

The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on May 20, 2026

Present were Mayor Robert Bell and council members Leonard Allen, Debbie Dreasher, Larry Valdez, Joe Romans and Rebecca McClane. Also present were city attorney Tom Barnes, Chief of Police Adam Schafer, Tim Murry, Kevin Ribelin, Todd Anderson (SMH Consultants), Garrett Nordstrom with Western Consultants (appeared by phone), Matt Deutsch (city accountant) (appeared by phone), Patrick Murphy and Matthew Andrews.

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the April 15, 2026 regular meeting. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2026 regular meeting. Rebecca McClane seconded, motion carried.

Tim Murray with Royal Valley Alumni Association appeared before the council to discuss the alumni event in the park on June 6, 2026. There will be a few food vendor trucks and a few other outside events. They will be using the community building as well. There were no issues with using the park for the event.

Patrick Murphy with American Legion Post 423 appeared to discuss with the council the possibility of displaying the veteran banners in Hoyt similar to what is done in Holton. There would be no cost to the city, other than manpower and the space needed to store the banners. The cost of the banners and the brackets would be paid by the customer. Council was in support of the project and will wait to get more information on the application process, etc.

Patrick Murphy also asked what would be needed to host a gun show at the Hoyt Community Building. It was reported he would need to have insurance and provide the insurance certificate to the clerk before the event. Murphy has reserved the building for April 23-25, 2027 for this event. He also noted the District Kansas American Legion conference will be held at the building on April 10, 2027.

Matthew Andrews on behalf of the Hoyt Fire Department asked for a donation for the annual firework celebration at the park. The event will be on Friday, July 3, 2026. Leonard Allen made a motion to donate \$2,000 for the annual firework show at the park. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried. Council discussed the portable toilets for the event. Joe Romans made a motion to provide five portable toilets for the July 3 celebration at the park. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Kevin Ribelin appeared before the council to discuss property he had recently purchased in Hoyt. He stated he purchased the vacant lot on Central Avenue east of 104 Highland Avenue and also 104 Highland Avenue. He is interested in building a four plex at this location and asked about steps needed to do this. Per the attorney, he would first need to file a rezoning application as it currently not zoned for multi-family housing. If the zoning change is approved, he would then

submit a building permit for the property. Council discussed contacting Paul Crawford to discuss setbacks, etc. for the project.

Todd Anderson with SMH Consultants discussed with the council the bids received for the sidewalk project. A bid of \$659,102 was received for the base project from Inline Construction and a bid of \$1,169,956.79 was received from Bettis Asphalt for the base project. Garrett Nordstrom and Matt Deutsch appeared by phone for this discussion. Council asked if it would be possible to reject all bids and submit for rebid with the hopes of receiving lower bids. Nordstrom and the city attorney did not feel it would be worthwhile to do this. In looking at the base bid from Inline Construction, Matt Deustch (city accountant) discussed looking at a revolving loan to cover the city's portion of the project. Council also discussed the option of omitting parts of the project to save on costs, but Nordstrom advised against this as it is important to retain the base project that was approved with the grant application. Nordstrom said he could reach out to the local bank about loan options so that the council could approve the lower bid. Council will continue this discussion at a special meeting on June 4 with the hope financing terms will be available by that time. Nordstrom will prepare bid extension approval documents.

It was noted a fence permit application was approved by Paul Crawford for 505 Kansas Avenue.

Joe Romans provided an update on the possible annexation of school property into city limits. Romans had discussed with Mr. Davis extending the city limit line south of the schools to the next property line so no survey is necessary. Davis would not be opposed to this but asked the school would continue to use RWD#1 for water at this location. Tom Barnes will need the deeds for this property with the full legal descriptions if the council intends to move forward with annexation of this property.

Romans reported a towed artillery piece has been found for the display in the park. The museum can store the piece until the city is able to place a concrete pad for display.

Council discussed the patches needing repair in front of 116 W Fourth Street. The side of the street at this area is now also starting to crumble. There was discussion regarding fixing the holes that are closest to the street. Romans can reach out to We Diggin It (company that did patch work for us recently) to get a quote for repairs and then see how the council wants to proceed. Dreasher discussed cost sharing with the property owner as the holes are not on city property, but the damage is extending into the city street.

Romans will begin handing out easement packets to the necessary property owners for the sidewalk project.

City clerk relayed a message from the city accountant regarding purchasing additional water meters. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to purchase an additional 25 radio read meters from Schulte Supply. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell relayed a request by Mike Jewell asking for road lime to be placed at the new 4H pavilion. Jewell stated he would spread the lime at no cost. Mayor Bell can check on costs.

Tom Barnes reported needing to order new parking signs on Annetta Avenue as some of very faded. Romans will work with Chief Schafer on creating a list of signs that need replacement. Chief Schafer noted needing to look at no parking signs in the area as some are confusing.

Chief Schafer reported on policy monthly activity. Schafer noted needing some type of animal pen/shelter for housing animals. He also stated Banner Creek Animal Hospital said it would still be a couple months out before they could house animals for the city and would work on getting a contract submitted for review. Mayor Bell stated he could look into options for housing animals. Schafer reported the new police car is ready for patrol.

Debbie Dreasher had nothing additional to report on parks. Clerk relayed a request to add the new park employee as an authorized user to the credit card. As it would be temporary, council discussed instead adding her to the Tarwater and Jackson's Greenhouse accounts. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to add Kennedy Bryan as an authorized purchaser for the city at Tarwater's and Jackson's Greenhouse. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher wanted to make a reminder that renting the community building does not include renting the park as well. If groups or associations are wanting to use the park for a big event, they need to come to the city council first for approval.

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

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

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to continue this meeting to June 4, 2026 at 6 pm. Rebecca McClane seconded, motion carried.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk