



Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday May 4, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Harry Colburn, John Bisnette, Heather Hancock. Others present: Christinna Hensen, Kip Thorson, John Cordill, Collin Jones, Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

### **Minutes**

Harry moved, John B. seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from April 20, 2026. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Mayor Vienna Janis swore in John Cordill to take over Collin Jones' vacant council seat for his remaining term.

### **Staff Reports**

Animal Control Collin Jones reported that he set another trap out at 1205 Prentiss Street for stray cats. A dog was picked up at that same location on Sunday, but was returned to the owner.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn reported he gave city crew addresses to start mowing on properties for nuisance yards with high grass and weeds.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported he was approached by Kip Thorson. Thorson purchased land on Railroad Street at the tax auction last August but was not able to take possession of property until December. The property was assessed mowing fees for the city crew mowing nuisance grass and weeds. Thorson was in attendance to ask if council would waive fees or wipe them out for the property. No decision was made.

In the water report, Colburn reported they did the well testing for depth. Well 9 is up, other wells are staying the same. Water usage is higher in general around town.

In the sewer report, Colburn and Brady took a sewer sample to Wichita on Friday to Meridian Analytical.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported they got the slide up at the pool. KJ Electric was here today to work on the pump house. They installed the new pool pump and they plan to start to fill the pool the week of the 11th to 15th. All pool chemicals were received last week. Pound also mentioned they have started mowing. Mayor Vienna mentioned she had a citizen complain about the drainage ditch off of Division Street needing to be mowed and weed controlled.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson stated that an application for KDOT CCLIP FY 2029 was submitted for the city by Wilson and Co. Also, an SLF Water funding pre-application was submitted for the city by Wilson and Co. for water main repairs. Robinson also stated she was contacted by a citizen complaining about the amount of trash that blew into his yard during City-Wide clean up this year. Discussion was held on how to further continue the clean-up and

prevent this from happening again. A snow fence will be placed on the east side of the property for the next clean-up.

Fire Department received a letter from Osborne Rural Fire District #4 about funding for the 2027 contract year, due to lower property tax income they are needing to lower the amount from \$16,500 back to \$15,000.

Heather reported that they are doing a raffle for the first three to go down the new slide and tickets can be bought at the city office. She will get a "thank you" ad in the newspaper for the free swim Saturday sponsors.

### **Permits**

Harry moved, John C. seconded, to approve building permits: 26-12, 26-13, 26-14. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Heather abstained.

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to approve a large animal permit: 26-04. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to approve special use permits: 26-55 to 26-57. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

### **New Business**

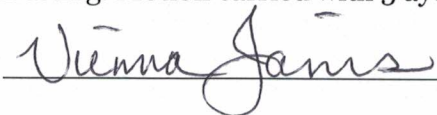
In new business, Christinna Hensen, CPA with the Loyd Group, LLC was in attendance to present the council with the 2025 audit report and financials. She reviewed the management letter with the council and went over important topics in the audit.

### **Old Business**

Lagoon project - Wilson & Co. fee for the Preliminary Engineering Report would be \$10,250.00. Additional geotechnical investigation tied to the report will likely cost around \$10,000-\$12,000. The city needs to plan for around \$25,000 total for this endeavor.

### **Vouchers & Payroll**

John B. moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes. With no further business, Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

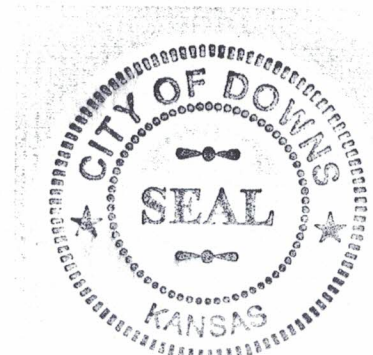
  
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Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)