



## CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting  
February 17, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.  
715 Railroad Street  
Downs, Kansas 67437

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Downs City Council met in regular session on Tuesday February 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Collin Jones, Harry Colburn, John Bisnette, Heather Hancock. Others present: Rex Johnston, Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

### **Minutes**

Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from February 2, 2026. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

### **Staff Reports**

Animal Control Collin Jones reported he picked up a dog and it was claimed the next day. Another report of a dog continually getting out and chasing the mail carriers.

In the water report, Colburn stated they have a small, slow leak in the feed line coming in at the water plant. They are waiting on parts to get started on the repair.

In the sewer report, Colburn stated the sewer lagoons are on a watch list from KDHE due to the last three tests, total suspended solids effluent. A Kansas Rural Water Association representative will be here this week to assist as the City has to send a letter stating what we will be doing to fix the issue.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported that Ross and Luke Hutson both are willing to come back this summer for mowing. Brady asked council to hire Harry for spraying 2-4-d at the parks and other city owned locations. Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to approve Harry spray the parks, white-way, lift-station, lagoons, mixing strip area, and tree dump with 2-4-d- herbicide at his hourly rate. Motion approved 4 ayes, Harry abstained. Pound reported that the Parks and Recreation committee met on Sunday, and they are okay with getting rid of the sand volleyball pit and putting the sand on the practice field.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson received the engagement letter from the Loyd Group for preparation of the 2027 Budget. John moved, Harry seconded, to allow the mayor to sign the 2027 budget engagement letter from the Loyd Group. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

### **Boards and Committees**

Mayor appointed Sonja Miller and Doug Strickland to the Housing Authority Board. Heather moved, Harry seconded, to approve the mayor's appointments. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

### **Permits**

Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to approve special use permits: 26-27 to 26-30. Motion carried with 5 ayes. John moved, Heather seconded, to approve contractor licenses: 26-33 to 26-34. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

**New Business**

Heather moved, Joyce seconded, to hire return part-time summer help at \$13.00/hr. and \$12.00/hr. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Collin moved, Joyce seconded, to waive the fees for the Lakeside High School to hold prom at Memorial Hall, as the City's donation. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

**Old Business**

Downs Chamber is not moving forward with an OCCF endowment fund.

Proposal for Demolition from Ron Schlaefli in the amount of \$5,400.00 was reviewed. Joyce Hake moved, John Bisnette seconded, to approve Ron Schlaefli's bid for removal of the house and shed at 1001 Blunt Street in the amount of \$5,400. Motion carried with 4 ayes, Harry abstained.

**Council & Mayor Reports**

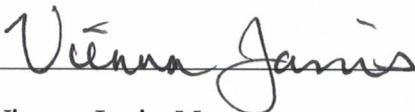
Harry asked how a special assessment program for replacing curb and guttering would work. Berkley stated he would gather information for the next meeting.

**Vouchers & Payroll**

Harry moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

At 6:29p.m., Joyce moved, Harry seconded, to go into executive session for 15 minutes for attorney client privilege with city council, mayor, and city attorney present per K.S.A 75-4319(b)(2). Regular meeting resumed at 6:43 p.m. No action was taken by the council.

With no further business, Heather moved, Joyce seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

  
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Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)