

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday May 18, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Harry Colburn, John Bisnette, John Cordill. Council not present: Heather Hancock. Others present: Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, and Miranda Robinson.

In Mayor Vienna Janis' absence, Council President John Bisnette called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

Harry moved, Joyce seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from May 4, 2026. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Staff Reports

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported on a conference he attended.

In the sewer report, Colburn stated the sewer sample testing results are coming in and it looks like the city has passed.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported that the summer help started today with code enforcement mows. Council members want to make sure the crew weed eats the curbs really good on city properties. Pound mentioned that the pool is filled and running as the pool opens May 23, weather permitting.

Pound stated the crew will work on getting down limbs and trees from this past weekend's winds. They are working on filling potholes and spraying weeds in the streets.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that 35 penalty letters for non-payment of water utility bills went out. Discussion was held concerning a residence who is well past due on water utility bills. Council suggested certified letter and regular letter be sent. Robinson discussed with council on moving away from initial water service deposit to a non-refundable connection fee. Council suggested they would be willing and to gather more information. Robinson mentioned that the spring city-wide clean-up cost the city \$3,500.

Fire Department reported there was a residential fire late Saturday night.

Council member Joyce Hake mentioned the drainage ditch near city wide clean up area has a bunch of trash/paper that needs to raked up.

New Business

Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to approve cereal malt beverage licenses: C52628 and C52629 for Downs Chamber of Commerce. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Joyce moved, John B. seconded, to approve building permits 26-15 and 26-16. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Harry moved, John C. seconded, to approve special use permits 26-58. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Old Business

In old business, the 2025 Audit needed councils' approval. After some discussion, Harry moved, John C. seconded, to approve the 2025 audit report submitted to the state. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Special Assessment waiver for 1001 Railroad Street was discussed but a decision was tabled until further information could be gathered.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley stated he got the land ownership next to the City Lagoons. Discussion ensued on what the next steps would be to get land. Council asked Brady to contact Drew at Wilson & Co concerning the wetland lagoon and fencing.

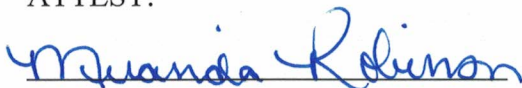
Vouchers & Payroll

Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes. With no further business, John C. moved, John B. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)