

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 13, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

The Council met in regular session on Monday, July 13, 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, Johnson, McDaniel, Lassman, Bingaman and Ames. Councilmember Francis was absent. Also present: City Administrator Cole Herder, City Clerk Staci Johnson, Utility Clerk Emily Weide, Eddie Harner, Pastor Jerry Neeley, Nick Reynolds – The Humboldt Union, Tim Stauffer – Iola Register, Ryan Scarrow and City Attorney Fred Works.

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

Public Comments: City Clerk Staci Johnson introduced Utility Clerk Emily Weide, she has been with us since the 1st of July and is doing a great job.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, July 13, 2026
- b. Warrant Ordinance No. 377 dated July 13, 2026, in the amount of \$490,310.38
- c. Warrant Ordinance No. 378 dated July 29, 2026, in the amount of \$ 98,980.09
- d. Water Distribution Project #22-1372
 - i. Approve NPL Pay Request Number 9 for \$346,191.40

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

6:11 p.m. Councilmember Francis entered the meeting.

Damaris Kunkler with A Bolder Humboldt would like to use the City as a facilitator for the Kansas tourism marketing grant application to attract micro-level social media influencers for year-round promotion of Humboldt's events and attractions. The plan is to host influencers during key events like Biblesta, Owl Creek Jamboree, and Water Wars to maximize immersive community exposure. Micro influencers with follower counts between 5,000 and 200,000 were chosen due to their higher engagement and authentic audience interaction. Influencers will visit for specified periods, typically Thursday through Sunday, experiencing events and local food offerings to create genuine social media content. The city will act as the fiscal sponsor and pass-through for the grant funds, ensuring proper handling and compliance with state requirements. Motion by Lassman, second by McDaniel to approve A Bolder Humboldt to use the City of Humboldt as the facilitator for the Kansas tourism marketing grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Davis appointed Mike Hofer, Terry Piper and Tom Tinkler to the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames to approve appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder discussed the School Resource Officer Agreement with the USD #258 School District. The term of this agreement shall be from August 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and will

automatically renew for periods of one year after that. The Officer assigned to the SRO duties with the district is an employee of the City of Humboldt and shall be subject to the Police Chief's control and supervision. Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames to approve the School Resource Officer Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder would like approval to enter into a retainer agreement with Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC Attorneys at Law for PFAS arbitration lawsuit on a class-action suit regarding hazardous water contaminants, including contingency fee terms. The retainer agreement involves a law firm representing the city in a class-action lawsuit concerning PFAS, a group of hazardous water contaminants. The firm will receive a contingency fee of 25% of any successful recovery, ensuring no upfront costs for the city. The agreement includes provisions that protect the city from incurring additional costs beyond what is recovered through the lawsuit. Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to enter into a retainer agreement with Napoli Shkolnik PLLC Attorneys at Law. Motion carried 7-yes, Crawford, Bingaman, Marquez, McDaniel, Johnson, Lassman and Ames. 1-abstain Francis.

City Administrator Herder reviewed with the Council the preliminary budget worksheet and would like the Council to consider Resolution No. 07-13-2026 the Notice of RNR Hearing. The finance discussion centered on maintaining the current mill levy while leveraging increased property valuation to support operations, with a strong emphasis on prudent reserve management and debt payoff opportunities. The assessed property valuation nearly doubled from about \$6.9 million in 2014 to nearly \$15 million currently, increasing tax revenue without raising mill rates. A proposal to pay off the remaining \$163,962 city hall lease early was discussed, which could save approximately \$50,000 in interest over the next 11 years, improving cash flow. City Administrator Herder said, "The mill levy was held steady at about 93.954 mills for this budget cycle, with the recommendation to defer any mill rate reduction until after building-related debts are cleared." Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to adopt Resolution No. 07-13-2026 and to set a Hearing for Revenue Neutral Rate for September 14, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

City Administrator spoke on behalf of Stephanie Porto asking permission to camp around the Square Tuesday through Thursday, September 14-16, 2027. Stephanie is a member of the Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club and is excited to begin planning a special visit to Humboldt in 2027. Their club has grown significantly since their last visit to Humboldt from 55 trailers to 105. She anticipates a larger turnout this time between 12 and 20 trailers. Motion by Lassman, second by Bingaman to approve this request. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Herder gave an update on pending projects. Significant progress was reported on multiple infrastructure efforts, including water system upgrades, street maintenance, and advanced mapping technology implementation. The water distribution project is about 41% complete, focusing on the northeast area and the critical main line on 8th Street, targeting completion around mid-2027. The city purchased specialized road equipment, including a \$100,000 zipper and loader, enabling efficient road repairs and supporting a ten-year street replacement plan. GIS mapping of utilities has improved dramatically, with detailed digital layers replacing outdated paper maps, enhancing management of water, sewer, and street infrastructure. Solar panel equipment for water facilities is being installed, funded directly by the water department to maximize long-term energy cost savings. No progress has been made on the Skate Park, research shows \$50,000-\$100,000 to build. Code Book was revised a couple years ago. EV Charging station wasn't approved for the grant and installing a restroom near City Hall was declined as well.

City Administrator's Report:

Utility Clerk: We have hired Emily Weide as Utility Clerk. She started on July 1st.

Water Project: NPL is making good progress installing new lines, with approximately 41% of time used. NPL has completed most of the northeast part of town and will be working in the northwest part of town. Maguire has completed the 200k gallon tank and is working on the 75k gallon tank in the Square, with approximately 51% of time used.

NPL is planning to close Bridge Street between 8th and 9th the week of July 20th to replace a water main near 9th Street.

Street Project: City staff is digging ditches, grinding roads, applying rock, grading, and packing in preparation for chip and seal.

LKM Annual Conference: The LKM Annual Conference will be held in Wichita on October 8 — 10. Registration is open with an early bird discount through July 27. Please let Staci or me know if you would like us to sign you up.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Crawford to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



Nobby Davis, Mayor

Attest:



Staci Johnson, City Clerk

