The Hoyt City Council met in regular session on August 19, 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 and Chief of Police Adam Schafer.

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

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

Council was previously provided minutes from the July 22, 2026 special meeting. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2026 special meeting. Rebecca McClane seconded, motion carried.

Council was previously provided minutes from the July 29, 2026 special meeting. Rebecca McClane made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 29, 2026 special meeting. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council was previously provided minutes from the August 4, 2026 budget workshop meeting. Joe Romans made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2026 budget workshop meeting. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

It was noted Paul Crawford approved a building permit for 206 Highland for foundation repair, porch addition and new roofed addition.

Mayor Bell stated the updated set of plans had been received for the sidewalk project. He noted the plans show new sidewalks extending about the length of that property on the west side of Fifth Street, north of Fifth and Highland, which is different than what was initially approved. Attorney Tom Barnes stated he believes the city has the needed easements from Royal Valley to the park and east of Fourth and Highland. However, drainage easements are still needed on the north side of Fourth Street west of Highland. Mr. Barnes suggested a meeting with the contractor to discuss the piece of the project and whether the piece north of Fifth and Highland on the west side was included in their bid. City clerk will work on scheduling a meeting with the contractor.

It was noted the Resolution related to the request by George and Clovie Stewart is not yet completed. The Stewarts had submitted their request in writing and the attorney is currently working on getting that completed.

Debbie Dreasher stated the lot at 104 Highland is overgrown. Mr. Barnes said a nuisance letter could be sent to the property.

Mayor Bell asked about the policy relating to water meters. It was noted the city will replace a meter if damaged or needs repaired as long as there is an active connection.

City clerk presented a proposed ordinance increasing trash rates as an increase was recently received from the trash company. City attorney and council discussed new rates. Joe Romans made a motion to approve Ordinance 379 increasing solid waste rates. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Attorney Barnes read proposed Ordinance 380 incorporating and adopting by reference Jackson County Zoning Regulations. Debbie Dreasher made a motion to approve Ordinance 380. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council discussed the monthly financial report provided by the accountant and budget authority with the attorney.

Mayor Bell recommended the appointment of Tom Barnes as the city attorney. Joe Romans made a motion to nominate Tom Barnes as the city attorney. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell recommended the *Holton Recorder* as the official city newspaper. Joe Romans made a motion to make the *Holton Recorder* the official city newspaper. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell recommended Shawna Blackwood as the city clerk. Joe Romans made a motion to approve Shawna Blackwood as the city clerk. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell recommended Jim Willard as the municipal court judge. Joe Romans made a motion approve Jim Willard as the municipal court judge. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell recommended Denison State Bank as the official depository for Hoyt. Joe Romans made a motion to approve Denison State Bank as the official depository for Hoyt. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Bell recommended Adam Schafer as Chief of Police for Hoyt. Leonard Allen made a motion to approve Adam Schafer as Chief of Police for Hoyt. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to appoint Debbie Dreasher as council president. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez made a motion to designate Joe Romans as head of the street department. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez made a motion to designate Debbie Dreasher as head of the parks department. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Larry Valdez made a motion to designate Rebecca McClane as head of the water department. Leonard Allen seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to designate Larry Valdez as head of the sewer department. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Dreasher made a motion to designate Leonard Allen as head of the police department. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Joe Romans made a motion to appoint Dan Wentling as the municipal court clerk. Larry Valdez seconded, motion carried.

All council members will oversee the community building.

Mayor Bell noted gravel had been delivered and put in place around the new pavilion at the park.

Mayor Bell noted Pride of Hoyt was next weekend, Saturday the 29th.

Mayor Bell read an email received from the insurance company regarding police ride alongs. Leonard Allen noted this can be discussed later during the Police of Chief report. Allen did note Chief Schafer is updating the Standard Operating Procedure manual, and the latest version when completed can be shared with the council for review.

Mayor Bell reported he had a contact for electrical work at the pavilion that had been discussed previously and would share this with Kenny Bryan. Debbie Dreasher discussed talking with Pride of Hoyt about helping with the expense of the electrical work needed. Also, it was reported a street sign was down at 5th and 214. Kenny Bryan can be notified. Rebecca McClane discussed the area overgrown on the north side of 5th and 214.

Leonard Allen shared the updated section on police ride alongs from the standard operating procedure for review. Council shared their comments relating to police ride alongs. Council members Allen, Dreasher and Romans were in support of allowing the ride alongs with the guidelines set out in the policy, except there was discussion about changing the section relating to a minor (13-17) must be a child of, or under the guardianship of the officer with whom they are riding and the ride along must be end by 10 pm. Mayor Bell, Attorney Barnes, council members McClane and Valdez were not in support of ride alongs. It was noted Chief Schafer had the final say on whether the ride along was approved. After discussion, Joe Romans made a motion to continue with the ride along program and approve the ride along policy submitted by Chief Schafer with the change that the 13-17 year old must be a child of, or under the guardianship of the officer they are riding with and such ride along with said 13-17 year old will end by 10 pm. Debbie Dreasher seconded, motion passed 3-2 with Larry Valdez and Rebecca McClane voting no.

Police Chief Adam Schafer gave the monthly police report. Officer Willaims has been able to put in many hours patrolling. Officer Jeremy Andrews resigned from the department effective August 17, 2026. Council would like to get a plaque for Andrews for all he has done for the department during his time. Schafer asked about the status of phones for the court clerk and animal control officer. The city clerk has not had a chance to get these set up yet but will soon. Schafer would like to discuss some security issues later in the meeting. Schafer also noted he has been with the department 20 years.

Joe Romans discussed the budget workshop where police officer hours were discussed. Personnel issues can be discussed later in the meeting.

Debbie Dreasher had nothing to report on parks. It was noted the big tractor pull was cancelled and not able to be rescheduled and the permanent light poles had been placed.

Joe Romans asked about traffic control when the sidewalk project does begin. It was noted the contractor will take care of this and funneling any walking traffic as well. A social media post can be made once the project start date is determined. Dreasher asked about no parking signs that need to be reviewed. Romans reported he has a list of what needs done or replaced and notes regarding same from riding with Chief Schafer to revies this and will bring to a future meeting.

There was nothing to report on sewer. McClane reported 24 more water radio read meters had been installed.

There was nothing to report on the community building.

Leonard Allen made a motion to enter executive session at 8:44 p.m. for fifteen minutes for non elected personnel issues and security concerns to include the Chief of Police, city attorney and city clerk. Joe Romans seconded, motion carried.

Council exited executive session.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Shawna Blackwood
City Clerk