

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 9, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

The Council met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2026, in the Community Room at City Hall. Mayor Nobby Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Crawford, McDaniel, Marquez, Francis, Johnson, Ames and Lassman. Councilmember Bingaman was absent. Also present: City Administrator Cole Herder, City Clerk Staci Johnson, Trev Johnston, Elisha Ivy, Tripp Korte, Ryker Roach, Eddie Harner, Pastor Jerry Neeley, Nick Reynolds – The Humboldt Union, Susan Lynn – Iola Register, Patrick Zirjacks – Thrive Allen County, Ryan Scarrow, James and Jennifer Casper, Milton and Shawna Ivy, Mike Hofer and Debbie Dawson, Chief Shannon Moore, Sheri Modlin – Code Enforcement, Damaris Kunkler – A Bolder Humboldt and City Attorney Fred Works.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Jerry Neeley gave the invocation.

Public Comments: Pastor Jerry Neeley just wanted to take a moment to thank the committee for the support that they have shown for Biblesta. First Biblesta meeting for 2026 will be next Monday, February 16th at 6:00 pm at the Humboldt Von Plaza. Neeley also mentioned that the Facebook page biblestacelebration has had over 80,000 views.

Milton Ivy along with Trev Johnston, Elisha Ivy, Tripp Korte and Ryker Roach approached the council about building a skate park. Elijah and his friends presented a detailed proposal estimating the skate park to cost between \$7,000 to \$10,000. Potential location suggestion is at Cannon Park offering a 75 by 75 feet area suitable for a 50 by 50 feet skate park. Council members recognized the lack of similar facilities and expressed willingness to explore design options and committee review.

Jennifer Casper spoke, “on incident that happened after the sweetheart dance involving her Son.” Casper stated, “that her confidence in the Humboldt Police Department and its Leadership is a vote of no confidence a police officer’s job is to investigate, gather facts, gather evidence, then formalize conclusions that either lead to the laws being enforced, recognize that no laws were broken, and go from there.” Chief Shannon Moore answered, “saying that this has been worked on since the Monday after the incident took place and she was not at liberty to discuss with her what took place.” This incident has been sent to the County Attorney and the Humboldt Police Department has finished their investigation.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, January 12, 2026
- b. Warrant Ordinance No. 367 dated February 9, 2026, in the amount of \$100,309.72
- c. Warrant Ordinance No. 368 dated February 25, 2026, in the amount of \$396,092.38

Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Patrick Zirjacks, Thrive Allen County has secured a \$1.4 million home renovation grant spanning four years, targeting 50 to possibly 65 homes countywide for safety and energy improvements. Zirjack's outlined the grant's scope, which covers 100% of project costs for eligible homeowners meeting income limits up to 80% of AMI (average median income), ranging from \$42,000 for individuals to \$88,000 for large families. Eligible work includes window and siding replacement, insulation, HVAC upgrades, roof and foundation repairs, and installation of energy-efficient appliances. The program prioritizes health, safety, and energy cost reduction, potentially lowering utility bills by hundreds monthly. Special focus is on mobility improvements such as durable ramps for elderly and disabled residents, enhancing home value and accessibility. All grant recipients must attend a Habitat for Humanity home maintenance course and meet with Thrive navigators for additional support services. Application will be available starting February 17th, 2026.

Sheri Modlin Code Enforcement Officer informed the Council that she wrote 81 letters for yard maintenance violations in 2025. Out of the 81 letters, 51 of those were for mowing and 19 for health nuisances or inoperable vehicles. The City performed mowing on 19 properties where owners were unresponsive. 18 houses were demolished with several lots now under new construction, positively impacting neighborhood conditions. Ongoing issues exist with four properties pending tax sale for cleanup, reflecting the complexity of managing absentee or deceased owners. Modlin has already begun compiling a list of properties for 2026 that need attention and are health nuisances or have inoperable vehicles on and around the properties.

Damaris Kunkler, A Bolder Humboldt is wanting to reserve the square for August 1st, 2026 to host Water Waters again this year with street closures starting at 8 a.m., including a parade, inflatables, bands, and fire department demonstrations, maintaining a tradition since the 1980's. Kunkler requested standard city support for traffic management and street closures to ensure safety and smooth operations. Motion by Lassman, second by Crawford to approve the square for Water Wars August 1st, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Damaris Kunkler would like approval to host the Middle of Everywhere festival for its Fifth Year September 4th – 7th, 2026. The event will feature thirteen to fifteen bands, a cornhole tournament, car show, and camping at Camp Hunter. Motion by McDaniel, second by Lassman to allow Kunkler to lease Camp Hunter for the "Middle of Everywhere Festival" and to close 8th street from Bridge Street to New York Street for the car show. Motion carried unanimously.

Damaris Kunkler is requesting funding for the Big Kansas Road Trip, a tourism event expected to draw 150 to 300 visitors. Expenditures planned would be to help pay for printing, welcome signs, and graphic design to promote Humboldt's attractions. The event is projected to generate between \$10,200 to \$20,400 in local spending based on Kansas tourism data, supporting local businesses and lodging bookings months in advance. City Administrator recommends the City to donate \$1400.00 and it would be funded out of the economic development budget. Motion by Lassman, second by Crawford to donate \$1400.00 to help with expenses involved with the Big Kansas Road Trip. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder would like the approval of pay request on project #22-1372 application #4 in the amount of \$315,856.00 to NPL Construction for the Water Project. Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames to approve pay request #22-1372 application #4. Motion carried unanimously

City Administrator Herder reached out to Councilmember Bingaman about the logo selection on the Water Tower Rehabilitation and his suggestion was to just leave it blank. After discussion the decision was made to select the large Paw Print and add "S" to Cub.

Kansas Rural Water Association 57th Annual meeting will be on March 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2026. Annual meeting of the membership of the Kansas Rural Water Association will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026. KRWA is requesting a delegate and alternate to attend the meeting. Motion by Lassman, second by Crawford to nominate Jeremy Bulk as the Delegate and Chaz Sanchez as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder gave an update on the Legislative Advocacy and Housing Initiatives. City Administrator Herder is preparing a written testimony on House Bill 2745, which would impose a 3% tax increase cap on local governments requiring voter approval for higher increases, complicating budget planning and potentially limiting revenue growth. The bill includes incentives via a \$60 million poverty relief fund rewarding jurisdictions that keep tax increases under 3% but imposes penalties if elections fail. This legislation reflects ongoing state efforts to control local taxation, threatening municipal autonomy and complicating infrastructure funding.

City Administrator's Report:

MIH Award: A Bolder Humboldt was one of 17 housing initiatives awarded an MIH Grant or Tax Credit. They submitted a plan to build eight residential homes. This is likely the last round of MIH funding, so it's exciting to see this project get selected.

Animal Shelter/pound: The shelter is nearing completion. There are tentative plans to host an open house on Saturday, March 7th. Watch for an announcement as the date is confirmed.

Financial Audit for 2025: The audit is scheduled for March 5th.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP): The application period is January 20 through March 31. The maximum gross income to be eligible is \$1,956 for one person and increases approximately \$688 for each additional person, for gas and/or electric.

Job Openings: We have openings for Police Officer, Police Lieutenant, maintenance, shared water/sewer plant, and City Hall custodian. We will be advertising for pool managers and lifeguards, soon.

Big Kansas Road Trip (BKRT): The Kansas Sampler announced that Humboldt will be the first Big Kansas Road Trip for 2026 on May 2nd. A committee will be formed to make plans, discuss hospitality, and launch marketing. I'll work with city personnel about any preparations we'll need to make. I would like to revitalize the Neosho River Park.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



Nobby Davis, Mayor

Attest:



Staci Johnson, City Clerk

