



## **CITY OF DOWNS**

Regular Council Meeting  
March 17, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.  
715 Railroad Street  
Downs, Kansas 67437

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Downs City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall. Council members present: Heather Hancock, John Cordill, and John Bisnette. Council not present: Joyce Hake, Collin Jones. Others present: Sherry Knouf, Christina Hensen, Evan Joy, Jerry Teselle, Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, Harry Colburn 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 March 3, 2025. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

### **Public Comment**

Evan Joy was present to ask the council what they are doing concerning code enforcement and making owners clean up properties around town.

Jerry Teselle was present to ask about the tree dump. City Superintendent stated it's going to be a learning process with the gates.

### **Staff Reports**

In the Library report, Sherry Knouf reported monthly numbers in attendance were down last month due to the weather being so cold. She has some kids who are working on their community service hours by helping in the children's room. Storytelling Festival will see the reader feeder and free book give away. Knouf stated will start chair yoga soon and it will be at the Senior Center. She asked that the city crew take a look at one of the trees at the library as it has died, and she would like it removed.

Code Enforcement Harry Colburn received another complaint about a property that has an ongoing case with the court. He is following up on complaints and sending letters. He and City Attorney Berkley will address junked vehicles and yards again soon.

In the water report, Colburn stated he needs to order another load of salt for the water treatment plant. He got a quote from Culligan for 20 tons in the amount of \$6,600 (\$330/ton) but he was waiting on a quote from Waconda Water. John C. moved, Heather seconded, to allow Harry Colburn, Water Operator to purchase 20 ton of salt not to exceed \$6,600. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Colburn reported that the nitrate sample came back as a 10, and state requires it to be 10 or less, so he is being sent a second sample to send in for testing. He is also going to check when the state will be out to test all three wells.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported that April 11-21 will tentatively be the city wide clean up as he has talked to Taylor Rippe with R & R Refuse. He plans to go to Osborne County Commissioners to see if they will waive landfill fees during that period for the City.

Pound also reported that he and Mike will attend the annual mosquito sprayer class on April 2, in Salina, and get the machine calibrated as required annually. He then brought quotes to the council for mosquito spray: VanDiest quote for biomist at \$5,434 for 55-gallon drum; MARC quote for a 5 gallon concentrate spray at \$506; and Share quote for a 5 gallon concentrate spray for \$550. In order to keep the mosquitos from becoming immune to the spray's, they switch it out every other time. Heather moved, John B. seconded, to allow the City Superintendent to purchase mosquito spray not to exceed \$6,500 plus freight. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Pound stated he interviewed and hired Ross Hutson at \$12/hour for summer mowing help.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported she will be gone Wednesday through Friday at a conference so Mary will be in office all three days. They are still experiencing billing issues with gWorks software. She asked the council to add Mary Daharsh to the checking account and petty cash account as authorized signer. John B. moved, John C. seconded, to add Mary Daharsh on the regular checking and petty cash bank accounts at State Bank of Downs as authorized signature. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

### **Permits**

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve building permit 25-03. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

John b moved, John C. seconded, to approve special use permits 25-29 to 25-35. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

John C. moved, Heather seconded, to approve contractor license 25-33. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

### **New Business**

In new business, Christinna Hensen, CPA with the Loyd Group, LLC was in attendance to present the council with the 2024 audit report and financials. She reviewed the management letter with the council and went over important topics in the audit. Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve the 2024 audit report and submit for filing. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Berkley stated the City received an estimate from Hahn Masonry for tuck point patch work at Memorial Hall. Council tabled until next meeting when they received another quote.

Collin and John B. will get together to schedule interviews for pool manager since there are three applicants.

### **Old Business**

The council held discussion on the Clinic building and how they should move forward. They asked City Superintendent to get a quote on demolishing the building. It was also discussed on putting the building up for sealed bid.

### **Vouchers & Payroll**

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

With no further business, John B. moved, Heather seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 3 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Vienna Janis

Vienna Janis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Miranda Robinson

Miranda Robinson, City Clerk

(seal)

