

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on February 4, 2025.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Debbie Dreasher, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez and Becky McClane. Also present were city accountant Matt Deutsch, city attorney Caleb Hitz and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

Mayor Bob Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council was previously provided minutes from the January 7, 2025 meeting. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the January 7, 2025 minutes. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Matt Deutsch appeared to present a year end review from 2024 and recommendations and review for 2025. Deutsch noted the council could potentially pay off the remaining sewer loan in 2025. Council discussed making the regular payment in March for the loan and then reviewing again in September. Deutsch also presented information on the special highway fund. Council discussed reviewing street repair after winter. Deutsch noted it will likely be necessary to amend the solid waste fund due to the higher cost of trash service. Council will need to look at increasing rates as well. Deutsch recommended increasing trash rates soon. Deutsch also recommended creating a water reserve fund. Deutsch discussed the amounts in the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund and Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund and what can expenses can paid from these funds.

City clerk noted a building permit for a shed at 501 Fifth Street had been submitted and approved by Paul Crawford.

Becky McClane presented a petition that had been left with her regarding changing the Ordinance on keeping of fowl in city limits. McClane also had the information brochure regarding the KRWA annual conference and exhibition conference held in Wichita.

Joe Romans discussed the parking concerns in front of the post office that had been discussed recently on social media. Council discussed possible solutions. Dreasher discussed wanting to meet the business owners in that area to discuss possible remedies. Joe Romans stated he could talk to the owners to better understand the lease situation with the post office. Dreasher presented the zoning information for the businesses in that area. Dreasher wants to discuss possible parking options to accommodate the Haymakers customers.

Dreasher also noted visibility concerns at 4<sup>th</sup> and Highland. Because vehicles park almost to the edge of that intersection, it is very difficult to see if vehicles are coming before pulling into the street.

Mayor Bell reported the additional dumpster at the community building is still there that was requested for the large tractor pull. The clerk will follow up with LRS.

Joe Romans reported he had a memorial plaque made for Crystal Kiely to give to her family. Romans also proposed having a plaque made naming the dog park in her name. This has been discussed with the scouts that built the project and they were in agreement. A plaque can be made in her memory and recognizing the work done by the scouts. Romans also provided

information on a memorial tree or bench in the park in Crystal's honor. Romans will get more information on a bench and present at the next meeting. Council was in agreement with the plaque naming the dog park after her and recognizing the work done by the scouts. Mayor Bell will deliver the memorial plaque to Crystal's husband.

Council discussed a date for the spring clean up event. Council is looking at May 3 for the event. The clerk will touch base with LRS on dumpsters for the event. Council would like larger dumpsters than last year or one additional dumpster. The clerk will also contact Jackson County Hazardous Waste about bringing a trailer that date.

The city attorney provided an update on the Cox Communications fiber project. Council would like a representative to attend a council meeting to discuss the project before any work is started.

Hitz also noted he looked in the question about transfer of property discussed at last meeting from KDOT to the City to Matt Swenson at 116 W Fourth Street. Hitz did not believe there were any concerns or issues but asked that the attorneys forward him any paperwork regarding the transfer.

Hitz stated he had sent a letter to Cara Evans at 104 Highland regarding cleanup of the property but had not heard anything in response. He will send a follow up letter.

Clerk and council member Valdez discussed a request to waive sewer charges at the Hudson property since the service had been turned off. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to waive \$120 of the sewer charges from the bill at 200 Annetta. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell reported Betty Hainline was pleased with the work the city did at her property.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. Wentling reported needing to replace the black police car at some point in the near future and they are on the KHP waiting list to be notified of vehicles they have available to purchase.

Debbie Dreasher had nothing additional to report on parks. Joe Romans had nothing additional to report on streets. Larry Valdez had nothing additional to report on sewer.

The water conference held in March was discussed. Council asked about sending Kenny Bryan to the conference. The clerk will check with him on whether he is available to attend.

It was reported the senior exercise classes at the community building have been going well.

Clerk reported a mandatory workshop was being held in Salina on February 13 for the CBDG grant. The city clerk will attend the workshop.

Clerk noted additional issues with the utility billing software and was putting together a list of problems since switching to the cloud version.

Leonard Allen made a motion to enter executive session for five minutes to discuss information security to include the city clerk, city attorney and chief of police. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council exited executive session.

Joe Romans made a motion to approve computer upgrades to be completed by The Computer Doctors in the amount of \$2,500. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to pay bills. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk