, and they are preparing items for the 2025 Audit for the CPA's. Her office sent out 43 late penalty letters for non-payment of utility bills.

**Permits**

Harry moved, Joyce seconded, to approve contractor’s licenses: 26-26 to 26-32. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Joyce moved, John seconded, to approve building permit: 26-01. Discussion was held. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

**New Business**

Downs Chamber of Commerce requested to use the Memorial Hall for back up during Downs Celebration in case of inclement weather, June 18-21, and asked to waive the fees. Collin moved, Harry seconded, to waive half the fees for the use of the Memorial Hall as back up during Downs Celebration. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Downs Chamber of Commerce requested the City of Downs create an endowment fund through Osborne County Community Foundation to help sustain the costs of future Downs Celebrations. No decision was made and this issue is tabled until the next meeting.

**Council & Mayor Reports**

Mayor Janis appointed Ally Pound to Parks and Rec for 2026. Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to approve the mayor’s appointment. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

At 6:27 p.m. Harry moved, Joyce seconded, to move into executive session for 15 minutes with council, city attorney, and city clerk to discuss non-elected personnel pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). At 6:41 p.m. the regular meeting resumed.

**Vouchers & Payroll**

John moved, Harry seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes. With no further business, Harry moved, Joyce seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

  
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Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



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