

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

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Leonard Allen, Debbie Dreasher, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez and Becky McClane. Also present were Kristy Wilson with Kellerman's Insurance, Megan Bottenberg with Cox Communications, city attorney Caleb Hitz and Chief of Police Dan Wentling.

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the February 4, 2025 meeting. Becky McClane made a motion to approve the February 4, 2025 minutes. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Kristy Wilson with Kellerman's Insurance presented the annual insurance review. Wilson discussed increases to the policy and asked for any changes to equipment or personnel. There were questions regarding the Pride of Hoyt coverage. Wilson will reach out to the Pride of Hoyt contact regarding having their own policy for the event.

Megan Bottenberg with Cox Communications presented information regarding the upcoming fiber project in the City of Hoyt. Bottenberg discussed the timeline and process. A construction representative from Cox will be reaching out to Kenny Bryan (maintenance) to discuss the proposed locations and utilities. The franchise fee amount was also discussed with the council. Bottenberg noted this project has been approved by the KCC (Kansas Corporation Commission) but would like to have the support from the council as well.

After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to support the Cox fiber project and approve levying a franchisee fee in the amount of 5%. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans discussed the amount spent on the Crystal Kiely memorial plaque for the dog park and a receipt so he can be reimbursed for the cost.

It was reported a fence permit application for 115 W Second Street had been submitted and approved by Paul Crawford.

Council discussed the sidewalk project. There have been questions regarding the bid process. It was noted we are not at the phase of the project yet and once we get there the process will be announced. The next step will be approving the engineering contract.

Council discussed the upcoming grant award ceremony. Council members Larry Valdez and Joe Romans are attending the event. Becky McClane can also attend if more than two are allowed to attend.

Joe Romans stated he has not had a chance to discuss the parking situation with property owners at the area in front of the post office. He will do this before the next meeting.

Clerk confirmed spring cleanup is confirmed with LRS for May 3. Five dumpsters will be provided for the event. The household hazardous waste trailer from Jackson County will also be there in the morning from 8:30am-11am.

City attorney Caleb Witz stated he had sent a follow up letter to Cara Evans at 104 Highland Ave regarding cleanup of the property. No response has been received regarding the status of cleanup.

Witz discussed setting up a water reserve fund that the accountant had discussed at last month's meeting. He has drafted an ordinance establishing such fund when the council is ready to move forward with doing so.

Witz also reported he had followed up on a phone call from the Roman Catholic Church regarding the cemetery they own north of town. They do not maintain the property and would like to deed the property to the City of Hoyt. The Hoyt Cemetery Board currently maintains the property. The property is not in city limits. Council discussed whether or not they would want to do this. Attorney can look into legalities and can discuss more at next meeting.

Witz stated he will be leaving the firm and moving from the area so he will no longer be able to represent Hoyt. Tom Barnes also with the Stumbo Hanson firm could represent the City but is not available on the first Tuesday of the month for court and council meetings. Council discussed moving the court/meeting date to accommodate the schedule of Mr. Barnes. Council will like to schedule a special meeting with Mr. Barnes so they can discuss what would be needed to change the court and meeting dates. Council tentatively set the special meeting for March 19, 2025 at 7 pm.

City clerk presented the monthly financial report from the account.

City clerk discussed an estimate from Foley Equipment for repair of the generator at the city building in the amount of \$2,881.98. It was also noted we are waiting for a bid to replace the generator as it is an older system. Council will wait until receiving the replacement bid before making a decision.

City clerk discussed a phone call from Paul Davis about haying around the sewer ponds again this year. He would provide proof of liability insurance and have the bales off before July 3 similar to last year. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve Paul Davis haying around the sewer ponds. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans reported he had reached out to GWorks about the issues with the billing software. The city clerk reported they had been in contact with her and were working to resolve the issues.

City clerk discussed current water and trash rates and needing to increase our rates as the rates from LRS and RWD#1 have increased. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to increase each water rate (residential, outside city, multiple dwellings and business/commercial) \$0.15. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried. Council discussed trash rates. Joe Romans made a motion to increase the rate to \$18.85 for the first tote and \$7.50 for the second tote. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

City clerk noted Baily Ogden is moving and is no longer able to clean the community building. The position had been discussed with Elisabeth Nelson and she was interested and able to clean the building. Joe Romans made a motion to hire Elisabeth Nelson to clean the community building effective immediately. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Mayor discussed complaints made regarding police stops. Mayor would like the Chief of Police to be available at some time during the month to answer questions or discuss complaints made regarding police stops. It was reported the current policy is to have the person contact the city clerk to contact the Chief of Police to set up a meeting with the person at a time convenient for all parties to discuss the concerns.

Chief of Police Dan Wentling provided the monthly police report. He believes Officer Mauldin should be ready to patrol on his own next month. Dreasher had a question about the number of body cams for the officer. It was reported the officers share the two body cams.

Debbie Dreasher noted a high school group was looking for community projects to complete. Joe Romans discussed having exercise stations at the park as a possible project. The clerk can also check with Kenny Bryan on possible projects.

It was reported Kenny Bryan will be placing the memorial sign for the dog park on the fence around the dog park. This will be reported to the scouts that completed the dog park as well.

It was reported Kenny Bryan will be attending the KRWA Conference in Wichita.

Joe Romans reported further delays with the property owner easement question by Matt Swenson at Elm Creek Beef discussed at prior meetings. KDOT is now reporting they are not sure of the ownership of the easement and will not be deeding the property to the City of Hoyt.

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

The city clerk presented the proclamation from the Kansas Art Education Association proclaiming March 2025 as Youth Art Month. Mayor Bell signed the Proclamation.

Joe Romans made a motion to pay bills. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to adjourn. Becky McClane seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk