



CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting
July 6, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
715 Railroad Street
Downs, Kansas 67437

Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday July 6, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Harry Colburn, John Bisnette, John Cordill, and Heather Hancock. Council not present: Joyce Hake. Others present: Creighton Hendrickson, 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 C. seconded, to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 15, 2026. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Staff Reports

Animal Control: Creighton Hendrickson reported receiving complaints about dogs at large. He will consult with the city attorney about obtaining written complaints.

Code Enforcement: Harry Colburn reported sending letters concerning mowing grass and weeds, and placing hangers on doors regarding grass blowing into streets.

City Attorney: Bruce Berkley reported sending a certified letter concerning the sewer issue at the Griffith Industrial Park area, which the business owner received.

In the water report, Colburn reported completing a nitrate test that was sent off. The testing is now conducted twice a year. There is another leak at the water plant, and they are waiting on parts for replacement. Krueger Backhoe will help with the replacement.

In the sewer report, Pound reported that the packet includes a quote from Mayer Specialty for sewer manhole repairs totaling \$8,080, which includes their mobilization fees. Heather moved, Harry seconded, to approve the quote from Mayer Specialty Sewer and pay from the sewer department. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

City Superintendent Brady Pound stated that the Osborne City Superintendent reached out to see if they could borrow the mosquito sprayer. Council discussed the request and decided not to allow it.

Pound stated he purchased a pool robot two weeks ago to help fight the algae. Along with extra chemicals and scrubbing by the city crew—including power washing ropes—it has helped so far but has not completely solved the problem. He has some non-chlorine algaecide coming to add to the pool. It was suggested to try testing from an outside source to determine the levels. John B. moved, John C. seconded, to allow the purchase of a second pool robot for \$530. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Park and Recreation submitted a letter requesting a waiver of pool party fees for their end-of-season party. Heather moved, Harry seconded, to waive fees for the Park and Rec pool party. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Mayor Janis appointed Jerry Knouf to the Planning Commission for an unexpired term. John B. moved, Harry seconded, to approve the mayor's appointment of Jerry Knouf to the Planning Commission. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson presented a long-term debt policy to council, per the auditor's request. Harry moved, Heather seconded, to approve the long-term debt policy as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Robinson requested permission to attend training in November. Harry moved, John B. seconded, to grant permission for Clerk Robinson to attend the CCMFOA Institute in Wichita in November with reimbursement for mileage. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Discussion was held on the revenue neutral rate and budget for 2027. Heather moved, John B. seconded, the council's intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for the budgeted year 2027. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Council set the RNR and 2027 budget hearing for September 8, 2026.

Robinson mentioned she received a complaint that the west tree line at the cemetery needs trimming. Clerk stated she would call around to get quotes.

Hancock mentioned that the pool will have an evening swim in early August, sponsored by SMC Concrete. She mentioned that August 15 will be the last day the pool is open.

Permits

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to approve contractor license 26-40. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve building permits 26-10 (approved variance by BZA) 26-21 and 26-22. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

New Business

Council discussed draft ordinance 1024 pertaining to noise and ordinance 1025 pertaining to parking campers and trailers on city streets.

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to approve ordinance 1024 pertaining to noise. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Harry moved, John C. seconded, to approve ordinance 1025. Motion carried with 3 ayes, Heather abstained.

Old Business

John B. moved, Harry seconded, to go into executive session for five minutes with the council, mayor, clerk, city superintendent, and city attorney present to discuss the acquisition of real property. The regular meeting will resume at 6:59 p.m.

Vouchers & Payroll

John B. moved, Harry seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

With no further business, Harry moved, John B. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

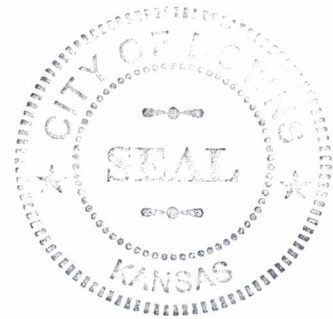
Vienna Janis

Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Miranda Robinson

Miranda Robinson, City Clerk



(seal)