



CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting
October 5, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
715 Railroad Street
Downs, Kansas 67437

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 5, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Harry Colburn, John Bisnette, John Cordill, Heather Hancock. Others present: Bruce Berkley, Jeff Alterman, Creighton Hendrickson, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from September 21, 2026. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Staff Reports

Animal Control Officer Creighton Hendrickson received a report of a dog running at large. The dog was returned to the owner, but none of her dogs are registered. They need to be registered by the end of the week.

The city attorney notified animal control and the council that he received a written complaint about dogs at large that viciously attacked a cat. The case will go to municipal court.

City Attorney Bruce Berkley reported that he sent a letter to the owner of the burned house. He stated they have 30 days to contact the city and/or make substantial cleanup progress.

City Superintendent Jeff Alterman reported that parts for the street sweeper—bearings and shafts—have been ordered. A company is coming this week to look it over. Additional parts to fix will cost around \$10,000. The machine was purchased in 2020 for \$25,000.

As previously discussed, Alterman mentioned that the allowance for work pants should be \$300 per person, twice a year. Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to reimburse the city maintenance crew up to \$300 twice per year for work jeans. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Alterman stated they are continuing to clean up the shop and look for tools; some will have to be replaced. He would like to purchase a larger tool box in the future. He also mentioned that due to the recent rains the tree dump road is a muddy mess; hopefully, it can open by Wednesday. Cleaning out the storm drains is on his list to complete during the slower period.

A downed tree limb on the corner of College Street and 4th Street was brought up. The council would like the City Attorney to send a letter to the property owner concerning the tree partially down and obstructing the street.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported September revenues of \$100,748.15 and September expenses of \$60,452.35. She let the council know that for the month of September there were seven water shut offs for non-payment. She also notified the council and city superintendent that

the 4-H would like to clean up the park and pool area for part of their October community service hours. Downs Enterprises approached Clerk Robinson regarding mill levy funding. Council would like them to come to the next council meeting to update on their current work.

Fire Department will give a fire safety week presentation at Lakeside Elementary School on Friday October 9.

Permits

Heather moved, Harry seconded, to approve building permit #26-32. Motion carried with 4 ayes, 1 no vote.

John B. moved, Joyce seconded, to approve contractor license #26-44. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

New Business

Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to give a donation of \$300 to Solomon Valley Transportation. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Discussion was held on giving employees a per diem for cell phone use. A decision was tabled until more information can be found.

Vouchers & Payroll

Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

With no further business, Heather moved, Harry seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)