

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on May 21, 2025.

Present were Mayor Bob Bell, council members Debbie Dreasher, Joe Romans, Larry Valdez and Rebecca McClane. Council member Leonard Allen was absent. Also present were Kenny Bryan, Bob Ehrhart, Amy Klotz and Jessica Bryan with Pride of Hoyt, Matt Thurman, Jim Area, Melissa Area, Dan Wentling, Jeremy Andrews, city attorney Tom Barnes and Chief of Police Adam Schafer.

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the April 1, 2025 meeting. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the April 1, 2025 minutes. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Amy Klotz with Pride of Hoyt appeared to discuss this year's event. The event will be held August 23, 2025. Klotz stated the agenda will be similar to what has been done in the past. The small tractor pull will be Friday August 22. Klotz asked about the timetable for the new building going up to replace the 4H building. Kenny Bryan noted he believed it should be done in time for Pride of Hoyt. Klotz asked if the city would help with trash and provide the portable toilets similar to what has been done in the past. Council was in agreement to providing the toilets and helping with trash. Klotz discussed a donation for the event. Council will review and make a decision about the donation amount after budget discussions with the accountant.

Matt Thurman appeared to discuss the burned down home at 104 Highland. He would like the city to move forward with cleaning up the property as it has been a year and a half since the fire and the property owner has done nothing to clean up the property. Council discussed the process with the attorney Tom Barnes. The attorney will review what has been done so far and what needs to be done to move forward with cleanup of the property. Mr. Barnes will provide an update at next month's meeting.

Bob Ehrhart appeared to discuss again clearing out the brush for safety concerns at 4th and Eastern. Jim and Melissa Area were in attendance for this discussion as they own a portion of the area Ehrhart would like to clear. Jim and Melissa Area did give approval for Ehrhart performing this work on their portion of the property. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to approve Ehrhart Excavating clearing hazardous trees at the area of 4th and Eastern at a cost not to exceed \$1,180. Motion passed 3-1, with Debbie Dreasher voting no.

Jim Area asked about the changing the speed limit on the curve at 4th and Eastern from 30 mph to 20 mph. It was noted an ordinance would be needed to make this change. Mr. Barnes can provide an Ordinance for approval at next month's meeting.

Jim Area asked how the city figures sewer charges. Sewer charges are based off of water usage. Area discussed an alternate way to do this as water usage is generally higher in the summer months. Council discussed the only way they could figure sewer was to base it off of water usage and did not make any changes. They did discuss with Mr. Area he could ask for

forgiveness of sewer charges above the average amount when those are higher due to filling a pool, water leak, etc.

Joe Romans asked about safety concerns at the burned down home at 104 Highland Avenue. Council again discussed this with the attorney. As noted earlier, the attorney will see where we at in the process and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Kenny Bryan discussed the recent water leaks experienced due to boring on the fiber install projects. Two of the areas were mismarked and the others the water line did not show on the utility map. Council discussed alternate ways to find utility lines. It was noted KRWA would be a good resource for finding out more on options for finding utility lines. Kenny Bryan and/or Joe Romans will contact them for this information.

Bryan discussed a bid from Ehrhart Excavating for installing shut off valves in different areas of town. Council also discussed the status of replacing fire hydrants that been previously discussed. Fire Chief Andrews provided an updated on this. After discussion Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve Ehrhart Excavating replacing the valve at 110 and S Road. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. Council will look at installing the other valve installs listed in the bid after budget review. Bryan also discussed a sewer line backup that occurred during the sewer line cleaning recently done by Mayer Specialty Services at 105 W Third Street. It was discovered the area across the street had the same issue. The area was cleaned out and videoed and during the process it revealed a crack in the riser/saddle. It does not have to be replaced at this time but can be monitored. Bryan would like to have the area camaraed twice a year to monitor. Council was in agreement with this. Ehrhart discussed including asphalt patching in their bids.

Fire Chief Jeremy Andrews provided an update on fire hydrant maintenance and painting. Andrews also discussed the fireworks celebration held on July 3 and asked for a donation for the event. Larry Valdez made a motion to donate \$3,000 to the Hoyt Fire Department for the fireworks celebration. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. It was also reported the Fire Department open house will be held on May 31. Joe Romans asked for Andrews to share the picture of the new sign Andrews would like to install at the Fire Department. Council will not be adding sidewalks to the north side of Eastern between Central Avenue and Annetta Avenue so there will be no issue with the sign location. Council also agreed to provide the same amount of portable toilets for the July 3 event as was done last year.

City clerk noted the deck permits approved by Paul Crawford at 105 W Fifth and 104 E Fifth. City clerk presented the monthly financial report from the accountant. There was some discussion regarding the police payroll amount that can be discussed with the accountant when he comes for budget discussion. Clerk noted the firework stand permit application submitted by Jarrett Roy at 205 Annetta Avenue had been reviewed by the Police Chief and Fire Chief. The fire chief will review the property once the stand it set up for final inspection and approval.

Clerk discussed the phone call received from the county clerk regarding UTV permits. The county clerk is asking if the city would require those registering their UTVs to also provide a letter from the county showing they have reported the purchase to the county. They asked if the city would consider this as a requirement or provide a list of those that have registered. Rebecca McClane would like to have the attorney look into this first as it was reported recently the county requirements changed.

The city clerk asked on behalf of John and Joyce Rogers if the council would waive sewer charges over their average amount due to a recent water leak. Joe Romans made a motion to approve waiving sewer charges above their average amount on the last water bill for John and Joyce Rogers. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Clerk had emailed a request from Jan Thooft, drop coordinator for Azure stand food co-op. Thooft is asking if the council would allow them to use the community building parking lot for a drop location once a month. The council did not approve this location but did approve allowing them to use the wider area by the park restrooms for a drop location. The clerk will share this information with Jan Thooft.

The city clerk noted there will be two council positions and the mayor position up for election this year. Any interested candidates need to have their candidate paperwork filed with the county clerk by June 2, 2025.

Clerk shared the draft loan agreement received from KDHE for the copper lead line replacements. The attorney will review the document and report back at the next council meeting. It was reported Brian Foster with BG Consultants will likely be attending the next meeting with a proposed design agreement contract for review and consideration.

Mayor Bell asked about taking extra precautions with the dumpsters provided for spring clean up after the event was over. Attorney suggested locking the area until the dumpsters are removed or at least putting up a sign stating the city is not responsible for accidents.

Mayor Bell nominated Tom Barnes as the city attorney. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the nomination of Tom Barnes as the city attorney. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell designated the *Holton Recorder* as the official newspaper. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the designation of the *Holton Recorder* as the official newspaper. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell nominated Shawna Blackwood as the city clerk. Larry Valdez made a motion to approve the nomination of Shawna Blackwood as the city clerk. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell designated Denison State Bank as the official depository. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the designation of Denison State Bank as the official depository. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell nominated Jim Willard as the municipal court judge. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the nomination of Jim Willard as the municipal court judge. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell nominated Adam Schafer as Chief of Police. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the nomination of Adam Schafer as Chief of Police. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to appoint Debbie Dreasher as council president. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez made a motion to designate Joe Romans as head of the street department. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez made a motion to designate Debbie Dreasher as head of the parks department. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez made a motion to designate Rebecca McClane as head of the water department. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to designate Larry Valdez as head of the sewer department. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to designate Leonard Allen as head of the police department. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Chief Adam Schafer recognized former Chief Dan Wentling with a plaque from the city council and a photo from the police department. Thank you Chief Wentling for your many years of service to the City of Hoyt! Wentling will still be the court clerk of Hoyt. The roles of the court clerk and chief were discussed.

Joe Romans made a motion to nominate Dan Wentling as the municipal court clerk. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Chief Adam Schafer provided the monthly police report. He stated there are some mechanical issues with the black car and video equipment concerns with the silver car. Officer Jeremy Andrews reported the city is still on the KHP list for a new police car and one should become available by the end of December or first of January. Chief Schafer would like to wait and replace all the equipment when the new car is purchased, if possible. Debbie Dreasher noted we would need to discuss the change in pay for Adam Schafer as Chief and Dan Wentling from Chief to court clerk and code compliance officer. This can be tabled until Leonard Allen as police department head is available.

Council discussed the number of dumpsters at the spring cleanup event. Larry Valdez stated he had spoke with Chris Snyder at LRS who apologized about the wrong number of dumpsters at the event. They will make a note we would like five dumpsters for next year. They also talked about the possibility of having a separate metal dumpster.

Debbie Dreasher noted she will follow up with Kenny Bryan and Hoffman's Welding regarding the pole barn update.

Rebecca McClane noted there was numerous positive feedback about the dog box Eagle Scout Project recently completed by Oliver Filbert.

Joe Romans presented a bid of \$650 to order 10 more premade plaques from Westside Stamp and Awards. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the bid of \$650 from Westside Stamp and Awards. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans reached out to Signs to Go about an updated city sign. The sign is completed and Kenny Bryan will install once he has time to do so. Bryan will also be making a new frame for the sign.

Romans also noted the memorial sign for Crystal Kiely is completed that includes recognition for the scouts that did the dog park and pavilion and will be installed by Kenny Bryan at the dog park.

Romans also noted he had trying reaching out to the property owner of the apartment building above the postal office regarding the parking issue but has had no response. It was noted the constructions workers have moved on so hopefully the parking issue has resolved.

Larry Valdez had nothing to report on sewer. There was nothing to report on the community building.

Council discussed advertising for the animal control officer position. Joe Romans will look into requirements for the position. Mayor Bell discussed a memorial bench for Crystal Kiely that Ron Kiely has and would like to put in the park. Mayor Bell and Kenny Bryan will discuss further details with Kiely and can report back at the next meeting.

Larry Valdez made a motion to pay bills. Debbie Dreasher, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk