

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on July 16, 2025.

Present were Mayor Robert Bell, council members Joe Romans, Larry Valdez, Rebecca McClane, Debbie Dreasher and Leonard Allen. Also present were Amy Klotz, Nick Ehrhart, Matt Deutsch, CPA, Fire Chief 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 June 18, 2025 meeting. Larry Valdez made a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 minutes as presented. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Amy Klotz appeared to provide an update on the Pride of Hoyt event. Portable toilets for the event were discussed. City will provide 6 portable toilets for the event. Klotz stated she had heard from Kellerman's Insurance regarding Pride of Hoyt having their own policy for the event. Klotz will forward the final amount and policy once received. Klotz discussed with the council a donation for the event. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to donate \$2,000 to the Pride of Hoyt event. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Nick Ehrhart present a rezoning application and supporting documents for a property located at 110 and Highway 75 that was previously annexed into the City. Ehrhart Excavating is looking at moving their business to this location and in order to do this the property needs to be rezoned from B-1 to I-1 (light industrial). Clerk will work on preparing the notice and getting information sent to surrounding property owners. Council and attorney discussed the rezoning process.

Matt Deutsch appeared to provide 2025 financials and present options for the 2026 budget. Council discussed 2025 expenses and specifically Deutsch asked about the insurance proceeds in the general fund. Council noted those are for replacement of the pole barn building at the park that was deemed a total loss. Those funds have been obligated but not spent yet for replacement of the building. Deutsch discussed with the council the police payroll changes he had been provided. He had different budget projections based on those numbers. Council discussed needing to increase the mill levy. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to exceed the RNR of 38.313 and to increase the mill levy to 42.418 for the 2026 budget. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried. The RNR and budget hearing will be held at the September 17, 2025 meeting. City clerk will notify the county clerk of the intent to exceed the RNR. Joe Romans discussed the special highway fund and how the funds could be spent.

Joe Romans provided a status on the sidewalk project. After talking with Garrett Nordstrom from Governmental Assistance Services, the timeline for beginning on the project will be December or January.

Leonard Allen discussed moving funds to a money market or CD to increase the amount of funds designated for the sidewalk project. Leonard Allen made a motion to transfer \$168,427 into a CD or money market (whichever has better rate) for six months and then review at that time. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Accountant reviewed expenses and projections for the other funds. Deustch reminded council of importance of keeping up on rate increases to keep ahead on expenditures. Relating to the sewer fund, he noted after the payment due in September, there would be approximately \$100,000 left on the sewer loan. Council would be able to prepay on that if they choose to do so using funds from the sewer and sewer reserve fund. Council will reevaluate at a later date. Deustch noted the solid waste budget is tight for 2025 and council can either amend the budget or can use general funds at the end of the year for the solid waste expense to avoid exceeding the budget. The solid waste budget will be increased for 2026. Deutsch also provided a summary of non budgeted funds.

Council and Fire Chief Andrews discussed the July 3 event. It was noted there was approximately 3,000 people at the event.

Debbie Dreasher discussed with council and Chief Andrews the fire hydrant replacement plan. Four hydrants were previously identified as needing replaced. The city has replaced one, the cost of the remaining three will be split between the city and the fire board. The next one needing replaced is at 501 Eastern Avenue. Andrews would like to move this one across the street as the line is larger. Joe Romans will reach out to Ehrhart Excavating to get a cost for moving and replacing the hydrant and 501 Eastern and will report back to the council.

Rebecca McClane discussed the UTV permit procedure. It was noted anyone not having a yellow permit sticker is expired. In order to receive a yellow sticker, the applicant must provide updated proof of insurance and pay a \$5 fee. For those that not yet registered their UTV, an application must be filled out, provide proof of insurance and pay a \$5 fee. It was reported the sticker should be on the rear of the vehicle in a location visible to officers.

There was discussion relating to correct placement of the 20 mph signs at 4<sup>th</sup> and Eastern. It will be reported to Kenny Bryan the correct location for the 20 mph signs.

Tom Barnes presented Ordinances 370 and 370 to the council for approval. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve Ordinance 370 incorporating the current STO edition. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried. Joe Romans made a motion to approve Ordinance 371 incorporating the current UPOC edition. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen reminded council members matters pertaining to the city can only be discussed with other council members at council meetings. Mr. Barnes noted more than 2 council members cannot discuss with each other city matters outside of council meetings. Debbie Dreasher also noted statements made outside of council meetings are not binding and cannot be deemed a decision of the council.

The clerk reported she will be out of the office from July 23-25, 2025. Clerk also noted the community building fridges and freezer had been cleaned out.

Council member Romans stated he would check with Hoffman's regarding placement of a flag in the park that was previously discussed with the council.

It was reported Mayor Bell had a bench placed at the dog park in memory of Crystal Kiely. Kenny Bryan will be contacted to install the memorial sign previously purchased on this bench.

Council discussed the open animal control officer position. Chief Schafer was asked to put together an advertisement for this position. Chief Schafer discussed needing to have an agreement with an animal clinic for housing of animals when needed if animal owners are detained during a traffic stop. Schafer will reach out to Heartland Clinic regarding such agreement.

Chief of Police Adam Schafer provided the monthly police report. Schafer noted Officer Justin Mauldin had resigned from his position. Officer Brandon Shaw will be filling his position. Schafer asked about the generator panel in the garage. It was noted this will be moved soon. Schafer reported on the status of the evidence room. He has started organizing the evidence room. He noted a large amount of the evidence can be destroyed and he is currently working on the necessary evidence destruction orders. He stated he needs evidence lockers and additional filing cabinets. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve Schafer purchasing lockers and filing cabinets from state surplus and a cost not to exceed \$750. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher asked about the progress of replacement of the 4H building in the park. Romans will check with Hoffman's on the status of the building. Dreasher asked about next steps relating to the burned down home at 104 Highland. It was noted the matter is set for hearing on August 20, 2025.

Larry Valdez reported Kenny Bryan noted he had high levels from the latest samples taken from the lagoon and those had been reported to KDHE. He also noted there had been no more water or sewer line breaks. Bryan had also discussed ordering parts to repair the golf cart.

There was nothing additional to report on water, streets or community building.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk