

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on September 17, 2025.

Present were Mayor Robert Bell and council members Leonard Allen, Debbie Dreasher, Rebecca McClane and Joe Romans. Council member Larry Valdez was absent. Also present were James Strebenz, Kathy Sterbenz, Donna Lawrence, Bob Ehrhart, city attorney Tom Barnes and Chief of Police Adam Schafer.

Mayor Robert Bell called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Joe Romans made a motion to approve Ordinance 373 approving the rezoning application filed by Bob and Nick Ehrhart from B-1 business to I-1 (light industrial). Rebecca McClane seconded, motion carried.

Donna Lawrence appeared to discuss the condition of the property south of her at 105 Central, Lot 7. Lawrence reported problems with raccoons at the property. Joe Romans provided possible remedies for dealing with the cleanup of the property and addressing the raccoon problem. City attorney noted to move ahead with mowing the lot as it is a public nuisance.

Council was previously provided minutes from the August 20, 2025 meeting. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2025 meeting. Rebecca McClane seconded, motion carried.

It was noted a building permit for a back porch addition at 205 Annetta Avenue and a deck permit for 500 Fifth Street Drive had been submitted and approved by Paul Crawford.

Regarding the property at 104 Highland Avenue, Bob Ehrhart asked about bids for the property demolition. It was noted the deadline for the property owner to clean up the property is September 30, 2025. Council can take action on removing the nuisance after this date.

The Memorandum of Understanding that the city attorney put together for the agreement between the County and City regarding maintenance of streets had a few changes from the County. Those changes will be reviewed and an updated Memorandum can be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Bob Ehrhart and Debbie Dreasher discussed the bid submitted by Ehrhart Excavating for replacement of the fire hydrant and moving the hydrant across the street at 504 N Eastern Avenue. It was noted because of the high cost involved in moving the hydrant across the street, it would be sufficient to simply replace the hydrant. Council asked Ehrhart for an estimate of only replacing the hydrant.

Council discussed the 2026 budget. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-3 to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. City Clerk took a roll call vote on said Resolution. Rebecca McClane, Debbie Dreasher, Joe Romans and Leonard Allen all voted yes to approve said Resolution.

Joe Romans made a motion to adopt the 2026 Budget as published. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

City clerk discussed the resolution that had previously been provided regarding the accounting framework for the City. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-4. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

City clerk presented the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund Plan. Council approved the plan as presented.

Joe Romans discussed the raccoon issue that was previously discussed. Council discussed additional options. It was noted the issue would likely improve somewhat by cutting down the vegetation and removing the junked vehicles. Council discussed with Chief Schafer his thoughts for addressing the issue. Schafer stated he did not believe this was something the animal control officer would be trained for or have the proper equipment. Council discussed possibly contacting a professional to trap and relocate the animals. It was also noted the property south of that lot was also likely contributing to the problem. The city clerk was instructed to have Kenny Bryan mow the lot directly south of 105 Central Lot 7 due to public safety concerns. Additionally, the code enforcement officer can be instructed to review the property conditions at 100 E First Street.

Joe Romans provided an update on the military display at the park. Council discussed possible locations and what costs would be involved in the project. Romans can move forward with putting this request in motion if council is interested. City clerk asked about timing of the project as there are numerous ongoing projects at this time.

City attorney had nothing additional to report. Regarding 104 Highland, it was noted the deadline to resolve the nuisance is September 30, 2025 and council can take action after that deadline. Attorney also noted council could move forward with having the empty lot mowed that was discussed earlier as it is a public health concern and reported they would likely not receive reimbursement for the expense of doing so.

City clerk presented the monthly financial statement from the accountant.

Chief of Police Adam Schafer gave the monthly police report. Schafer provided an update on his discussion with the school superintendent regarding annexing a portion of the additional property the school recently purchased in to the City. Council discussed what portions would be annexed and the timing. This would be discussion for both parties to determine. The only concern noted at this time from the superintendent was wanting to continue with RWD#1 for watering their football field as there were no sewer costs. RWD#1 was asked if that would be an issue if the

area was in city limits. City attorney will look into this and report at next meeting. Debbie Dreasher will follow up with the superintendent on this process.

Chief Schafer reported he hired a new animal control officer. She will be doing the online training program Joe Romans had found to become a certified officer. Schafer and council discussed her wage. Joe Romans made a motion to pay the new animal control officer \$15/hr. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried. Equipment needed was discussed. Schafer also asked about liability when she is driving her personal vehicle for employment duties. Clerk will follow up with the insurance company on this question.

Debbie Dreasher provided an update on discussing with the high school ag teacher helping out at the park with planting, upkeep, etc. It was noted they were not able to commit to this as they are overbooked already with other projects. Dreasher asked if the city clerk will check with KAYS group at school and/or check with the girl scouts to see if they would be interested in helping with the park projects.

Joe Romans asked if council wanted to move forward with any small street projects. 4<sup>th</sup> and Highland and 5<sup>th</sup> and Highland were noted as possible areas. Romans can review the areas and get an estimate of repairs costs for next meeting.

There was nothing to report on sewer or community building. On water, it was reported Kenny Bryan had ordered some meter lids that had the pre drilled holes for installing the radio read meters. He is still working on installing the water meters that were purchased last year.

Joe Romans made a motion to pay bills. Rebecca McClane seconded, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk