

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on January 21, 2026.

Present were Mayor Robert Bell and council members Leonard Allen, Debbie Dreasher, Rebecca McClane, Larry Valdez and Joe Romans. Also present were Lynnell Hodge, Lee Ryherd and Trevor Jones with SMH Consultants, Garrett Nordstrom with Governmental Assistance Services, Cynthia Jewell, Mike Jewell, Brad Reece, city attorney Tom Barnes and Chief of Police Adam Schafer.

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

City clerk held the swearing in ceremonies for Mayor Robert Bell and city council members Larry Valdez and Rebecca McClane.

Council was previously provided minutes from the December 17, 2025 regular meeting. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2025 meeting. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Council was previously provided minutes from the December 17, 2025 amended budget hearing. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2025 amended budget hearing. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Cynthia Jewell appeared before the council to discuss a new location for the FarmHers market. Jewell asked if the council would allow her to have the market at the covered shelter area in the park (new 4H building) for the market. The market will be held every Wednesday from 3:30pm-6:30pm from May 6 – October 28. Joe Romans made a motion to allow Cynthia Jewell to have her market at the new 4H shelter building in the park on Wednesdays from May 6 – October 28 from 3:30 – 6:30 pm. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mike Jewell stated he would be selling his property at Fourth Street next to the alley to Brad Reece. Jewell is asking the council to honor the letter that was sent to him in 2010 saying the city would not charge Jewell for reconnecting the sewer when the time came for Jewell to do so. Council member Dreasher noted the letter was sent to him, not future property owners. Jewell then asked for the sewer to be reconnected while he was the property owner. Attorney discussed the sewer fee once the sewer was connected. After lengthy discussion, council agreed to honor the letter sent to Mike Jewell to not charge a sewer reconnection fee to carry over to Brad Reece as property owner. Joe Romans made a motion to honor the letter to Mike Jewell for future owner Brad Reece that the city will pay for the cost to reconnect the sewer at this location once Brad Reece is ready to do so. City will work on getting this cost. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried. Reece will be responsible for water meter costs once he moves forward with adding a building to the property. Mike Jewell noted in the past there was no clear answer on the width of the easement at that area.

It was noted this can be determined when Reece submits his building permit for the building on the property.

Lynnell Hodge appeared to discuss with the council a few different items. First, she asked if she could find out the number of gate opening incidents that recently happened in Hoyt. Chief Schafer noted as this is an active investigation, he would not release information at this time. Hodge noted as it was something affecting the community, she felt at least some kind of notice should be made to the public. Her second question was when the new animal control officer started working for the city. She did receive this information. Hodge also asked questions relating to report procedures and wanting to take up concerns with the city council as some of her concerns related to the police chief. The case number was provided to her for the recently opened investigation.

Lee Ryherd with SMH Consultants and Garrett Nordstrom provided a sidewalk project update. The bid project will include the original project plus alternate bids that were previously discussed. After receiving the bids, council can then decide what to cut or change based on available funds. Lyherd hoped to have final permit drawings submitted for bid by the end of the month. Garrett Nordstrom discussed needing to identify easements for the project. Those costs were not included in the original project. Ryherd discussed possible costs for his firm doing the easements. Tom Barnes noted his firm could do the easement work if SMH can provide the areas where easements are needed.

Rebecca McClane presented a description and pictures from an individual of areas needing repair and upkeep at the community building. There were multiple items and pictures presented. Council needed clarification on some of the pictures submitted and McClane will work on getting more information. Clerk suggested checking with the person cleaning the community building if she would be interested in doing some of the outside work needed.

Joe Romans provided an update on the static memorial display. There is some paperwork that needs to be completed and signed by the mayor. Romans will get this filled out and signed and submitted.

Council was previously presented Ordinance 375 which updates the water rates. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve Ordinance 375 increasing the water rates. Joe Romans second, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher read the letter from our accounting firm stating they are merging with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd, LLC (SJHL). We will continue to have the same accountant we currently have and the office location address will remain the same. The firm name will change from BT & Co. to Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd, LLC. This is effective January 1, 2026.

Council discussed dates for the spring cleanup event. They are looking at April 11 or April 18 with the time from 8am-3pm or until dumpsters full. City clerk will check with LRS and Jackson County Hazardous Waste to see which date works best.

City clerk presented the monthly financial report from the accountant.

It was reported the remaining sewer load has been paid in full. The city is currently debt free. Leonard Allen and city clerk discussed putting together a proclamation to present to former council member Nathan McAlister for his role in getting this loan paid off early.

Shawna Blackwood on behalf of RVHS After Prom asked the council for a donation for this year's after prom event. Leonard Allen made a motion to donate \$500 to the RVHS After Prom Event. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

The city clerk will submit the completed 2023 and 2024 audit reports to the state.

Mayor Bell shared a conversation with Legion members regarding displaying patriotic banners in Hoyt similar to what is done in Holton. It was noted the price of the banners in Holton are \$250. Mayor can find out more information or have Legion members attend a future meeting to discuss the process.

Mayor Bell noted relating to winter preparation salt and sand is good according to Kenny Bryan.

Chief of Police Adam Schafer gave the monthly police report and presented a yearly criminal case log. Schafer noted we now have the new police car on site. Schafer reported Jeremy Andrews has offered to build and equip the car at his hourly rate. Schafer presented an estimated cost of \$13,230 to get the new police car equipped and ready to go, this includes vinyl, equipment and installation costs for the car. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to allow up to \$13,230 to get the new police car finished and ready for patrol. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Schafer reported the black Charger went to Briggs in Topeka for routine oil change and inspection previously. It came back with no issues reported. However, officers noted shortly after the vehicle was leaking oil. The oil was returned to Brigg's for repair. It was at this time, Briggs reported other items that needed repaired at cost of \$2,158. This was reported to the mayor and the repair was approved on an emergency basis. After this repair was fixed, Briggs reported the car needed additional work, including changing the battery and brake repair. Schafer at this time had the car returned to Hoyt and would wait to do anything further until discussing with council. Schafer discussed the option of having Kansas Highway Patrol sell the vehicle, but council would need to decide whether to make the repairs first or sell as is. Council discussed moving forward with having the battery replaced, but before making a decision on the brakes they would like to get a second opinion/estimate from a repair shop in Holton.

Debbie Dreasher had nothing additional to report on parks.

There was nothing additional to report on sewer, streets or water. Joe Romans said he would bring the survey information relating to the possible annexation discussed previously to the next meeting.

There was nothing additional to report on the community building. Mayor Bell asked whether gun shows could be held at the building. Council stated those interested would need to come to the city council to discuss. Insurance for the event would be required.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk