

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 10, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

The Council met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 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, Eddie Harner, Pastor Jerry Neeley, Nick Reynolds – The Humboldt Union, Susan Lynn – Iola Register, Ryan Scarrow, Dan Julich, Pastor Cameron Carter, Roger Vincent – Waste Water Superintendent, Jeremy Bulk – Public Works Director, Tom & Alicia Schomaker, Barret Germundson, Phillip Coronado and City Attorney Fred Works.

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

Public Comments:

Dan Julich wants to know why we don't have an American Flag in the Veteran's Monument. City Administrator Herder told Dan that the City had put the flag up and then the rope broke. A workorder is in place to fix the rope so we can hang the American Flag.

Tom Schomaker is concerned about the camping at Camp Hunter. The park has experienced unauthorized long-term camping, including homeless encampments and contractor trailers parked near the shelter house and playground, raising safety concerns. City Administrator Herder said, "Some contractors have extended stays approved by council due to ongoing local projects, paying a daily fee of \$10 or \$300 monthly." Police actively monitor permits and respond to unauthorized campers, including homeless individuals who have been asked to move on. The council plans to relocate campers away from the shelter house before the September 4th festival to improve safety and public access.

Jerry Neeley invites or challenges the Council to participate in the Biblesta Celebration by building a float or joining the Biblesta Celebration which is the first Saturday in October.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, July 13, 2026
- b. Warrant Ordinance No. 379 dated August 10, 2026, in the amount of \$641,538.54
- c. Warrant Ordinance No. 380 dated August 26, 2026, in the amount of \$87,772.55
- d. Water Distribution Project #22-1372
 - i. Approve NPL Pay Request Number 10 for \$448,885.36

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

City Administrator Herder discussed with the Council the need to upgrade the aging 1966 Sewer Plant to meet stricter nutrient limits and flow capacity by the 2028 permit renewal deadline.

Assessment of Plant Deficiencies and Upgrade Alternative highlighted the plant's aging infrastructure and inability to meet upcoming total nitrogen and phosphorus limits with current flow capacity at 0.25 million gallons per day nearing its limit. City Administrator Herder would like approval to submit an application to the State Revolving Fund for funding. Motion by Lassman, second by Crawford to allow City Administrator Herder to start the funding process. Motion carried unanimously.

Request from Phillip Coronado to set his food truck up on the south side of the square on Sunday evenings from 4:00 until sold out. A generator will be used and will follow standard city agreements. Discussion was had on City Administrator approving these requests. Motion by McDaniel, second by Lassman to have City Administrator handle requests for food trucks. Motion was rescinded.

Motion by Lassman, second by Crawford approving Sunday Night Food Truck by Phillip Coronado on a trial basis. Motion carried unanimously.

After reviewing the 2027 budget, motion was made by McDaniel, second by Johnson to approve the 2027 budget for publication at 93.954 mills and to set a Hearing for the Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget for September 14, 2026, at the City Hall Community Room, 6:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Johnson, second by McDaniel to appoint City Administrator Cole Herder to serve on the Kansas Municipal Gas Agency Board of Directors and Chaz Sanchez as the alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator's Report:

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

Water Project: The water project is going well. NPL is completing the main on 8th Street and will be moving to the Northwest quadrant of town. Maguire has completed nearly all the work on the 75k gallon tower on the Square and has started work on the 300k gallon tower at 7th and New York. The outside of the 300k tower will be sandblasted (the other two towers were overcoated on the outside). Due to the lead in the paint, a curtain will be utilized to contain the debris.

Sewer Plant Evaluation: Our wastewater permit is due for renewal in 2028 and we expect that we will not pass more stringent Nitrogen and Phosphorus limits. The EPA has funded an evaluation of our sewer plant. The intent is to create a PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) that allows us to apply for funding. We have been meeting for months and finally met this morning with multiple agencies to discuss the outcome, alternatives, and recommendations. Alternatives range from \$3 million to \$4 million. Submission for funding will occur by the end of the month. I am working with Jeremy and Roger to understand the presented information and approve the submission.

We are also at our allowed flow of 0.25 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) on an annual basis. If not resolved, we will be in violation for flow and be limited to growth. We know that we still have I&I (Inflow and Infiltration) caused by roof drains and sump pumps into the sanitary sewer system. This kind of I&I is very difficult to resolve. We have asked the engineers to include provisions to increase capacity of the plant in the PER. We are also working on a plan to identify and correct I&I at the source.

Pool: We have extended the closing date of the Pool to August 15th. The original closing date was an estimate based on anticipated opening of school.

Motion by McDaniel, second by Ames to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Nobby Davis, Mayor

Attest:


Staci Johnson, City Clerk

