

CITY OF DOWNS

Regular Council Meeting
September 8, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
715 Railroad Street
Downs, Kansas 67437

Downs City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Joyce Hake, Harry Colburn, John Cordill, Heather Hancock. Others present: Bruce Berkley, Creighton Hendrickson, and Miranda Robinson. Mayor Vienna Janis called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Minutes

Harry moved, Heather seconded, to approve regular meeting minutes from August 17, 2026. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Staff Reports

Creighton Hendrickson, Animal Control, mentioned seeing a groundhog in town and said he would set a trap.

In the sewer report, Colburn mentioned to council that the concrete around a manhole at Schoen Auto has been damaged, he showed pictures. Colburn also stated that the Centennial Village lift station pump failed, and the City had to hire Kingsbury Septic to sewer jet. Reminder to all: PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH WIPES OF ANY KIND.

The Interim City Superintendent presented quotes for the shop garage doors: Corner Stone - \$13,355.25 and Strobel Door - \$10,201.00. Joyce moved, and Harry seconded, to approve the Strobel quote for shop door replacement. Motion carried with 4 ayes. The Council set the fall City-wide clean-up dates for October 9-13, 2026. Crew update: Chris started on Sept 1, and Jeff will start Sept. 10.

At 5:45 p.m., Linda Miller entered the meeting.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported that September expenses so far total \$35,596.73 and September revenues so far total \$19,223.70. There were 4 Water Utility shutoffs for August. The website must be ADA compliant by the end of April 2028.

At 5:56 p.m., John Bisnette entered the meeting.

Fire Department: Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to accept the contract with Osborne Rural Fire District #4 for \$15,000 and have the mayor sign. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Permits

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve building permits: 26-27 to 26-30. Motion carried with 5 ayes. Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve building permit 26-31, and waive the

building permit fees for the Downs Community Connection Veterans Memorial. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

New Business

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Janis called the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing to order and asked for any public comment. There were no objections, verbal or written. John B. moved, Heather seconded, to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and adopt resolution #2026-03 stating the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The roll call vote was recorded and certified by Miranda Robinson, City Clerk. Mayor Janis declared the RNR public hearing closed at 6:03 p.m.

At 6:03 p.m., Mayor Janis called the 2027 Budget Hearing to order and asked for any public comment. There were no objections to the proposed budget, oral or written. Harry C. moved, John B. seconded, to adopt the 2027 Budget as presented and published. Motion carried with 5 ayes. Mayor Janis declared the public hearing closed at 6:05 p.m.

Old Business

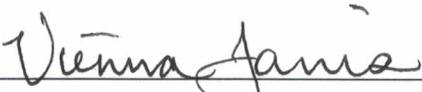
Lagoon expansion project update from Bruce Berkley. He stated he has a signed (by landowners) option on the land for the lagoons. Council will need to approve and sign. Harry moved, John C. seconded, to allow the mayor to sign the option to purchase with the Rita Lingg family. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Council & Mayor Reports

Mayor opened the one sealed bid for the 1996 GMC Sierra truck. John B. moved, Heather seconded, to accept the \$200 bid for GMC truck, as it was the only bid received. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The Mayor also mentioned she was asked by a bus driver if the City will trim trees above the streets. Harry will contact a couple of companies that trim trees to see what can be done.

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, John B. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.



Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

