

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on October 15, 2025.

Present were Mayor Robert Bell and council members Leonard Allen, Debbie Dreasher, Rebecca McClane, Larry Valdez and Joe Romans. Also present were Jessica Bryan with Pride of Hoyt, Nick Ehrhart with Ehrhart Excavating, 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 September 17, 2025 meeting. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2025 meeting. Rebecca McClane seconded, motion carried.

Jessica Bryan with Pride of Hoyt appeared to discuss this year's Miracle on Fourth Street event. The event is scheduled for December 7, 2025 from 4-6 pm. Bryan asked for the street to be closed from 3pm-7pm from 4<sup>th</sup> and Highland to 4<sup>th</sup> and Annetta for this event. Similar activities from last year will be included during the event. The craft show will be held at Haymaker's instead of the community building this year. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the Miracle on Fourth Street event on December 7, 2025, close the street as discussed above and allow use of the city building for activities during the event. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Nick Ehrhart appeared to present the estimate for replacement of fire hydrant at 5<sup>th</sup> and Eastern. The estimate is \$7,130. The fire board had previously agreed to split costs of selected hydrants. As such, Debbie Dreasher will discuss this cost with the fire board at the next meeting. Ehrhart also stated the contract with Ehrhart Excavating would expire at the end of the year and presented the council with a new contract. It was noted an estimate for demolition of 104 Highland Avenue from Ehrhart Excavating had also been received.

Joe Romans provided an update on the lot directly east of 104 Highland Avenue that had received complaints last month regarding raccoons. Romans stated traps had been placed around the property. The city was not able to mow the lot due to junked vehicles and equipment on the lot. It was noted the code enforcement office could start the process of notifying the owner of the nuisances on the property. It was also noted the code enforcement officer had sent a letter to the owners of 100 East First Street.

Council discussed the estimate received for demolition of the house at 104 Highland Ave. There appeared to be an addition error on the estimate. Council would like to receive a new itemized bid with the corrected amount. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve a cost of \$13,700 for

Ehrhart Excavating for demolition of the house at 104 Highland. Work can begin once a corrected bid is received. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

The city attorney noted the changes had been made requested by the county in The Memorandum of Understanding between the County and City regarding maintenance of streets. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the changes made regarding maintenance of streets. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans stated he put together a letter for the mayor to sign regarding placing a military display in the city park. Council approved the letter.

Romans discussed the request from SMH Engineers for a public information hearing and meeting regarding the sidewalk project. Council discussed having the meeting either October 28 or October 30 at the community building. The city clerk will check which date works best for the engineers.

Romans discussed the response from the insurance company regarding questions relating to insurance coverage for the animal control officer. It was noted the City has Non-Owned auto coverage which would provide protection to the City in the event an employee was using their personal vehicle and was involved in an accident. The employee's personal insurance would be primary but if the City got pulled into a lawsuit that coverage would provide liability protection for the City. This would apply as long as they are performing city duties. Valdez had a follow up question to this and the clerk will follow up with the insurance company.

Romans noted the animal control officer is enrolled in the certification program.

Nick Ehrhart returned to the meeting to answer questions regarding the estimate for 104 Highland and brought corrected estimate. Ehrhart noted they would be able to start once he could get dumpster containers scheduled.

Debbie Dreasher reported on parks that the high school ag teacher and students would be unable to assist with park projects. However, students with NHS were interested in helping clean up the flower beds in the park and one of the girl scout troops had expressed interested in helping with flower projects. The city clerk can coordinate with the groups and will let Dreasher know of any updates.

Council discussed the new maintenance agreement submitted by Ehrhart Excavating. Larry Valdez made a motion to accept the maintenance agreement with Ehrhart Excavating effective January 2026 – December 2028. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

City clerk discussed the amended ordinance regarding the rezoning application filed by Nick and Bob Ehrhart. The attorney had amended the ordinance to reflect the correct legal descriptions. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve Ordinance 374 amending Ordinance 373. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

City clerk noted she had discussed receiving assistance from the Jackson County's appraiser office in creating an address for the lot that Ehrhart had rezoned for relocating their business. Council was in agreement.

City clerk noted she had not yet received the September financial report from the accountant. However, it had previously been discussed council would be able to pay off the remaining sewer loan this year. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to provide KDHE notice council intends to pay off the sewer loan this year. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

City clerk reported Pride of Hoyt had asked if there were projects they could assist with at the community building or park. Council discussed some different options. Clerk can follow up with Pride of Hoyt in this regard.

Adam Schafer reported the city clerk needed a computer upgrade and would like to have dual monitors. Schafer provided a cost of \$1,445 for this replacement. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the cost of \$1,445 to replace the city clerk's office computer and monitors. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Schafer reported the camera systems at the park restrooms had been damaged and needs replaced. He noted the replacement cost would be \$750. Allen asked about insurance coverage for the cameras. The clerk will check on this. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve the cost of \$750 for replacing the cameras at the park restrooms. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Chief of Police Adam Schafer provided the monthly police report.

Schafer noted he had received notice from Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) a new car was now available to us. As part of this process, Schafer also discussed selling the black police car to the City of Circleville for \$25,000. The cost of the vehicle from the KHP is \$38,825. Schafer estimated a total cost to get the car equipped and ready for patrol of up to \$55,000. Schafer also asked for an additional \$6,000-\$7,000 to cover any unexpected costs. More accurate costs can be figured after knowing whether or not the City of Circleville purchases the black car. Schafer discussed other options for selling the car if the City of Circleville does not approve the purchase.

Allen discussed using the funds in the equipment reserve fund to cover some of the costs of purchasing the vehicle from KHP. Dreasher proposed purchasing the car now and then waiting until the first of the year to equip the vehicle.

Leonard Allen made a motion to purchase the vehicle from KHP at a cost of \$38,825 using \$28,775 in funds from the Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund, with the remaining costs coming from the General Fund. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Leonard Allen made a motion to approve offering to sell the black police car to the City of Circleville for \$25,000. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Schafer discussed hiring an additional police officer that would be available to work day shifts.

Schafer reported the city boundary maps are not correct. Tom Barnes, city attorney, said we need to check with the county clerk's office on the last time the city limits were certified. It may be necessary to have the city surveyed depending on how long it has been since this was done.

Debbie Dreasher reported on parks that NHS and girl scout troops were interested in helping as was reported earlier. Council also discussed projects Pride of Hoyt could possibly assist with at the park and community building. Dreasher discussed reaching out to the high school art teacher regarding repainting the mural on the park restrooms.

Joe Romans reported he would review the city for stop signs that needed replaced and make note of any posts that needed changed out to meet height requirements. He is also planning on reviewing the city on areas that need patch work done.

Larry Valdez had nothing to report on sewer.

Larry Valdez discussed looking for additional help for Kenny Bryan in installing the radio read meters. Romans will reach out to Farrell Holthaus to see if he would be willing to help Bryan with the installation.

Leonard Allen made a motion to enter executive session for 10 minutes for discussion of a non elected personnel matter. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council exited executive session.

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

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

Shawna Blackwood  
City Clerk