



Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday July 7, 2025, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Heather Hancock, Collin Jones, John Cordill, and John Bisnette. Council not present: Joyce Hake. Others present: Stacey Hardy, Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, Harry Colburn and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

### **Minutes**

John C. moved, John B. seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from June 16, 2025. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

### **Staff Reports**

Animal Control reported he picked up a lost puppy and took it to the vet clinic. The owner paid the fee at the Clerk's office and the City Clerk assumed the puppy was picked up however it is too young to tag.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn will be in court Wednesday filing a complaint against a property for nuisance weeds, vehicles, and trash. Colburn also stated he will start round two of mowing for nuisance grass and weeds, which will then be assessed to property owners' taxes.

The City of Downs wishes to remind its citizens that, per City Ordinance, it is unlawful to deposit grass clippings and leaves in or upon any gutter, street, alley, sidewalk, vacant lot and any other public place in the City.

In the water report, Colburn stated he will need to order another load of brine salt as he is having to do more regeneration cycles at the water plant to help keep nitrate levels down. Collin moved, Heather seconded, to allow Water Operator Harry Colburn to order 20-ton brine salt not to exceed \$6,700. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

When at the water plant this weekend, Colburn stated he had water on the floor and he thought he had got the right part to fix the tank but it was still leaking. He got ahold of Drew Hoops with Wilson Co. after finding a seam that needed welded. Colburn had someone out to get the pin hole welded.

Colburn also reported that he took the water and nitrate sample to Salina today. He will have to use UPS now that the state has taken away carrier services and only certain locations within the state will accept them, and Osborne County is not one of those.

Colburn stated he continues to have communication issues between the water plant and wells. A week ago, or so, the water tower had started to back flow over but did not send him alarms. Colburn contacted Pierce Electronics which they thought they figured out the issue but once they left the alarms started going off. Well 7 was showing no communication so a new receiver was put in. Then they connected their computer and it showed the antenna was not working. Brady Pound took the bucket truck to the water plant and looked at the antenna, and it was full of water so Pierce Electronics ordered a new antenna. It should arrive within a week.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported he is still waiting on Mayer Specialty to get back to him on quote for the manhole repairs. He got two quotes for the removal of the tree on Circle Drive: Nick Koster quoted \$1,500 to completely remove OR \$900 if the city hauls off; Buzz Rice quoted \$1,200-1,300 to completely remove OR \$700-800 if the city hauls off. Council decided to table this as the white Kodiak dump truck is currently out at Miller Welding needing repairs and it would be the truck used to haul off the tree.

Pound stated he contacted Midway Coop in Osborne to discuss delivery of fuel and diesel. They can deliver to our tanks and the City already has an account set up through Midway. Council gave Pound the go ahead to use them for charging fuel/diesel at this time. They asked Pound to look into other options as well.

Pound also stated he was waiting on quotes for a new pool pump as he thinks it may not make it the rest of the season.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported the June monthly expenses were \$57,120.70 and June revenues were \$236,581.41, with the pool bringing in \$9,330.49 as of July 3rd.

The CCLIP PE agreement was reviewed by city attorney Bruce Berkley and needed approval for mayor to sign. Collin moved, John B seconded, to allow the mayor to sign the CCLIP PE 71 KA-7600-01 agreement. Motion carried with 4 ayes. This is for work from Osborne Street to almost Ray Street.

Fire Department members Bruce Berkley and Collin Jones stated they would need to have a discussion on how and where to get fuel and diesel for their trucks as well.

Heather Hancock reported that over the 3 days of free-swimming during Celebration the pool saw over 400 swimmers. The pool staff will be having a night swim on July 11 and free swim Saturday July 19 will have snow cones. Hancock reported that she still has \$1,000 left to raise for the slide which may be given by another group who was meeting later this evening.

### **Permits**

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve contractor's licenses 25-40 to 25-41. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

John C. moved, John B. seconded, to approve building permits 25-22 & 25-24. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve special use permit 25-58. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

### **New Business**

Collin moved, Heather seconded, to approve NEMP App 25-06 from Greg Miller for reimbursement of \$500. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Stacey Hardy with Parks and Recreation was present to ask council to waive pool party fees as they are having an end of season pool party, but they will pay lifeguards. Heather moved, Collin seconded, to waive the pool party fees for Downs Parks and Rec and they pay lifeguard fees. Motion carried with 4 ayes.



### Old Business

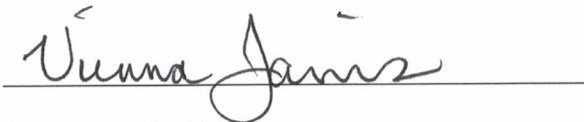
Council was presented with a new draft of the 2026 budget in packet with reducing the mills for debt services and put towards general fund. The City will exceed the revenue neutral rate but not change it from current budget year. Clerk Robinson asked council to set a hearing date. Council decided to hold the RNR and Budget hearing on August 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Clinic building sealed bid advertisement is in the Waconda Trader and Downs News and Times along with Facebook and the website, flyers at a few places in town. So far, the City Clerk's office has had no sealed bids.

### Vouchers & Payroll

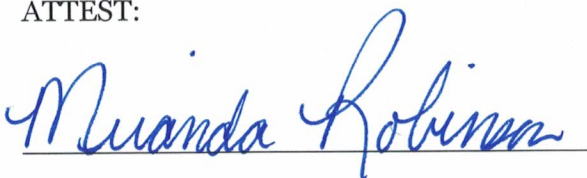
John B. moved, John C. seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

With no further business, John C. moved, Collin seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)