

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 14, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

The Council met in regular session on Monday, September 14, 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, Marquez, McDaniel, Lassman, Francis and Ames. Councilmembers Bingaman and Johnson were absent. Also present: City Administrator Cole Herder, City Clerk Staci Johnson, Eddie Harner, Pastor Jerry Neeley, Nick Reynolds – The Humboldt Union, Tim Stauffer – Iola Register, Ryan Scarrow, Pastor Cameron Carter, Barret Germundson, Damaris Kunkler – A Bolder Humboldt, Chris Kolb and Hayden Steadman. City Attorney Fred Works was absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Cameron Carter gave the invocation.

Public Comments: Chris Kolb and Hayden Steadman are asking for a letter of support from the City of Humboldt in supporting the Johnson-Sweatt Foundation's plan to develop a year-round multi-sport facility and heritage museum at history Walter Johnson Stadium.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, August 10, 2026
- b. Warrant Ordinance No. 381 dated September 14, 2026, in the amount of \$485,059.10
- c. Warrant Ordinance No. 382 dated September 28, 2026, in the amount of \$ 236,757.11
- d. Water Distribution Project #22-1372
 - i. Approve NPL Pay Request Number 11 for \$325,755.00

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

Mayor Davis opened the Hearing regarding the Revenue Neutral Rate at 6:05 pm. No discussion was had so, Mayor Davis closed the Hearing at 6:05 pm.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames to approve Resolution No. 09-14-2026, a resolution of the City of Humboldt, Kansas to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. The revenue neutral rate for the City of Humboldt was calculated at 89,206 mills by the Allen County Clerk. The budget proposed by the Governing Body of the City of Humboldt will require the levy of a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate. Motion carried by roll call vote Yes – Marquez, Francis, McDaniel, Crawford, Lassman and Ames. No – none, Absent – Bingaman and Johnson.

A Public Hearing regarding the 2027 Budget was opened at 6:06 pm. No discussion was had, Mayor Davis closed the Budget Hearing at 6:06 pm.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to adopt the 2027 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Jerry Neeley, Biblesta Co-Chairman is asking the Council to consider closing the parade route, no parking around the square, and blocking off 9th street for the parade. Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames to close streets for Biblesta on October 3rd, 2026. Motion carried 5-Yes, Marquez, Francis, McDaniel, Ames and Crawford, 1-Abstain Lassman.

City Administrator Herder spoke on the Wastewater Plant Improvement and Infrastructure Planning. A comprehensive wastewater upgrade plan was endorsed to meet upcoming regulatory requirements and secure funding. Total estimated project cost is approximately \$5.374 million with \$447,201 anticipated grant forgiveness. Funding strategy includes a KDHE loan and Kansas Water Office grant, managed by SEKRPC for administration. Project timeline targets start on April 1, 2027, with completion by September 30, 2028. Engineers expect to keep the plant operational throughout construction using phased workarounds. Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to approve Wastewater Plant Improvement Documents including Administrative Agreement with SEKRPC to apply to KDHE for loan funding. Approve Administrative Agreement with SEKRPC to apply to KWO for grant funding for a Wastewater Treatment improvement. Approve Technical Assistance Grant Supplemental Application and Approve an Affidavit in support of State Water Infrastructure Grant Program Application Submission and Authority to Sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Damaris Kunkler with A Bolder Humboldt would like the Council to consider having the City as a fiscal agent for the Attractions Development Grant supporting construction upgrades to the Fussman Building for future children's museum space. This grant covers electrical, plumbing, and construction costs for expanding existing businesses. A Bolder Humboldt long-term plan is to activate upstairs space into an interactive children's play area. Motion by Lassman, second by Francis authorizing Kunkler to use the City as a fiscal agent. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda #12 Consider Building Local Opportunity through Coordinated Kansas Investment (BLOCK) Application was tabled at this time.

City Administrator Herder would like to pay the City Hall lease payoff. Remaining lease balance of \$161,389 to be paid off early. Current interest rate is about 5.36%, with roughly half of annual payment as interest. Council recognized payoff as a smart fiscal move that simplifies budgeting and strengthens reserves. Motion by Francis, second by Lassman to payoff the City Hall Lease. Motion carried , 5-Yes, Marquez, Crawford, Lassman, Francis and Ames and 1 – Abstain, McDaniel.

The 2026 League Annual Conference will be October 8 - 10, 2026, in Wichita, Kansas. The Annual Business Meeting & Convention of Voting Delegates will be on Saturday, October 10. Motion by Lassman, second by Crawford to nominate Councilmember McDaniel as voting delegate and Councilmember Crawford as alternate. Motion carried unanimously

City Administrator's Report:

Street Project: Chip and Seal started last week, but the county's oil distributor broke down, and we don't have a restart date.

Water Project: The water project is going well. NPL is working in the Northwest quadrant of town. Maguire has been hampered by weather. It has been too windy to utilize the containment system. On Sunday, September 6th, a storm popped up and ripped the curtain allowing it to tangle with power lines. They are working to repair the damage to the containment system.

KMGA Regional Meeting: Humboldt hosted the Southeast Kansas Regional KMGA meeting on August 12th. Winter Storm Uri is still a topic. We don't expect any settlements. FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) is supposedly investigating but they're a black hole of information and often changes are more than 10 years. Ideally, they will implement some sort of stop gap on trading if the cost exceeds some limit. KMGA has changed policy and purchase of gas to guard against crazy daily trading. We've had two major winter storms since URI with little impact on us after the changes were implemented.

After a couple of prepay plans that didn't develop, KMGA has entered into one without individual municipal agreements that will start in November that will yield a 34,5¢/MMBtu through July 2035. At that time the discount may be adjusted. Based on historical usage, Humboldt's discount could amount to approximately \$11,637 annually.

Southern Star Pipeline has filed with FERC to increase rates 100%, which affects our transportation and storage costs. The current Southern Star cost is approximately \$14,000 per month. The outcome won't be known for nearly a year, but the increased rate will go into effect in November. KMGA will fight the increase. They expect an increase but not the full request. When the new rate is set, we will receive a refund. I believe that we will have to apply the increase to the cost of gas and bill customers but then determine how to handle the refund.

Promotion: Tyrone Wooden has been promoted to Lieutenant. USD #258 will drop the current agreement and will start looking for a new SRO for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion by Ames, second by McDaniel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-Yes, Francis, McDaniel, Ames, Lassman and Crawford. 1-No, Marquez. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



Nobby Davis, Mayor

Attest:


Staci Johnson, City Clerk

