

**CITY OF HESSTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MINUTES of February 10, 2025

Council Meeting No. 2

The regular meeting of the Hesston City Council was held on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers / Municipal Court Building located at 110 E. Smith Street.

PRESENT

Council members Susan Swartzendruber and Clare Moore with Council Members Michael Wallace and Larry Fuqua present via phone, City Administrator Gary Emry, City Attorney J.T. Klaus, and City Clerk Jason Thrasher with Mayor David Kauffman presiding. A quorum was present.

ABSENT

Council Member Brad Unruh

OTHERS PRESENT

Police Chief Chris Eilert, Fire / EMS Chief Zach Bergen, Parks Foreman Josh Hastings, Library Director Jackie Nelson, Bill Unruh with Habitat for Humanity, Mitch and Tim Sweigart with Stone Creek Nursery, and Rusty Whitcher with the Harvey County Now.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Kauffman asked for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, he moved on to the next item of business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Susan Swartzendruber moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Clare Moore seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSTITUENCY COMMENTS

Mayor Kauffman opened the floor for constituency comments. Hearing none he moved to the next item of business.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 010-2025-233 SOLICITORS LICENSE

A motion was made by Clare Moore to approve Ordinance No. 010-2025-233, which establishes daily fees for solicitors' licenses, specifies the permissible days for solicitation, and outlines the entities exempt from the license. The motion was seconded by Michael Wallace. The motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY REQUEST

Bill Unruh on behalf of Habitat for Humanity attended to request a waiver of building permit and meter fees totaling \$4,321.70 for a home the organization is constructing in Windover. Additionally, he requested to participate in the \$1,000 housing incentive program.

Clare Moore moved to approve the request to waive the building permit fees in the amount of \$4,321.70. Susan Swartzendruber seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

STONE CREEK NURSERY REQUEST

Mitch Sweigert, the owner of Stone Creek Nursery, attended to outline his investment plans for the property and to seek city incentives. His requests included reduced utility rates, a 24-month exemption from building permit and inspection fees, and a 5-year property tax rebate.

Michael Wallace moved to approve the request to waive building permit fees for 24 months in an amount not to exceed \$2,500. Clare Moore seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

ANNUAL LIBRARY UPDATE

Library Director Jackie Nelson was present to review 2024 library operations and to announce her resignation from the Library Director position effective March 1st. Mayor Kauffman thanked her for her service to the community. Council Member Clare Moore also thanked her for her work at the library.

POLICE VEHICLE PURCHASE

Police Chief Chris Eilert attended to review a bid for purchasing a 2024 Dodge Ram Police Package 1500 Truck.

Michael Wallace moved to approve the quote from Superior Emergency Response Vehicles for \$56,727.14 to purchase the 2024 Dodge Ram Police Package 1500 Truck, with funding from Fund 45-Police Equipment Reserve. Susan Swartzendruber seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

PARKS MOWER PURCHASE

Parks Foreman Josh Hastings attended to review bids for purchasing a 2025 Hustler 72" Kawasaki Mower.

Larry Fuqua moved to approve the quote from Dan's Cycle for \$16,092.58 to purchase the 2025 Hustler 72" Kawasaki Mower, with funding from Fund 45-Parks Equipment Reserve. Clare Moore seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICERS

Clare Moore moved to approve the mayor's appointment of city officers as presented. The term would run through February 9, 2026.

| Position | Name |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| City Administrator | Gary Emry |
| City Clerk | Jason Thrasher |
| Deputy City Clerk | Warren Schmidt |
| City Treasurer | Valerie Bonham |
| Director of Emergency Services | Zach Bergen |
| Municipal Judge | Randall Pankratz |
| City Attorney | J.T. Klaus |
| Police Chief | Chris Eilert |

Larry Fuqua seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING DATE OF CITY/USD/HREC

It was the consensus of the Council to select Thursday, March 27th at 6:00 pm at the Hesston Middle School as the tentative date, time and location of the annual City / USD 460 / REC Joint Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:05 p.m., Michael Wallace moved to enter an executive session for 20 minutes, citing the justification related to consultation with the city attorney on matters deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship (K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2)), for the purpose of holding contract discussions. The open meeting would resume in the city council chambers at 7:25 p.m., with those present in the executive session being the mayor, city council, and city administrator. Susan Swartzendruber seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

At 7:25 p.m., the regular meeting resumed with no binding action taken during the session.

At 7:25 p.m., Susan Swartzendruber moved to re-enter the executive session for 20 minutes, citing the justification related to consultation with the city attorney on matters deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship (K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2)), for the purpose of holding contract discussions. The open meeting would resume in the city council chambers at 7:45 p.m., with those present in the executive session being the mayor, city council, and city administrator. Clare Moore seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

At 7:45 p.m., the regular meeting resumed with no binding action taken during the session.

ADJOURN MEETING

At 7:45 p.m. Clare Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Susan Swartzendruber seconded.
Motion carried 4-0.

Recorded by
Jason Thrasher
City Clerk