



CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting
February 2, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
715 Railroad Street
Downs, Kansas 67437

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday February 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Collin Jones, Harry Colburn, 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

Joyce moved, John seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from January 20, 2026. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Staff Reports

Animal Control Collin Jones reported he spoke with 814 Beale St. to let them know they have too many dogs; he spoke with 500 Grant St. about their dog constantly out and running loose; and he picked up a stray cat in the 1300 block 4th Street and took it to the vet.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley asked council to watch for Kansas Legislature updates and reach out to representatives concerning issues that affect small towns.

In the water report, Colburn stated he and the City Clerk sent in the annual water report to the state and we were at a 7% percent water loss. This last week he noticed higher sewer and water usage, and a large leak was found at Wang Jar Foods.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported he received a quote on a 72" Country Clipper mower for \$6,016.28 from Miller Welding which included a trade-in. Harry moved, Joyce seconded, to approve the purchase of a 72" Country Clipper mower for \$6,016.28 from Miller Welding. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Brady presented a quote on a grader attachment for the skid steer in the amount of \$5,000 from GradeMax. He mentioned that the city has over 14 miles worth of rock roads, including the cemetery that they can use this attachment to better the roads. Collin moved, Harry seconded, to purchase the skid steer grader attachment, not to exceed \$5,600 including shipping. Motion carried 4 ayes.

Pound also mentioned he will attend the next Parks and Rec meeting and find out a plan for the volleyball court and t-ball practice field.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that water utility shut offs for January were postponed due to freezing cold temperatures. They processed 5 shut off's that afternoon. Her office is still prepping for 2025 Audit with CPA's.

The city still has a bank account at Guaranty Bank in Beloit that was previously used for ACH utility bills, however this account is going to go dormant on 2/12/2026 which will charge \$5 monthly. The city no longer needs this account due to software changes and the ACH goes

directly to our main general checking at the State Bank of Downs. Robinson asked for permission to close out the bank account at Guaranty State Bank and Trust Co. John moved, Joyce seconded, to allow City Clerk Miranda Robinson to close out the bank account at Guaranty State Bank and Trust Co. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Robinson also mentioned she started advertising on Facebook for a pool manager and lifeguards. She asked permission to advertise in the Downs News, council approved.

Permits

John moved, Joyce seconded, to approve a special use permit #26-26. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

New Business

At 6 p.m., a public hearing for dangerous and unsafe structures regarding 1001 Blunt Street was opened. A letter from Jerry Sumpter and photos of the property and structures was reviewed. Resolution 2026-02 was reviewed for adoption concerning the demolition of the Jerry Sumpter property. No comments were received written or orally. Joyce moved, Collin seconded, to adopt Resolution 2026-02 for unsafe and dangerous structures. Motion carried with 3 ayes, 1 abstained. Closed the hearing at 6:04 p.m.

The City received a request from OCCF for a donation in their Match month. Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to donate \$250 to OCCF for match month. Motion carried.

Old Business

OCCF Endowment fund was tabled until next meeting when a representative from OCCF and Downs Chamber can meet with Council.

Vouchers & Payroll

Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes. With no further business, John moved, Collin seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)