



Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday April 6, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Harry Colburn, John Bisnette, and Heather Hancock. Council not present: Collin Jones and Joyce Hake. Others present: Drew Hoops, Sheri Naasz, Trish Harding, John Schreiner, Bruce Berkley, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

Heather moved, John seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from March 16, 2026. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Staff Reports

Animal Control Collin Jones sent in a report that he caught an opossum last week.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn reported he will be sending out seven letters for nuisance yards and weeds. He will also be sending out letters about trash build up and junk in yards later this week.

In the water report, Colburn reported he got quotes for bulk brine salt. He stated the lowest was \$6,347 for 20 ton from Waconda Water. Harry moved, John seconded, to purchase 20 Ton bulk brine salt from Waconda Water for \$6,347. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Colburn reported that Brady Pound missed passing the Water Operator exam by two points. He will take it again in July in Topeka.

In the sewer report, Colburn stated the council needs to have a big discussion of adding a fourth cell lagoon.

City Superintendent Brady Pound was not present but left a quote for cold mix from APAC at \$116.83 per ton. Pound is wanting to purchase 25 ton to help fix streets. John moved, Harry seconded, to allow City Superintendent to purchase 25-ton cold mix from APAC, not to exceed \$3,000. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

He is also planning on getting Remus to bid on rocking the far east end of Commercial Street and south Clark Street.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that the total March expenses were \$62,426.68 and the total March revenue was \$81,898.74. Robinson reported that Linda from Scoular contacted her about the City still having soybeans in storage. Harry moved, Heather seconded, to sell soybeans at Scoular. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

The Planning Commission met with Keith Marvin who is helping update the zoning book on March 23, he suggested the city move away from “building” permits and name them “zoning” permits. There was discussion with Council and City Attorney. City Attorney suggested to stay with building permit but change some wording on the forms.

Harry moved, Heather seconded, to transfer the geometric funds to the capital improvement fund in the amount of \$40,869.14. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Collin Jones reported that he submitted a grant for a slide out for a fire truck, but he has not heard back yet.

Permits

John moved, Heather seconded, to approve special use permits: 26-40 to 26-51. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Heather moved, Harry seconded, to approve building permits: 26-02; 26-06 to 26-08. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Heather moved, John seconded, to approve contractor license: 26-38. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

New Business

Drew Hoops with Wilson & Co. was present to discuss the issues with sewer samples at the lagoons with council and ways to come back into compliance. He suggested adding a fourth lagoon cell. Wilson & Company can prepare a preliminary engineering report if the council wants, this is the beginning steps to be able to request funding from grants and state revolving loan.

In new business, Sheri Naasz with Cushing Insurance Agency was present to review the EMC insurance renewal with the council. Heather moved, Harry seconded, to approve the EMC insurance renewal and premium in the amount \$70,207 with deletion of terrorism coverage. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Parks & Rec Committee member John Schreiner was present to inform council on the project at roadside park. They are in the process of putting up sunshades over dugouts at the ball park and asked council for help in funding this. Heather moved, Harry seconded, to give \$2,000 to come from grain sales and the remaining from the Marie Thomas Trust Funds for the sunshades. Motion carried with 3 ayes. John Schreiner mentioned they are going to put up signs for those who helped donate to the entire project.

Pool admission pricing will stay the same for the 2026 season.

Vouchers & Payroll

John moved, Harry seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

With no further business, Heather moved, John seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 3 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

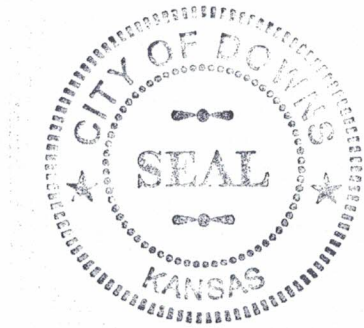
Vienna Janis

Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Miranda Robinson

Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)